

Council Study Session Minutes, October 30, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:00pm on October 30, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

Present: Council members Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy, Zupec and Mayor Skraba (6)

Absent: Council member Debeltz (1)

II. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO TONIGHT'S MEETING:

- A. Addition VI.B. – Library Announcement
- B. Addition VI.C. – Calendar Parking Announcement

III. REQUEST TO APPEAR

- A. Doug Johnston – Northern Terrace Trailer Park Resident – He did not appear but it was announced that he is able to move his trailer from the trailer park to a lot in Spaulding which he purchased.

IV. CITY BUDGET

- A. Discussion with Charter Commission members Chuck Novak, John Fossum and Vincent O'Connor regarding the creation of a Reserve Fund for the City of Ely. Council member Nikkola stated the idea would be to take 2/3 of the excess of revenue over expenses and place that amount into a Reserve Fund on an annual basis. The goal would be to acquire and maintain half of the City's budget in the fund. These funds could not be transferred to any other fund but could be drawn on as a loan or grant if needed to aid another department/fund in an emergency. This can be done either by changing the language in the Charter, through an Ordinance or by adding the fund to the General Fund with specific language on its regulation.

It was suggested to meet in small groups of council members and/or charter members to discuss the best way to proceed with creating this fund. Suggestions and recommendations will be brought back to the Council and Charter Commission for further discussion at a later date.

- B. Review of the preliminary 2013 Budget ensued with Clerk Lowell and Assistant Treasurer Dan Smith.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ely Fire Chief Tom Erchull along with the Pike-Sandy-Britt Region Fire Chief and a representative from the State Fire Marshall's office approached the Council with the idea of the Ely Fire Department joining the Laurentian North Fire Fighting Water Supply Association, a Mutual Aid Organization. Their purpose is to provide mutual aid to their neighbors in times of fire emergency or other disasters. The benefits of joining include: enhanced community to community communication; effective area wide incident pre-planning and professional training opportunities for all emergency services workers. The Association consists of 10 Fire Departments and dues would be approximately \$400/year.

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution #2012-044 revising fines related to certain administrative offenses was reviewed for final approval at the next regular council meeting on November 7, 2012. The increase in penalty fees are due to the purchase of a software license to automate the recording of certain city code violations which will ensure better recordkeeping, accounting and follow-up of issued tickets which also allows for payments via credit and/or debit cards.
- B. Council member Omerza announced that the Library will now be open on Wednesday's from 10:00am to 6:00pm beginning tomorrow, October 31, 2012.
- C. It was also noted that Calendar Parking will begin tomorrow night after 6:00pm.

Adjourn

Nikkola/Omerza moved to adjourn meeting at 7:40pm

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk