

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:38 pm on February 19, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Omerza, Polyner, Mayor Petersen (5)
Absent: Council member Nikkola and Sheddy (2)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - a. Addition 6.B. – 2013 Safety & Loss Control Workshop
 - b. Addition 13.E. – HRA Board Appointment
 - c. Addition 13.F. – Knights of Columbus Bingo
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Additions a-c. Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Addition 5.C. – Information on Hwy 169 Project
 - e. Addition 9.E.ii – Sale of City Property Agreement
Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Additions d-e. Motion carried unanimously.
5. MAYOR'S REPORT:
 - a. The Mayor congratulated the Ely Nordic Ski Team for their hard work and success at the State Meet at Giants Ridge on Thursday, February 14, 2013.
Debeltz/Omerza approved to invite the ski team to the next council meeting for recognition of their success. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to hold Special Council meeting for the Public Hearing on February 25, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Senior Center to hear public concerns and comments regarding issues with our City Buildings. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - c. **The Mayor will write a letter to the Commissioner of MnDOT to identify the committee members who authorized the changes to Hwy 169 that were not part of the original plan and why they chose to deviate from that plan.**
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
 - B. Approve Employees and/or Council members to attend the 2013 Safety & Loss Control Workshops throughout the month of April in select Minnesota cities.
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve consent agenda items A & B. Motion carried unanimously.
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:
 - A. Joany Haag, President, Ely Rotary Club, spoke about their Peace Project for Ely. They are incorporating the Ely Schools and other service and community organizations in the area. The kids will fold 1000 paper cranes collectively. Local clubs and service organizations will be asked to donate \$100 to the project and will be named on a bronze plaque at the base of the Peace Pole. The first \$1,000 raised will go to Ryan's Wells. The next \$500 raised will purchase a peach pole and pay for installation and landscaping. Any remaining funds will go to the local food shelf.
Debeltz/Kess moved approval to support the Peace Project, allow the Peach Pole to be installed at Whiteside Park and for the City of Ely to donate \$100 to the Project. This will all be under the direction of the Park & Recreation Board and the Clerk/Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to have the Clerk and the Park & Recreation Board work with the Rotary on this Project. Motion carried unanimously.

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8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Standing/Special

i. Projects Committee

1. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve a Special Council meeting on April 3, 2013 at 5:30pm at City Hall for a “Strong Towns” presentation on how communities can reinvent themselves and fill storefronts. Presenter is a licensed engineer and planner from Brainard, MN. Motion carried unanimously.**
2. **Kess/Omerza moved to task the Clerk with finding an Economic Group that wishes to put a representative on the Projects Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**
3. Council member Polyner stated that the Heritage Preservation Committee is talking about putting together a walking tour of historic downtown Ely for Ely’s 125th Anniversary this year. She asked the public to come forward if anyone would like to get involved in coordinating this event.
4. Council member Omerza reported on attending the CGMC Legislative Action Day at the Capitol with Council member Polyner where they were able to speak with Senator Bakk and discussed the LGA, The Ely Airport and Ely in general. They also met with Senator Skoe, Tax Chair and discussed LGA and concerns about Greater MN.

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, February 13, 2013:

1. Approved the purchase of street lighting materials for Sheridan Street from WESCO for \$11,803.00 and Border States for \$6,098.35.
2. Approved payment of the City Associate Membership to Minnesota Rural Water Association for \$225.00.
3. Approved payment of the December, 2012 Bills List for \$303,926.00.
4. Approved payment of the MPCA WTP Annual Permit for \$345.00 and the MPCA WWTF Annual Permit for \$5,900.00.
5. Approved payment of the KBM, Inc. Invoice #021332 for the Burntside Power Line for \$2,287.50.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve EUC consent agenda items 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Clerk Langowski discussed the agenda for the February 26, 2013 Study Session. He stated MnDOT’s traffic engineer will be here to discuss the traffic signals in Ely and the proposed construction and modifications to the project for this summer. Also, discussion on the Fund Balance and the Fund Balance policy recommended by the League of MN Cities in preparation for the City’s upcoming audit.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Police Chief

- i. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the Chief of Police to attend MN Chief’s Conference & Executive Training in Duluth, April 21-24, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ii. Chief Lahtonen presented letters of commendation from local citizens for Officer Burger and Officer Houde for being prompt, courteous and professional on several 911 calls. The council extended a “Thank You” to the officers as well for their exemplary service.

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- E. City Attorney
 - i. LELS Contract Update – this will be moved to the next agenda.
 - ii. **Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of the purchase agreement between the City of Ely and Mauro and Daphne Caruso for the Old County Garage building pending completion of the Plat on the property and the Ordinance approval. Motion carried unanimously.**
- F. City Engineer
- 10. COMMUNICATIONS:
 - A. The tentative schedule for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is April 25, 2013 from 5p-6p in City Hall. The certification training is Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Cotton Community Center.
- 11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:
 - A. City and EUC claims for December, 2012 and January , 2013 - \$433,893.61
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12. OLD BUSINESS: None
- 13. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to accept David Buchite’s letter of resignation effective April 5, 2013 from his position as Library Clerk and to send him a Thank You note for his years of service to the City. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - B. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the City to post for a Library Clerk position. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - C. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve Ely Butler to replace Barry Bissonett as the NLAA representative on the Donald Gardner Humanities Trust Board. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - D. **Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Todd DeNio to fill the open resident position on the P&Z Commission. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - E. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve for Vicki Wagner to remain on the HRA Board for another term. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - F. **Omerza/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2013-006 authorizing Knights of Columbus Council 3238 application to conduct a bingo at St Anthony’s Church on March 17, 2013. WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus, Council 3238, 1012 E Harvey St, Ely, Minnesota 55731 have requested approval of the application to conduct a bingo on March 17, 2013 at St Anthony’s Church Hall located at 231 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota does hereby adopt this resolution.
Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 14. OPEN FORUM:
 - Mike Jankovec with Ely TV stated they were having station difficulties but they were working on getting them fixed as soon as possible. Their website is elytv.org.
- 15. ADJOURN:
 - Omerza/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk