

## **Council Study Session Minutes, May 28, 2013**

### Call to Order:

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30pm on May 28, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.

Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess (arrived at 5:33pm), Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Shedly and Mayor Petersen (7)

Absent: none

### ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS:

- A. Addition VI.A. – Chief Lahtonen
- B. Addition – request to close the meeting at the end for labor negotiations

### REQUEST TO APPEAR:

Celia Domich, member of the Heritage Preservation Commission, gave an update on the Commissions progress with the Community Center building issue. They are looking into the City's Option C.1. which allows for the Library to remain in the Community Center and for the Community Center to be upgraded for repairs and ADA standards. They have obtained pricing for the various upgrades that will be needed for the building as well as the different options of funding available to them. They have someone who has offered to write the grant to obtain funds for the Use Study. Also, two architects, originally from the Ely area, have offered to walk through the Community Center when they are visiting Ely in June and to give to the HPC their assessment of the building. One cost for the glass block repair on the building was \$155,360.00. They will be bringing to the council at a future date a request for approximately \$6,500 for an assessment of the building which would include the current requirements for: ADA, building code and electrical. It would cost \$5,000 to \$7000 to get the Community Center registered with the Historical Society. Once a building is registered as an historical building there are additional funds (up to \$500,000) that can be applied for to cover brick and mortar upgrades.

### CITY BUDGET:

Clerk Langowski reviewed with the Council, the City's Fund Balance Policy which was discussed at the last Budget meeting. The discussion included: changes to the policy; annual review of the fund balance; policy was sent to the auditors and Northeast Services for their review; negative balances are not permitted within the fund balance. Nikkola pointed out that the Fund Balance is not a Reserve (Savings) Account (which the City should have for emergencies) but is there to provide ½ of the City's operating budget for the first half of the year until the City receives their property tax payment. The Fund Balance Policy will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval.

### OLD BUSINESS:

A review of the Obstruction Permit was discussed. Request to block city streets for Tuesday Night Live and the Little League games has brought forth a few issues. The current Obstruction Permit cost \$100 and the group or business must provide to the City an Insurance Liability Certificate showing \$1.5 million dollars of liability coverage with the

## **Council Study Session Minutes, May 28, 2013**

City of Ely listed as an “additional insured” party. This requirement comes from the League of MN Cities and cannot be waived. If the event is held by a non-profit organization, the group would be required to carry \$1.0 million in insurance which could be applied for through the League TULIP (Tenant Use Liability Program). The League has provided a list of eligible events and the coverage costs for each event. Due to the costs of the insurance, the option to lower the permit fee to \$25 was discussed. This will be discussed at the next council meeting for approval.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Lahtonen discussed with the Council, the need for the Police Department to purchase an ARMER Radio Base Station which would cost \$3,800 to \$4,000. There is approximately \$46,000 in the Forfeiture Account which could be used to cover this cost. This will be brought to the next council meeting for approval.

Council member Nikkola asked the council to think about the idea of changing the name of Central Ave to Miners Ave.

**Meeting was recessed at 6:55pm for 5 minutes and then closed for labor negotiations.**

**Meeting reopened at 7:30pm.**

**Omerza/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman  
Deputy Clerk