

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30 pm on April 2, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Shedly, Mayor Petersen (7)
Absent: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the minutes from March 19, 2013 Regular Meeting with one correction. The word “property” needs to be added in the last sentence of the Mayor’s Report before the word “taxes”. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the minutes from March 25, 2013 Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the minutes from March 26, 2013 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - A. Addition 6.B. – “Smile You’re in Ely” Banquet
 - B. Addition 12.A. – Building options
 - C. Addition 13.E. – Mechanical/Plumbing fees**Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of Additions A-C. Motion carried unanimously.**
5. MAYOR’S REPORT: None
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight’s agenda
 - B. Approve Council and/or staff to attend the Ely Chamber of Commerce 22nd Annual “Smile, You’re in Ely”, Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at the Grand Ely Lodge at 5:00pm.**Debeltz/Omerza moved approval of the consent agenda items A & B. Debeltz/Omerza amended the motion to include making the “Smile, You’re in Ely” event a Special Council meeting so all council members may attend. Motion carried unanimously.**
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. Council member Nikkola reported on the ER meeting which included the Interview Committee for the Library Clerk position. Clerk Langowski stated there were 37 applicants of which 21 were scored and 5 were selected for interviews. Interviews will be on Thursday, April 4, 2013 from 3:30p to 5:30pm. The Interview Committee will consist of an ER member, Council member, Library Director, Library Board member and the Clerk.

Mayor Petersen stated he toured the businesses around the food shelf area. There has been negative input from the businesses regarding blocking off most of the blocks parking spots to be reserved for the food shelf customers on the days they are open for business. Clerk Langowski stated this issue will be brought up at the next Projects Committee meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 5:00pm in the Joint Garage Facility. All who have an interest in this issue should attend the meeting.

Council member Omerza reminded everyone to send in their recommendations for those individuals that they wish to nominate for Volunteer of the Year Award. These need to be in the Clerk’s office by April 11, 2013. Last week, she attended various meetings including: TAB, ER, Library Board and Parks & Rec. The Park & Rec Board was tasked by the Council to find a spot in Whiteside Park for the Rotary’s Peace Pole Project. Omerza stated that on May 13, 2013, the Park & Rec Board will invite the Rotary and the Garden Club to join them in the Park to discuss the best location for this Pole. Council member Omerza also attended the Joint Legislative Conference in St Paul. During which time, she also attended the League Board of Directors meeting which unanimously supported the Local Government Aid (LGA) formula and a position which was a momentous occasion for everyone to

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come together in an agreement for the better of Minnesota . This was also supported by the Coalition of Greater MN Cities and the Metro Cities. This formula should remain for the next 10 years.

Council member Polyner stated that by next month, Planning & Zoning should have the City Comprehensive Plan ready to be submitted for the Council's approval. She also attended with Attorney Klun, a discussion by the Deed Commissioner and Commissioner Sertich regarding Economic Development. She had her first Beautification Committee meeting last week and handed out to the Council information on a project which she hopes to discuss with the Council at the next Study Session. Also, for the next Study Session she would like to discuss and bring a proposal for adopting as a new City Logo, the logo that the Chamber of Commerce is currently using.

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, March 27, 2013:

1. Approved putting the poles salvaged from the Burntside line out for bids.
2. Approved a commercial lighting rebate for the Ely Subway for \$51.00.
3. Approved the purchase of materials for the Sheridan Street Lighting Project for \$12,691.85.
4. Approved payment of the KBM, Inc. Invoice #031303 for the URD Feeder for \$653.36.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the EUC consent agenda items 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. **Omerza/Polyner moved to approve placing an ad in the Ely Echo's annual Progress Edition supporting Business & Community and Economic Development in Ely. Motion carried unanimously.**

Polyner/Nikkola moved to approve a picture of the council members to be taken tomorrow night after the "Strong Towns" presentation for the Echo's Progress Edition ad. Council member Polyner requested for the picture to be taken in a more casual setting then having everyone sit at the Council table. Motion carried unanimously.

iii. Ely Airport Engineering Services – TKDA was the only proposal submitted which will be reviewed by the Airport Commission and then brought before the Council with their recommendation.

Langowski discussed the lease Agreement with Sterling Medical for the VA Clinic which will be leasing a portion (3543sqft) of the Sato Building bringing that building up to 100% occupancy. They will be paying for the renovations and additions to the building. Attorney Klun went through the terms of the contract with the Council.

Kess/Nikkola moved approval of the Lease Agreement with Sterling Medical and grants the Attorney the authority to complete the Agreement in the terms as she has described. The basic terms along with the rate of \$15/sq ft will remain the same. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Langowski, Council member Nikkola and Jim Preblich met at the Airport on Friday, March 29th with the Forest Service which included: District Ranger, Deputy Forest Supervisor and a Representative from the Fire Division out of Duluth. They gave them a tour of the Airport and asked for their support on the Airport Project.

Mayor requested a short break: 6:22pm – 6:25pm.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director invited everyone to attend the retirement party for Dave Buchite at the Library on Friday, April 5, 2013 from 2:30pm to 5:00pm.

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D. Police Chief:

- i. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the Ely Police Departments recommendation to hire George Burger as a full-time police officer with the City of Ely at the end of his probation period on April 1, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Lahtonen reminded the public to pay their calendar parking tickets within 14 days to avoid, late fees, the possibility of the account going to collections and of the vehicle being towed.

E. City Attorney:

- i. Lease Agreement with Sterling Medical – Discussed under Clerk/Treasurer
- ii. **Sheddy/Debeltz moved to approve the Building Official’s contract revisions. Due to some uncertainty from Council member Kess and Mayor Petersen, Council member Debeltz pulled his second to the motion. Council member Omerza then seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 2 with Kess and Mayor Petersen voting “against”.**
- iii. LELS contract negotiations – to be discussed in a closed session at the end of this meeting.
- iv. Property Sales – to be discussed in a closed session at the end of this meeting.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. The 2013 Arbor Month theme is “Plant Trees for a Brighter Minnesota”.
- B. Certificate of Commendation awarded to the City of Ely and its wastewater treatment facility staff.
- C. MN Office of Administrative Hearings acknowledgement of the joint resolution for orderly annexation between the City of Ely and Morse Township.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the communications A-C with special acknowledgement to the award given to the wastewater treatment facility staff. Debeltz/Polyner amended the motion to include placing letters of commendation for the award in Mick Shusta and Steve Krtinich files. Motion carried unanimously.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for April 2, 2013 - \$155,612.15
Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Building options were discussed. Points of interest included:
 - The Mayor asked to set a cost parameter limit. Too many variables at this time. No decision was made.
 - The HPC is looking at the CC room by room to see what needs renovating.
 - The Library Board feels Option 1 is more preferable since it allows for more space thus giving the library collection room to grow.
 - The Library Board is cognizant of the Council’s wishes.
 - The Library Director stated eBooks are not minimizing the library usage. People are coming to the library to use their own devices on the premises.
 - Any building needs to be state of the art and energy efficient with low maintenance costs. The CC is not in the Cities best interest to maintain.
 - Bring current options and costs to the next meeting plus include operating costs and savings for each option
 - The Mayor may call for motion to pick a building option at the next meeting.

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13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve for authorized personnel to sign the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Admin Minnesota. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2013-009 authorizing application of Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation to apply for a raffle permit for October 27, 2013 at the Dorothy Molter Museum, 2002 E Sheridan St, Ely MN. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Shedly-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve appointing Elizabeth Harri to the public housing resident seat on the HRA Board. Motion carried unanimously.**
- D. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the four applicants that applied to the Tree Board. The Clerk's office will advertise again to fill the remaining fifth seat on the Board. Motion carried unanimously.**
- E. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve the new Mechanical/Plumbing fees recommended by the Building Official. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM: None

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to close the meeting after a short break at 7:31pm to discuss the LELS contract negotiations and to discuss the offer by Terry Lowell on property located on Pioneer Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was closed 7:39pm.

Meeting reconvened at 7:55pm.

Omerza/Debeltz moved approval of the LELS Contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of Terry Lowell's offer for land on Pioneer Rd for \$18,078 plus the cost of the survey. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the offer for property located at 425 E Chapman St (as is) in the amount of \$3,000 plus half of the legal fees. Motion carried unanimously.

15. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk