

Council Study Session Minutes, April 30, 2013

- I. Call to Order:
The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30pm on April 30, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
- Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, and Mayor Petersen (6)
Absent: Council member Sheddy (1)
- II. Additions or Omissions: **None**
- III. Request to Appear:
A. Mike Hillman – Grant Writing to preserve Ely’s historic buildings. **Did not appear.**
- IV. Old Business:
A. A brief discussion on the old buildings ensued. Clerk Langowski stated that when the time comes they will be calling for bids on the project. We are still in the preliminary planning stage and the estimates being obtained help only to point out the most feasible option for the City to pursue. Council member Omerza commented that all building discussions are done publicly through Council meetings and/or public hearings. Some are done on the Board and Committee levels but those meetings are all public as well. Council member Nikkola and the Mayor agreed that the JFK building would not be a viable option due to the fact that it was built cheaply and is not a solid structure. It would cost the most of all the options to renovate. Council member Polyner felt that putting City offices in the basement or upstairs of the Community Center would not be a good idea due to the lack of windows. Council member Kess thanked everyone for showing up to the public hearings.
- V. New Business:
A. Chief Erchull answered questions from the Council regarding the Ely Fire Department Relief Association 2012 Report:
- He stated that 2 members (Jim Wagner and John Shultz) retired which resulted in large withdrawals in 2012.
 - Several members are ready to retire in the next several years but they hired 5 new firefighters last year and 5 this year. There are presently a total of 34 firefighters.
 - No calls yet on the Laurentian Fire Association.
 - He stated he is fine with any building option as long as his department can be housed under one roof including their equipment.
 - Contract with Superior National Forest and the Ely Fire Department to be brought to the next Council meeting for approval.
- B. Council member Polyner proposed adopting the Chamber of Commerce logo as the City’s official logo. She feels it would help to unify the City and the Chamber to be under the same logo or City Brand. It is a good time to do this during Ely’s 125th year. She will bring further information regarding pricing and obtaining a Trademark to the next Council meeting.
- C. Council member Polyner reported as a member of the Beautification Committee that they would like to promote a “Support a Tree Program”. A person could adopt a tree for \$75/year for a five year period (This is an example. Fees and specifics have not been finalized). These funds would go toward the care and upkeep of the tree, also a plaque would be placed near the tree with the name of the person who adopted it. Clerk Langowski stated that David and Bonnie Starkman have replanted every tree on

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Sheridan St due to the hazardous conditions that they have to grow in such as low soil and salt from the road.

Clerk Langowski also stated that the summer street banners are no longer usable for this year. The Beautification Committee will be placing their summer banners by Whiteside Park. Langowski also informed everyone that new street lights will be going up soon. One is already in place. These LED lights are brighter and higher so only half as many are needed.

- D. The Beautification Committee would also like to propose a “Hometown Pride Project”. Council member Polyner suggests each Council member donating \$100 or whatever they feel appropriate to the prize pot. The prize would go to the best beautification improvement to a home or business.

Clerk Langowski reminded everyone of the May 31st and June 1st City wide clean-up days from 8am to 4pm. The G-Men will have dumpsters on 7th Avenue for people to use. No garbage will be allowed. The G-Men will also pick up & haul away any item too large for you to bring to the dumpsters. There will be a separate scrap metal bin and proceeds from the metal will go toward the Whiteside playground project.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk