

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Nikkola at 5:35 pm on February 5, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Omerza, Polyner, Acting Mayor Nikkola (5)
Absent: Council member Shedly and Mayor Petersen (2)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve the minutes from January 15, 2013 Public Hearing and January 15, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - A. Addition – 6E – IRRRB open house for local officials
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve addition A. Motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Addition - 9Eiv – 425 E Chapman St, property closing extension
Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve addition B. Motion carried unanimously.
5. MAYOR'S REPORT:
Nikkola stated he and Clerk Langowski attended the Laurentian Vision Meeting which was extremely informative and also discussed a city's role in filling empty storefronts.
 - A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the 2013 Ely Winter Festival Proclamation: WHEREAS:** As Mayor of the City of Ely, I would like to welcome all Ely residents and visitors alike in celebration of the ELY WINTER FESTIVAL activities now going on in our Ely community and, **WHEREAS:** welcome you to a land where the sky is blue and the sun shines bright, where snow is carved into beautiful sculptures and where our city becomes an art gallery in and of itself, **WHEREAS:** popular winter activities such as the snow carving contests, Dorothy Molter Dinner, Arts and Crafts Fair, the Art Walk, the Polar Bear Dance amongst other activities that bring to life our gem of a community in the North woods, **NOW THEREFORE, I, WARREN NIKKOLA, Acting Mayor of the City of Ely, do hereby proclaim February 1st -10th, 2013 as ELY WINTER FESTIVAL DAYS in the City of Ely and encourage all to partake in the variety of activities offered for the young and old alike, by the wonderful volunteers who put this festival together. Motion carried unanimously.**
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
 - B. Approve Mayor &/or Council members to attend the CGMC Legislative Action Day on Feb 6, 2013 in St. Paul at the Capitol.
 - C. Approve Council members &/or Clerk/Treasurer to attend the LMC Legislative Conference in St Paul on March 21, 2013.
 - D. Approve Mayor &/or Clerk/Treasurer to attend the LMC Newly Elected Conference in Grand Rapids, MN on April 4, 2013.
 - E. Approve Mayor &/or Council members to attend the IRRRB open house for local officials on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 3:00p to 6:00p in Eveleth, MN.
Kess/Debeltz moved to approve consent agenda items A – E. Motion carried unanimously.
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. Council member Kess reported that the TAB meeting reviewed the financing for the continued operation of Ely TV. There was discussion on how to increase revenue through cable peg fees, franchise fees and a possible 2nd channel. There was concern that Midcontinent was not paying the fees owed to the city but further investigation proved otherwise. Langowski will look closer at these fee payments and will report his findings at the next TAB meeting.

Acting Mayor Nikkola stated that the last ER meeting was cancelled. The next Budget meeting is 2/12/13 at 1:00p and the next Projects meeting is Monday, 2/11/3 at 5:00pm.

Council member Omerza received the honor & privilege of officially opening the Winter Festival at their opening ceremonies last Friday. She and Council member Polyner will be attending the

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Legislative Action Day at the Capitol in St Paul where discussion will include Governor Dayton's proposal on a new formula for the budget. They will also meet with Representative Dill and Senator Bakk to talk about the Ely Airport. Council member Omerza, Acting Mayor Nikkola and Clerk Langowski also attended an open house at Twin Metals today.

Council member Polyner attended the LMC newly elected official's conference in Minneapolis. Planning & Zoning is still working on the City Comprehensive Plan and expects finishing by early spring. She also finished her Donald Trust Foundation orientation and is now officially on the board as the Council Representative. The Heritage Preservation Commission took a tour of City Hall and the Community Center to establish their current condition and to gather information for the re-use study that the Council tasked them to do. Clerk Langowski stated that for the re-use study, they should look at options of the library staying in the Community Center and also being moved to a different location. They should also look at possibilities of another entity owning the building. The Re-use Study can then be used as a Marketing Plan to aide in finding a new owner.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

i. EUC Consent Agenda Items: The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, January 23, 2013:

1. Authorized Mick Shusta to attend the MPCA Wastewater Operations Conference in Brooklyn Park on March 20 – 22, 2013.
2. Approved calling for quotes for the cleaning and inspection of the water tower and ground reservoir.
3. Approved advertising for bids to remove the abandoned power line to the Burntside pump house.

Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of the EUC consent agenda items 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Council member Kess stated he would like the Committee motions that need Council approval to be added to the council agenda under New Business so the public will be able to see what is being brought before the council. Clerk Langowski noted that these motions should be brought to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk's attention by the Council representative the Thursday or Friday before a Council meeting so it can be placed on the agenda.

B. Fire Chief:

i. **Kess/Debeltz moved to approve sending Officer Burger and possibly a couple other firefighters to attend a 5 day Arson School in Virginia, MN during April & May. The cost of the training is free except for wages and mileage which would be split between the Police & Fire Departments. Kess/Debeltz amended the motion to also allow Building Official, Schilling who is also the Acting Fire Marshall for Ely to attend as well since there will be no cost to the city. Motion carried unanimously.**

ii. **Debeltz/Kess moved to approve firefighters to attend various state schools coming up in Feb/Mar/Apr 2013 located in various cities throughout the state such as Duluth, Mankato, and Rochester. Cost for the school is covered through the state training fund. Cost to the city would be for wages, hotel & mileage which have been planned for in the training budgeted. Motion carried unanimously.**

iii. **Debeltz/Polyner moved approval to move money made (\$18,225) from the Forest Service on the Hwy 1 fire into the designated fund with the 47 Fire Truck Sale and the Pagami fire money for equipment replacement (minus wages). Motion carried unanimously.**

iv. **Debeltz/Kess moved approval to hire 5 new firefighters of which three of them are: Robert Zupancich, Cory Weisinger, and Mark Matthys. The remaining two: Marolyn Matthys and Chad Houde would be hired pending successful completion of their Physical Agility Test. Training starts 2/11/13 in Ely. State of MN is picking up the costs for Fire One and Two Training. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Chief Erchull reported that after almost a month as a member of the Laurentian North Fire Fighting Organization, there has been no activity.

C. Library Director

D. Police Chief:

- i. Approve training for Officer/Firefighter Burger, April 3-5, 2013 & May 14-17, 2013. This request was approved under the Fire Chief's items.
- ii. Chief's report on the ARMER Radio System being used by the Ely Police Department. He stated all of the radios were replaced free of charge and the only cost to the city for the new system was \$1,000 set up fee.

E. City Attorney

- i. Annexation update: Town of Morse requested a revision to the proposed joint resolution for orderly annexation. This has been approved by the council on a previous occasion. The revision narrows the joint resolution to "this annexation only".

Omerza/Polyner moved to approve the Joint Resolution for Orderly Annexation and to send it to the Town of Morse for their approval. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Lucky Boy update: One property has closed with Mr. O'Brien and the second one should close sometime this week.
- iii. Arbitration update: An amended award has been returned from the LELS Arbitrator which clarified the terms of HSA and HRA that the City is currently paying as requested and determined by the arbiter. The next step is to finalize and sign the contract which Attorney Klun will have at the next council meeting.
- iv. The City of Ely entered into a purchase agreement with Wells Fargo Bank contingent on the removal of a homestead on 425 E Chapman St. Closing did not occur on January 31, 2013 as scheduled so they are requesting an extension to February 22, 2013.

Debeltz/Omerza moved approval for the Acting Mayor and Clerk to sign the aforementioned extension presented by Attorney Klun. Motion carried unanimously.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Heart of Continent Partnership Quarterly Meeting – Feb 7th & 8th, 2013 in Duluth, MN
- B. News Release – Hwy 169 reconstruction project public meeting scheduled for Feb 12 in Ely at Vermilion Community College

Kess/Omerza moved to call a Special Council meeting on February 12, 2012 at 6:30pm at VCC so all council members can attend the MnDot public meeting on the Hwy 169 reconstruction project. Motion carried unanimously.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for February 5, 2013 - \$268,833.33
- B. Ely Community Resource 1st Quarter payment for services \$3,140 – Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2013

Debeltz/Polyner moved approval of claims for payment items A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Kess/Debeltz moved to approve the City of Ely Tree Ordinance. After discussion, Debeltz pulled his second and made new motion.

Debeltz/Kess moved approval for Attorney Klun to review and revise the City of Ely Tree Ordinance proposed by the Tree Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve awarding the City of Ely Legal Publication Bid to the Ely Echo for their low bid of \$1.49/column inch for display ads and \$0.97/column inch for legal print rate. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2013-004 to support the Mesabi Family YMCA Capital Campaign: WHEREAS, the Mesabi Family YMCA has taken a lead role in responding to and serving the needs of our community's families and children for more than 28 years; WHEREAS, the Y is dedicated to providing healthy living, youth development and socially responsible programming to all, ensuring that no person is turned away for an inability to pay; WHEREAS, YMCA facilities are no longer adequate in meeting the growing needs of the community today, as membership and program participation grows and the infrastructure ages; WHEREAS, the Mesabi YMCA Board of Directors has authorized a \$1.9 million capital campaign to renovate and expand the facility to ensure that the Y will continue to positively impact the community well in to the future; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ely, Minnesota considers the Mesabi Family YMCA an important asset to our community and supports the Y's capital campaign efforts. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes and Acting Mayor Nikkola. Motion carried unanimously.**

- C. **Kess/Omerza moved to approve signing the Final Pay Application and Certificate's of Final Acceptance for Crack Repair State Project# 6920-41A – Contractor, Struck & Irwin Paving - \$3,232.01. Motion carried unanimously.**

- D. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve calling for Bids for the Airport Professional Engineering Services. Motion carried unanimously.**

- E. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve hiring Casey Ivancich for the 32hr/wk Accounting Clerk Position. Motion carried unanimously.**

- F. **Omerza/Polyner moved approval to appoint Kate Davies to the non-resident seat on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.**

- G. **Debeltz/Omerza moved approval to submit to the Charter Commission, Mary Ann Harris as an applicant for the open resident seat. Motion carried unanimously.**

- H. **Debeltz/Polyner moved approval to appoint John Lahtonen to the resident seat on the Housing & Redevelopment Association. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM

15. ADJOURN:

Kess/Omerza moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk