

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, June 4, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30 pm on June 4, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (6)
Absent: Council member Polyner (1)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2013 Regular Meeting and the May 28, 2013 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - A. Addition: 8.A. – Airport Minutes
 - B. Addition: 13.H. – Advertisement for Bids
 - C. Addition: 13.I. – Ferrellgas- Pioneer Dry House
 - D. Addition: 6.D. – Budget Adjustment
 - E. Addition: 13.J. – Name change for Central Ave**Kess/Debeltz moved to approve additions A-E. 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 Mayor and/or Council members to attend the 2013 CGMC Summer Conference in Bemidji, MN on July 24 – 26, 2013.
 - C. Approve purchase and transfer of funds for the ARMER Radio Base Station which will be used by the Police Department.
 - D. Approve budget adjustment to transfer remaining Park donations to the capital project fund and appropriate funds for the completion of the Whiteside Park project.**Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve consent agenda items A-D. Motion carried unanimously.**
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:
 - A. Celia Domich gave an update on the Heritage Preservation Commission activities. They have sent to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) a document showing cost & benefits for the possible registration of the Community Center as an historic building. They also met and gave a tour of the Community Center with an Architect who has interest in preserving the building and will bring forward a proposal for cost & ideas on building upgrades.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve ER's recommendation to grant step-up pay of \$1.21/hr to Steve Bartel (meter reader) while he is performing duties of a utility worker who is on medical leave. Step up pay will be granted retro-active to when he began the new duties. Motion carried unanimously.**

Council member Nikkola stated they met with the bargaining unit regarding changes to the employee's insurance policy. They will have a negotiating meeting next week regarding this matter and he asked that members of the negotiating committee to arrange for replacements if they cannot attend.

Clerk Langowski stated that Employee Relations also discussed the Ely Hiring Policy which will be put on the next Council Study Session and also to include the Police Commission in that discussion. Also for the June Study Session Rob Ege, MN DOT Traffic Engineer will be there to discuss the Sheridan St traffic light issue.

Mayor Petersen made a note to keep moving forward on the items which were requested by the Charter Commission regarding line items on the budget.

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Council member Omerza stated the Telecommunications Advisory Board will meet this week with Ely TV to continue discussing their contract. The consensus is to continue with Ely TV and to rework the contract to fit the budget. She also thanked everyone on the Park & Rec Board for putting in their time & efforts in making our City Parks safe and beautiful for all to enjoy.

Clerk Langowski thanked JJ Day and his G-Men crew for all their hard work which was donated for the City wide clean-up days May 31st and June 1st. They collected: 60 cu/yds of general yard waste; 24 mattress; 30 cu/yds of demolition material; 60 electronic items; 32 appliances; 7 ½ tons of metal (proceeds from selling the metal will go to the playground project); 65 tires; aluminum including a 14ft boat. The Northland Market BBQ made about \$420 which they donated to the park project. Langowski thanked everyone involved including JJ Day, the G-men, Dairy Queen and Northland Market for making the clean-up day's event a success.

Council member Shedly suggested sending all those involved a "Thank You" note. He also stated that the Housing Redevelopment Authority which meets monthly is working on revising the HRA Director's Position job description & qualifications. He will welcome any recommendations & suggestions from council members and department heads regarding this matter.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk Langowski stated that the FAA is providing funding for this year's Airport Project and the City is still working with TKDA & JPJ Engineering on next year's project.

A. Fire Chief:

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve Fire Chief Erchull to hire Cassandra Kes as a 1st Responder for the City of Ely. She is already trained and certified. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Erchull reminded everyone that the Fire Department is sponsoring a Sky Warn Weather Spotters Class at VCC in Rm 104 at 7pm tomorrow night. He also reported that there has been no activity with the Laurentian Fire Association.

B. Library Director, Rachel Heinrich listed the upcoming events at the Library which included Summer Reading Program; the Zoo Mobile, a Planting Program and a showing of Mulan the movie.

C. Police Chief Lahtonen gave a brief update on the 2 hour parking limit which has been enforced for the last two weeks and also gave the steps for the civil enforcement process regarding blight which will be discussed further at the next Study Session in June.

D. City Attorney:

Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval to close the meeting at the end to discuss Registered Land Survey Tract C (lot near Steger Designs) and also employee insurance negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

E. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Minnesota Association of Small Cities membership information. Council member Nikkola stated that historically, the City has never joined this association.

B. Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the Ely Nordic Ski Club request for support in purchasing a new water pump for the Chalet. In discussion, it was noted that the City of Ely pays \$11,500 per year in property taxes & lease payments to the DNR for the Hidden Valley property plus the City provides road maintenance to the Chalet. Debeltz/Kess pulled their motion. Clerk Langowski, City Negotiating committee and Attorney Klun will meet with the Ski Club to discuss this issue and their lease agreement.

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11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for June 4, 2013 - \$124,094.22.
- B. JPJ Engineering 8th Ave Alley Sewer Harvey to Sheridan Project #12-634 partial payment estimate #1 for \$119,497.65 to Utility Systems of America Inc.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve claims for payment A-B. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Nikkola/Debeltz moved to proceed forward on proposals for the ADA upgrades and the remodeling of City Hall. In discussion, it was decided to send this to the Projects Committee in order to get a preliminary scope of the project and a proposal from John Jammick on the engineering fees.
Nikkola/Debeltz pulled their motion.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the Ely Fund Balance Policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. **Sheddy/Omerza moved to approve the new rate of \$25 & form for Obstruction Permits. In discussion Attorney Klun clarified that businesses, groups, non-profits and individuals who are requesting the obstruction permit for recreational purposes can apply for liability insurance through the League of MN Cities TULIP program for the required one million dollar coverage. If the obstruction is non-recreational, such as an extension of a business's current activity, then the liability coverage must be for \$1.5 million. Motion carried unanimously.**

- C. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2013-015 authorizing submission of LCCMR Grant request to pursue completion of Biomass Project in the City of Ely. 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; and WHEREAS, the City of Ely has spent considerable amounts of staff time and community volunteer efforts to demonstrate the viability of an operating biomass facility in the City; and WHEREAS, there have been a number of studies completed by Dovetail Partners, the Ely Alternative Energy Task Force, the Wood Energy Resource Center, US Forest Service; and WHEREAS, the City of Ely, the Ely School District, the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital have indicated a desire to form an ongoing partnership to pursue a plan based on these studies for the possible construction of a Biomass plant in Ely; and WHEREAS, the City of Ely has received a grant from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to perform these feasibility studies previously mentioned; and WHEREAS, there are a number of questions left to be addressed on funding and design for construction of the approximate \$3,700,000 plant and forming the legal ownership group; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota does hereby adopt this resolution requesting additional LCCMR funding of approximately \$150,000 to complete the unresolved tasks to achieve a Biomass operation in Ely. In discussion John Fedo gave a short explanation of the LCCMR Grant process for the Biomass Project. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

- D. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved approval to waive the Whiteside Park rental fees for YoungLife of Ely to host the July 4th events in Whiteside Park from 7am to 5pm and for the Ely City Band to use the Whiteside Park Pavilion on July 4th for a concert from 5:45pm to 7:15pm and the four following Tuesdays. Motion carried unanimously.**

Debeltz/Kess moved approval to waive the permit fee for The Ely Little League to block off Harvey Street between 7th & 8th Ave during their Little League games from 5/6/13 to 7/31/13. In discussion, Council member Omerza feels more communication between the Little League and the City needs to occur. Motion failed to pass by a 2-yes to 4-no vote.

- E. **Nikkola/Sheddy moved to approve JPJ Engineering 8th Ave Alley Sewer Harvey to Sheridan Project #12-634 Change Order #1 which decreases the contract amount by \$2,220.00. Motion carried unanimously.**

- F. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve JPJ Engineering 8th Ave Alley Sewer Harvey to Sheridan Project #12-634 Change Order #2 which increases the contract amount by \$15,800.00. This replaces a short stretch of water lines on W Shagawa Rd that were in need of repair. Motion carried unanimously.**

- G. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2013-014 authorizing approval of the Ely Jaycees application for a temporary liquor license. WHEREAS, the Ely Jaycees request approval to apply for a temporary liquor license to dispense keg beer in the beer garden at the Ely Blueberry Arts Festival on July 26-28, 2013. WHEREAS, the Ely Jaycees also request to waive any requirement for an onsite police officer at the event. 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, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

- H. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve the Advertisement for Bids for the Chapman St Alleys Project No. 13-727. Motion carried unanimously.**

- I. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve Ferrellgas Unit Heater Proposal for Pioneer Dry House. Ely Greenstone will be donating the money to the City of Ely to cover the cost. Motion carried unanimously.**

- J. **Nikkola/Kess moved to approve proposal to change the name of Central Ave to Miners Ave. In discussion, it was suggested to survey the businesses on Central Ave to get their opinion on this matter. Nikkola/Kess pulled their motion.**

Nikkola/Omerza moved to authorize the Clerk to move forward with this proposal and to survey the businesses and those that will be affected by this change if it were to occur. Motion passed by a 4-yes to 2-no vote.

14. OPEN FORUM

Nikkola/Omerza moved to close the meeting at 6:47pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was re-opened at 7:29pm.

15. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk