

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30 pm on June 18, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (6)
Absent: Council member Omerza (1)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the minutes from June 4, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - A. Addition 5.A. – changing to from “aye” to “no” in council voting
 - B. Addition 5.B. – Building discussion
 - C. Addition 9.A.ii. – Pioneer Mine Group**Kess/Nikkola moved to approve Additions A-C. Motion carried unanimously.**
5. MAYOR’S REPORT
 - A. Mayor Petersen stated he would like to change the “aye” response from the council members when it is a no vote to “no”.
 - B. Mayor Petersen stated that the City Council needs to know how much the Community Center will cost the City over the next 15 years over what a new 6500 sqft Library building would cost the City over the same time period in order for them to make a judgment on this issue. We need clear and concise numbers plus options for possible add-ons to the Community Center building project.
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight’s agenda
Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve consent agenda item A. Motion carried unanimously.
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:
 - A. Bradley Peterson with the Coalition of Greater MN Cities – Did not appear
 - B. John Esse, Ely resident, spoke briefly on several public topics. He praised Council member Polyner on her work with the Beautification Committee and also thanked and congratulated the council for their patience and diligence on their work on the Community Center and City Hall buildings project. He also thanked Mayor Petersen for his leadership in this building issue. Thanks were extended to Clerk Langowski, Dennis Schilling, Building Official and Chief Lahtonen for their work on enforcing the City Codes & Ordinances mainly in removing blighted buildings and unlicensed vehicles in the City. He also informed the public of the 2nd Patriotic Choir Concert at the Washington Auditorium on Sunday June 23rd at 2pm. He also requested that the Concert be videotaped for local TV. Council member Sheddy stated he would take care of filming the event.
 - C. Luthera Smith – discuss city water charges – Did not appear
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. Council member Debeltz stated the Cemetery Committee was not able to have a Quorum at their last couple of meetings. Council member Nikkola requested putting the discussion regarding Committees and Commissions and their membership make-up policy on the next Study Session.

Council member Kess reported the Airport project is continuing as planned. There is also a waiting list to rent a hangar at the airport. Langowski mentioned that the FAA will be at the airport this week for a site. TKDA is working on the funding for this project and working closely with JPJ Engineering. Kess stated that TAB will be bringing Ely TV’s updated contract to the next council meeting for their review.

Nikkola/Kess moved approval of the Projects Committee recommendation to allow the property owners of 1344 E White St to landscape in the public right-of-way in order to take care of water issues in their basement. The property owners are aware that if the City should put in a sidewalk in that right of way then their retaining wall will have to come out. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Langowski reminded everyone that if they plan on doing any landscaping or excavating within or near the public right of way, they need to come for a permit and for the City to review the area.

Council member Nikkola also stated Department Heads will be getting together to fine tune the future plans for City Hall in order to move ahead with a proposal and blue prints. He stated the meeting will be closed at the end for labor negotiations discussion.

Council member Polyner reported their will be a P&Z public hearing to accept the new City Comprehensive Plan at 5:30p in City Hall on June 19th. She also attended a rural arts & culture summit where she received ideas on how to combine arts with economic development and also on how to expand the cities art community. The HPC is working on the Historical Walking Tour to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Ely. Historical registration information was presented in the Councils packets. John Rova, native Elyite, is an architect and specializes in renovations of old buildings. He has agreed to do an assessment of the Community Center for \$5,000. His proposal was presented to the Council. Polyner stated that this assessment would provide more realistic and up to date numbers on the electrical and mechanical items needed for the restoration which would aide in the decision of the Council to whether or not to keep the CC. Mayor Petersen stated that he would like John Jamnick involved in this assessment as well.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve asking for a cost estimate from JPJ Engineering to provide a cost & operating analysis for the next 15yrs between buildings options A & B. Motion failed 3 “yes” (Peterson, Debeltz & Polyner) to 3 “no” (Kess, Nikkola & Shedly).

Kess/Nikkola moved to approve for Clerk Langowski, HPC & City Engineer to draft more refined costs on mechanical and operations for the next 10-15yrs of Options A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Shedly thanked those who gave their input on the HRA Executive Director’s job description.

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, June 12, 2013:

1. Approved the Minnesota Power contract revisions.
2. Approved the purchase of a chlorine analyzer from Aqua Pure for \$2,995.00.
3. Approved the purchase of eighteen light fixtures for Sheridan Street for \$44,514.00 from WESCO.
4. Authorized B&L Utility Maintenance, LLC to sandblast and paint the Sheridan Street light poles for \$22,250.00.
5. Approved the purchase of a tap changer from Utilities Plus for \$5,940.00.
6. Authorized Miron Construction, Inc. to install a pump at the WWTF for \$18,912.00.
7. Approved Utility Systems of America Change Order #1 for (\$2,220.00) and Change Order #2 for \$15,800.00 for the 8th Avenue East Harvey to Sheridan Project.
8. Award the bid for the water tower and reservoir cleaning to Water Tower Clean & Coat, Inc. for \$9,200.00.
9. Approved payment of the April, 2013 EUC Bills List for \$293,509.69.

Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve EUC consent agenda items 1-9. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Pioneer Mine Memorial Group looking for core from Zenith Mine Shaft. Seraphine Rolando stated that they have found some core pieces between Miner’s Drive and Rod Loe’s property. They would like to

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2013

take the cores for their memorial at Pioneer Mine site and would like to own the rest of the pieces to sell to help pay for this project.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve the Groups request to remove the cores and use as they wish. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director - Rachel gave an update on the upcoming events to be held at the Library next week.

D. Police Chief

i. Civil Enforcement update

E. City Attorney

i. **Nikkola/Sheddy moved to approve the Lease Agreement between City of Ely and Lake County to lease City land on HWY 1 for 10 years at \$162/yr for Fiber Optics installation. Motion carried unanimously.**

ii. MOU – proposed agreement between City of Ely & AFCSME – discussed during closed meeting

iii. Sale to Steger – Registered Land Survey #12, Tract C - discussed during closed meeting

iv. Reed Road – on going litigation matter filed in St. Louis County – discussed during closed meeting

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Correspondence & contract from WELY – Mayor and Clerk will meet with Bois Forte representatives on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 to discuss the contract between the City of Ely and WELY.

B. US Dept of Agriculture letter regarding U.S Forest Service’s Northern Research Station/Kawishiwi Field Laboratory.

C. League of MN Cities correspondence regarding 2014 dues information

D. Debeltz/Sheddy moved to send a “Thank you” note to the G-Men Environmental Services, Inc for their donation from the City Clean up Days for \$1,678.30. Motion carried unanimously.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for June 18, 2013 - \$456,872.45

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

12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Ely Nordic Ski Club is requesting in-kind services and financial aid to replace a water pump. Clerk Langowski will set up a meeting with the Ski Club to discuss this issue.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nikkola/Sheddy moved to approve the Hidden Valley Trail Enhancement, Project #0014-11-2B – Grant Amendment which extends the project for one year. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2013-017 authorizing application of Ruffed Grouse Society Crazy Flight Chapter to apply for a Raffle Permit for October 17, 2013 at the Grand Ely Lodge. WHEREAS, the Ruffed Grouse Society Crazy Flight Chapter has applied for a Minnesota Lawful Gambling Permit to conduct a raffle on October 17, 2013 at the Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N Pioneer Rd., Ely MN 55731 and WHEREAS, the City of Ely approves of said application and that the Ruffed Grouse Society Crazy Flight Chapter be authorized to submit the necessary paperwork to the State of Minnesota Department of Gambling Control. 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, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the Basic Fire Protection Agreement between City of Ely and Stony River Township. Motion carried unanimously.**
- D. Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2013-016 approving session laws 2013, chapter 143, article 9, section 16, H.F.No.677 concerning Ely TIF Districts. WHEREAS, the City of Ely currently has two TIF Districts established to promote economic development within the City of Ely, WHEREAS, TIF District #1 did not collect adequate revenue to cover the bond costs and, WHEREAS, the decertification date of TIF District #1 was set to expire prior to the debt being paid off in TIF District #1 and, WHEREAS, TIF District #3 has excess revenue available on an annual basis to pay the deficiencies in TIF #1, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Ely enact Legislation to extend TIF District #1 until 2021 and allow the proceeds of TIF District #1 and TIF District #3 be pooled to cover the combined debt of the two TIF Districts as follows: Approves all language included in Section 16 of Chapter 143 concerning Tax Increment Finance Districts for the City of Ely. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM - None

15. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved to close the meeting at 7:00pm after a short recess. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting was reopened at 7:25pm.

Sheddy/Debeltz moved approval to accept the Tentative Agreement between the City of Ely and AFSCME Local #1490 and to offer same Health Care and Wages to LELS & Essential and Other than Essential Unions. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheddy/Nikkola moved to close the meeting at 7:27pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Nikkola/Kess moved to reopen the meeting at 7:46pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Kess moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk