

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30 pm on April 16, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy, Mayor Petersen (7)

Absent: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Council meeting April 2, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition 13.D. – Resolution #2013-010

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Addition item A. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Addition 12.A. – Old Building discussion

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Addition item B. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Chamber of Commerce request.

Debeltz/Omerza motioned approval of moving this item to Consent Agenda item B. Motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.

B. Chamber of Commerce request to declare May 2nd as Linda Fryer Day. **(This Proclamation was not read out loud in order not to spoil the surprise for Linda at her retirement party on May 2, 2013 when this Proclamation will be officially presented.)**

CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA-PROCLAMATION-**WHEREAS**, Linda Fryer, has served the Ely Area and the City of Ely as the administrative director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, and was an involved, dedicated citizen for all of those many long years and more; and

WHEREAS, with marketing awards and accomplishments too numerous to list; Linda has promoted the Ely area in ways that few thought possible. She has made Ely a household name and a destination for who knows how many additional people and by doing so has enriched the lives of so many of us who live and work in the Ely Area; and

WHEREAS, Linda's innovative marketing techniques have caused scores of communities to call their marketing people and say "We want to do what Ely does" thus establishing one more way that Ely stands out as an exceptional community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ross Petersen, Mayor of the City of Ely, Minnesota do hereby proclaim May 2, 2013 as Linda Fryer Day in the City of Ely.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval of consent agenda items A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

A. Heritage Preservation Committee regarding City Building options. – **Item moved to 12.A. – Old building discussion.**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Approve the Library Clerk's job description as recommended by the Employee Relations Committee.

Kess/Debeltz moved approval of the revised Library Clerk's job description with the clerical changes described by the Library Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kess questioned the City's Hiring Policy. Attorney Klun stated they are revising the policy and it will be brought for review to the next Council meeting.

B. Thank you to the Town of Morse for their generous donation of \$1,000 to the Whiteside Park Playground Project.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to send the Town of Morse a Thank You note for their generous and unsolicited donation. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Nikkola/Sheddy moved approval of the Projects Committee's recommendation to allow for designated parking of the food shelf delivery truck on the Monday before the 3rd Tuesday of the month and to deny the request for designated parking stalls on the shopping day for the food shelf customers. Chief Lahtonen spoke briefly on this matter stating he was in favor of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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, April 10, 2013:

- 1. Approved payment of the EUC February Bills List for \$419,432.95.

- Nikkola/Debeltz moved approval of the EUC consent agenda item 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

- ii. A representative from Congressman Nolan's office will be at City Hall in the upstairs board room on May 1, 2013 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm if anyone would like to meet with him. **The Representative will be Tommy Rukavina.**

B. Fire Chief

- i. Notice of First Assistant Chief, Cheryl Anderson retiring from the Ely Fire Dept.

- Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of sending a Thank You note to Cheryl Anderson for her years of service to the Ely Fire Dept. Motion carried unanimously.**

- ii. Ely Fire Department Relief Association 2012 Re-Cap Report. Many questions from the Council arose regarding the report. It was decided to add the discussion of this report to the next Study Session when the Fire Chief can hopefully be present to answer the Council's questions.

C. Library Director

- i. **Omerza/Nikkola moved approval of the recommendation from interview committee to hire Tricia Flake as the new Library Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Police Chief

- i. Letter from the Police Chief regarding the building issues. **(This issue was brought up under 12.A.i)**

E. City Attorney

- i. Annexation – Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order – On April 9th, the Joint Resolution for annexation was approved. The next step is to plat the area and then write up a purchase agreement for the property.

Attorney Klun also stated that the old ford garage will require a court order for its proposed demolition. The owner was given notice and until February 5th to present a plan to the City for the required improvements. To this date, he has not been in contact with the City regarding this matter.

The Attorney's office is recodifying the City Code and final version will be brought before the Council hopefully by the next council meeting. They also will be focusing on City Policies, including the Hiring Policy and the Sale of Land Policy. The Council should let her know if there are any other policies they would like to implement.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Letter regarding the building issues from Council member Kess. **(This was moved to 12.A.)**

- B. Ely Community Resource Quarterly Progress Report.

- C. Annual Ely Area Community Mental Health Conference at VCC Theatre on Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9am to 4pm.

D. Communication from Congressman Nolan to Harold Langowski.

Clerk Langowski stated that it was suggested to him that the City send a letter to our Representatives on the State and Federal levels reaffirming the City's views on the Hwy 169 project and their strong approval for the Southern Route improvements and not in favor of the proposed work by MnDOT.

Kess/Omerza moved approval to send the aforementioned letter from the Mayor to our state and federal Representatives. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Communication from the Ely Garden Club.

Mayor Petersen suggested a letter be sent to the Rotary Club regarding the Garden Club's need for a lock area in the Park to store their garden equipment if there are funds left over from the Peace Pole Project. Since both Clubs will be meeting with the Park & Rec Board at Whiteside Park on May 13, 2013 to discuss the position of the Peace Pole, the issue of the garden equipment locker can be discussed at that time. Also, the Garden Club is in need of someone to take over the caretaking of the Post Office garden since the Garden Club does not have enough members to continue this service.

Council member Polyner mentioned the Beautification Committee is looking for a used Golf Cart which they can turn into a little watering truck so flowers and planters along the main street can be easily watered and would also be shared by the Garden Club.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for April 16, 2013 - \$301,886.03.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval of the claims for payment item A. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

Nikkola/Debeltz approved moving Old Business to the end of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the Ely Community Resource 20th Annual Community Service Learning Project to meet May 22nd at Whiteside Park and May 23rd at Semer's Park to rake, pull weeds and collect leaves and trash. Also approved to send a letter of Thank You for all their help. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Ely Outfitter Association request to approve new site for Ely's Sea Plane Base. (Discussed before 13.A.) The former location for arriving Canadian pilots and passenger Customs Inspection here in Ely is no longer available. This service along with the revenue derived from fly-in canoeist is significant to the Ely Area Businesses. In addition, if there were fewer inspections needed from the US Customs Office, their Offices may be removed from Ely.

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the new dock site at the water treatment plant using the old physical dock sections. Also, making available City assistance to install and maintain the dock. The Outfitter Association and the commercial floatplane operator will contribute financially toward the maintenance of the dock as needed. In discussion, it was stated that in order to comply with both the FAA and MnDot, the dock site should be labeled as a "Custom Inspection Dock". Added as an amendment to the motion was for the City to write a letter to Washington and to our State Legislatures in favor of keeping the Customs Office here in Ely. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Nikkola/Omerza moved approval of appointing Joe Edlund to the final open member position on the Tree Board. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2013-010 authorizing request for funding the proposed City of Ely public works infrastructure project shovel ready for 2013. WHEREAS, the City of Ely is a Municipal Corporation governed under the Charter of the City of Ely with powers vested in its City Council; WHEREAS, the City wishes to have certain sanitary sewer and water line improvements (hereinafter referred to as "Chapman Street Alleys 8th - 10th Avenues) completed as Phase 2 of the 2013 Sanitary Sewer Replacements Project. WHEREAS, the utilities in this area are deteriorating and the sewer line has collapsed in the past six months resulting in sewer backups. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to submit a request to the State Legislature and IRRRB for \$334,900 to complete this project in 2013.

Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Old Buildings Discussion:

- i. The Chief commented on his letter to the Council regarding the City's building issues. He feels strongly against having the Library move into City Hall with the Police Dept. due to safety and confidentiality concerns. The public does not need to be exposed to the sometimes violent episodes that the Police Dept deals with on a daily basis.
- ii. Celia Domich & John Huisman, HPC members, stated that the Commission is in favor of keeping the Library in the Community Center and presented documentation of how this can be accomplished showing numbers and drawings of the potential Library renovation on the first floor of the Community Center.
- iii. Council member Kess presented his letter to the Council which stated that he was in favor of limiting the impact on the taxpayers by doing the work needed in phases over 5 years and to use the money the City already has and to search for grant funding. He feels all of the proposed options result in 15-25% tax increases for the Ely citizens.

Council member Nikkola stated that doing the renovations to City Hall in phases will cost more money in the long run. Clerk Langowski disagreed with Kess' quoted tax increase percentage. He stated nothing has been decided yet as to which option the City will choose or to the amount of money that will be needed. Bonding right now on three million dollars would be 2.6% for 20yrs.

Council member Omerza stated that the Library Board had a special meeting to discuss the Board's position on the current building debate. Their first priority is to keep the library in the CC but if it is moved then they strongly recommend a new building on the old clinic site. Library Director Heinrich presented to the council a drawing of a floor plan for a new library which included additions to the new building which would be done in phases.

Mayor Petersen stated he feels it is time and he is ready if anyone would like to make the motion for one of the options presented. He is in favor of Option C which is to renovate City Hall for ADA and energy efficiency and to build a new 6500 sq ft library on the old Clinic site.

Nikkola/Sheddy moved approval to request from JPJ Engineering the cost for them to put together a foot print and general rendering on Option C2 with a new 6500 sq ft library building with possible additions in the future. In discussion, Council member Omerza requested that the Library Director be kept a part of the library planning as it moves along in its various stages. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Kess abstaining.

Council member Kess suggested we keep option C1 open until the more refined numbers from JPJ on option C2 have been presented so they can be compared with option C1 numbers as presented by the HPC.

Council member Omerza asked what will be presented at the 3rd Public Hearing on April 29th. Mayor Petersen stated he will discuss the cost of a foot print and general rendering for Option C2 from JPJ. Nikkola added that the council could present the public with options for a 3, 3.5 or 4 million dollar bond and what it will cost residentially to the public.

Council member Sheddy called the question to end the conversation stating the Council had veered off the discussion of the motion. It was understood that the motion on tasking JPJ with a foot print and rendering for Option C2 had been passed and a motion started afterward by Kess was never fully realized or stated.

14. OPEN FORUM: None

15. **Kess/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Motion carried unanimously.**