

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00pm on October 16, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy, Zupec, Mayor Skraba (7)
Absent: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve minutes from October 2, 2012 Regular Meeting as presented.

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition: 13.A. – City Reserve Fund

B. Addition: 13.B. – Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

C. Addition: 9.F.v. – Northern Terrace Update

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of additions A-C. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

A. Hannah Nelson with IRYA (Iron Range Youth in Action) requested permission to use the Community Center as an election polling place for kids to vote on November 6, 2012 during the normal voting hours of 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Sheddy/Zupec moved approval to allow the use of the Community Center as long as Chaperones are present to keep everyone on the main floor. Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Council member Debeltz reported on the Cemetery Committee minutes. They are working on getting people to adopt a garden at the Cemetery and Attorney Klun is working on the Korpi Estate Trust issue. This will probably be the Cemetery Committee's last meeting until next year.

Council member Nikkola stated that there will be a Budget Committee meeting next week and tonight's meeting will be closed at the end for negotiations discussion.

Council member Omerza stated that she and Council member Nikkola attended the LMC Regional meeting in Grand Rapids. There it was discussed that there will be a 24% turn over in the House & Senate of MN. The League would like to take a bigger role in educating Legislatures and also educating & integrating new council members. Nikkola noted that 5 other candidates from other districts were present but none from our district cared to attend. Policy Committees are online on the League website. TAB Committee will be working on new contracts.

Council member Polyner reported on the vandalism at the park and the new Chipmunk Rider has been installed. New donation sign is in the process of being made. Langowski stated that the vandals were caught by the Ely PD. Planning & Zoning should have the Comprehensive Plan completed by the end of the year.

Council member Sheddy stated that the Sanitation Committee is still facing cardboard issues. They are trying to come up with ideas for recycling but it is an expensive proposition. Council member Omerza will contact the League for ideas with this issue. Langowski stated that some cities offer curbside recycling for a nominal fee per month.

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Mayor Skraba attended several meetings including: MN Dot meeting for Hwy 169 where they discussed the project for the road between Virginia and Ely; Airport meeting; Police Fire Night which was huge success with 200 – 300 people attending; Lodging Tax meeting where they approved a budget of \$250,000 – these funds go toward promoting Ely; Duluth Chamber of Commerce Dinner; Laurentian Vision meeting where they discussed mining; Vermilion Community College Senate meeting where the students asked, “What can they do for us (the City)?”.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

- i. Memorandum on Whiteside Park Rentals: After extended discussion with Todd Denio, spokesperson for the End of the Road Rendezvous who was requesting to rent Whiteside Park for two weeks in June 2013 for their encampment event. During the event, the participants would be camping and sleeping in the park. They have in the past held this event for 5 to 6 days where they have been allowed to camp through the night due to the nature of their event. There are signs in the park stating that no camping is allowed and the Council feels that definite rules need to be set on the length of a rental for any event and also to enforce the no camping rule.

Nikkola/Sheddy moved to deny the 2 week encampment request. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Zupec moved to give this discussion to the Park and Rec Board for their review and recommendation. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Council member Omerza voting “no”.

- ii. **Debeltz/Zupec moved approval to reschedule the 1st council meeting in November to November 7th at 6:00pm due to the General Election being held on November 6th. Council will also meet as the Canvassing Board on November 13th at 5:30pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Operations Director:

- i. EUC Consent Agenda: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, October 10, 2012:
 1. Authorized Cooper Power Systems to complete a voltage study for \$9,900.00.
 2. Approved the purchase of a 75 KVA transformer from Dakota Transformer for \$2,895.00.
 3. Approved the purchase of a 125 HP VFD for the WTP from ICS for \$7,343.21.
 4. Approved payment of Invoice #PR12779 from Infratech for \$12,262.50 for jet/vac cleaning and televising sewers.

Nikkola/Sheddy moved approval of EUC consent agenda items 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Langowski stated that they are working on repairing parts of the Trezona Trail which involves repaving and killing the weeds that destroy the paving on the trail.

E. Police Chief

F. City Attorney:

- i. **Approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 267, 2nd Series amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 11, Section 11.04 related to fences changing fence height on street or avenue from 4ft 6in to 3ft 6in. Omerza/Polyner moved approval. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ii. With regards to annexing the parcel of West Sheridan Place (aka Old County Garage) that is not in the City of Ely, the Town of Morse had concerns over payment structure and whether or not the amendment that was proposed would reduce or change the payments that they should be allotted.

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Attorney Klun stated that it would not. The intent is to annex pursuant to the agreement. She is working to get this resolved in a timely manner.

- iii. Attorney Klun was not able to report any new information regarding the Lucky Boy Project.
- iv. Pamida purchase agreement to the City of Ely will close within the next couple of weeks.
- v. Attorney Klun stated that a Lawsuit of Summons & Complaint was filed by the residents of the Northern Terrace Park against the new owner, Chalet Investments requesting the park residents to remain as residents or be given proper notification of the closure. This injunction would allow the residents another 9 months before they have to be out of the park. It is at this point a private matter between the two entities. Doug Johnston reported that the injunction will not be acted on by a Judge until the later part of November or early December.

Council member Zupec stated that now is the opportunity to move forward on projects such as building a fairgrounds and trailer park.

G. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Care Partners – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for October 16, 2012 - \$156,402.72

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Ely Community Resource – 4th quarter payment for services - \$3,140

Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of claims for payment B. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Nikkola/Zupec moved to invite the Charter Commission to the Council Study Session on October 30, 2012 at 6:00pm to discuss creating a Reserve Fund for the City. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of the Proclamation to proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to urge all citizens to work towards the elimination of personal and institutional violence against women, men and girls. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM

15. Meeting was recessed at 7:35pm.

16. Meeting reconvened at 7:40pm and then closed for a labor negotiations strategy discussion.

17. Meeting reopened at 8:30pm. Discussion proceeded on the Supervisors of Other Than Essential Employees Labor Agreement.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to recess the meeting at 8:40pm until 6:00pm on October 23, 2012 to consider approval of Supervisors of Other than Essential Employees Agreement and to hire new part-time Library Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk