

## Council Study Session Minutes, June 25, 2013

### Call to Order:

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30pm on June 25, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.

Present: Council members Debeltz, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (6)

Absent: Council member Kess (1)

### Additions or Omissions:

A. Addition – III.A. – Hidden Valley

### Old Business:

Council member Nikkola stated that they met with the representatives from the Ely Nordic Ski Club to discuss the replacement of the broken water pump at Hidden Valley Chalet. The total cost for the project is \$3,400. They are requesting that the City pay half (\$1,700). It will be brought to the next council meeting under consent agenda for the City to approve. Clerk Langowski stated that a budget adjustment could be made from Parks & Rec Dept to pay for this project.

### New Business:

1. Rob Ege, MNDot Traffic Engineer, presented the Council with an update on the traffic light at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and Sheridan St. The camera has been installed and is recording between the hours of 6am-8am; 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm. They are looking at all traffic from all sides as well as pedestrian traffic. The camera will stay through the middle of July at which time he will be back to give the results to the Council.

Clerk Langowski stated that the resurfacing of Sheridan St is on schedule for August and they have begun to sandblast and repaint the light posts.

2. Council member Nikkola presented the Hiring Policy with recommendations from Attorney Klun. This will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval. Mayor Petersen suggested adding “industriousness” to the ranking criteria on pg2 under #5. Attorney Klun stated this would have to be discussed and assigned a qualifying factor. She recommended adding language to the Policy which would state that the Police Commission will be responsible for qualifying and interviewing applicants for positions of Officers and/or Sergeants and omit the statement that Police Commission has “absolute” power over hiring and firing of Officers and/or Sergeants since the Council will have the final decision. She advised that a member of the Council would sit in on the Police Commission interviewing Committee. Nikkola stated that the veteran’s preference just gets you to the interview but after that it holds no weight. Attorney Klun will make the additions and omissions to the current Police Ordinance and add in language for the Police Commission’s role in the hiring process.
3. Attorney Klun clarified that the Cemetery Committee has an advisory role only in the effective management of the cemetery including financial matters. Council member Sheddy stated that he would not be in favor of lowering the number of members on a seven member committee to 5 members. Having a larger number of members allows for a more diverse group of opinions which is a benefit to that committee. Langowski suggested sending letters to members who have not been

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attending their meetings in a regular fashion to see if they are interested in remaining on that committee and if not then that position can be re-posted.

4. Police Commission – This was handled in #2.
5. Attorney Klun updated the Council on the Civil Enforcement process for handling public nuisances which affects the health, peace and safety of City residents. There is a three step process which includes: 1) property owner receives notice and opportunity to remedy the nuisance in not less than 30 days; 2) if property is not cleaned up then under the City Civil Code, the property owner will be issued a Citation. If the owner disagrees with the citation, a hearing can be scheduled or if owner is unable or unwilling to clean up the property then a warrant will be issued for the City to seize the property and clean it up with cost charged to the owner. 3) Judicial Process which includes going to court and receiving an injunction to clean the property with fees assessed against the property.

Council member Debeltz asked about the old Ford garage building being a nuisance. Attorney Klun stated that it is a structural issue and process is being taken to get it torn down this year.

Council member Polyner reminded everyone of the Community Pride Contest in the City where residents can win cash prizes for cleaning up their property.

**Debeltz/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman  
Deputy Clerk