

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:26 pm on December 4, 2012 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the November 20, 2012 Regular Meeting, November 20, 2012 Public Hearing and November 27, 2012 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Addition 13.C. – 425 E Chapman St. – property donation
- B. Addition 13.D. – EADA Raffle
- C. Omission 5.B. – Council Accomplishments
- D. Omission 9.F.iv – Ordinance 272 – combined with Ordinance 271
- E. Omission 9.F.vii – Lodging Tax Regulations
- F. Omission 9.F.viii – Formation of Chamber of Commerce

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of Additions and Omissions A-F. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Mayor Skraba handed out Certificates of Appreciation to Zoe Devine, Phoebe Helms, Sophie Montana and Elizabeth Omerza for their \$234.00 contribution to the Ely Tree Fund from proceeds they earned from selling tie dyed socks and soap.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
- B. Approve Council and/or Mayor to attend the 2013 Experienced Officials Leadership Conference on February 1-2, 2013 in Brooklyn Center, MN or January 11-12, 2013 in Nisswa, MN
- C. Approve Council and/or Mayor to attend the 2013 Newly Elected Officials Leadership Conference on February 1-2, 2013 in Brooklyn Center, MN or January 11-12, 2013 in Nisswa, MN
- D. Waive fee for St. Louis County Board use of: Recreation Center on March 26, 2013; Semer's Pavilion on June 25, 2012

Debeltz/Zupec moved approval of consent agenda items A-D. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Council member Shedly stated there will be a P&Z public hearing tomorrow night and an HRA meeting on December 11, 2012 & December 18, 2012.

Council member Polyner commented on the Doug Johnston success story. He was able to find a place to move his trailer through hard work and perseverance and by working with Planning & Zoning to obtain the appropriate variances and permits.

Council member Omerza reminded the council that at the next EEDA meeting on December 18th, they need to come up with 8 to 10 priorities for the coming year for the City to give to John Fedo.

Mayor Skraba and Council member Shedly attended the Tree Lighting ceremony in Whiteside Park on Wednesday, November 21, 2012. He stated there are no lower lights to prevent vandalism.

It was made public that Cleveland Cliffs/North Shore Mine will be laying off workers.

Mayor Skraba and Langowski met with people to discuss the Biomass project.

The Mayor attended a RAMS meeting on Thursday, November 29th, where they discussed the potential 1.5 billion dollar bonding bill being put together by the Governor.

Shedly/Nikkola moved approval to move forward in the process to pick the Airport as the City's bonding project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skraba's term is up for the RAMS Committee at the end of this year. Representing Ely at the meetings next year will be someone from the school board.

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Mayor Skraba, Langowski met with MnDot in Duluth to discuss the Sheridan St Project of which the City of Ely will pay 2% or roughly \$2000 for paving in the parking lanes and utility related work as well as updated lighting. Also discussed were the three street lights on Sheridan St. After a traffic study done last summer, it was determined that the only necessary traffic light would be the one on Central & Sheridan. The signal at 1st Ave E is planned to be removed in 2013. More studies will be done in the next couple of years before the traffic lights at 3rd Ave E are removed.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Operations Director:

i. EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, November 28, 2012:

1. Agreed to change the December 12th meeting time to 4:30 P.M. and change the December 26th meeting to December 19th at 5:30 P.M.

2. Approved payment of the October EUC bills list for \$266,546.80.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval of EUC consent agenda items 1 & 2. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Police Chief Lahtonen informed the public that Walmart is donating \$100 for a child in need from Ely to shop at Walmart with an Ely police officer on December 8, 2012.

F. City Attorney:

Sheddy/Nikkola moved approval of the 1st Reading of Ordinance 270, 2nd Series revising the Ely City Code chapter 11, section 11.01 definitions and regulations and section 11.20 related to Off Street Loading and Parking. This ordinance changes the off-street parking space for a commercial building to be 9ft by 17ft instead of 180 sqft. It also changes the parking space requirement for the building from one parking space required for every 200 sqft of floor area to one parking space required for every 400 sqft of floor area. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyrner-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Polyrner moved approval of the 1st Reading of Ordinance 271, 2nd Series revising the Ely City Code chapter 2, section 2.02 council meetings time and place. This changes council meeting times to 5:30pm and allows for council meetings that fall on a holiday to be held the following Tuesday. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyrner-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of the revised Hiring Policy with addition of the Records Retention Schedule. The only change is how long the city holds candidates files and their applications for hire. Motion carried unanimously.

Zupec/Nikkola moved approval of the two Lucky Boy property purchase agreements for Mr. O'Brien, Mr & Mrs Newcomer and Mr & Mrs Jackovich. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors of Essential Employees Contract – this will be discussed in a closed session at the end of tonight's meeting.

G. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. **Debeltz/Zupec moved to send a Thank You note to the Ely Winton Rod & Gun for their \$225 donation to the 2013 Fireworks. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. AEOA Neighborhood Revitalization Program (IRRRB). This program offers up to \$10,000 for energy efficient improvements on homes that meet the income requirement and were part of the neighborhood

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survey that was conducted last spring. Information on this program along with specifications of who qualifies to apply will be published in the official newspaper. This program is administered by AEOA.

C. Thank You note from the Historic Preservation Group

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for December 4, 2012 - \$282,718.29

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve the claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/Zupec moved to enter into a one year (Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2013) agreement with the Laurentian Fire Mutual Aid Association. The motion includes working with the Fire Chief to work on the parameters and what mutual aid will be involved, also to request a monthly report from the Fire Chief regarding the amount of Aid being given and received. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes, Zupec-yes and Mayor Skraba-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/Zupec moved to approve calling for applicants for the Heritage Preservation Commission in Ely. The Commission is made up of 5 voting members who have an interest and/or expertise in historic preservation. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the 2013 Soft Drink and Cigarette license renewal applications pending the receipt of all required documentation for the term of 1/1/13 to 12/31/13. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve the 425 E Chapman St – property donation from Wells Fargo Bank. Motion was amended to allow for negotiations on the tear down of the building on this property. Motion carried unanimously.

D. EADA will be transitioning to another organization due to lack of funding. There will be a fundraiser on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at A Taste of Ely from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. There will be a \$20 donation entry fee and a silent auction to help offset the cost from having Ann Glumack come to the community to hold meetings.

Meeting was recessed at 7:43pm.

Meeting reconvened at 7:50pm and then closed for employee contract negotiations.

Meeting was reopened at 8:00pm.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the Supervisors of Essential Employees Contract from January 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012 which will stay status quo. Motion carried unanimously.

Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of the Supervisors of Essential Employees Contract as presented from December 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014. In discussion it was pointed out that Chief Lahtonen was hired on an interim basis and his position is now solidified. Motion carried unanimously.

Nikkola/Polyner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk