

Council Study Session Minutes, July 30, 2013

Call to Order:

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

Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (7)

Absent: none

Additions or Omissions:

- A. Addition – IV.C. – Project based Joint Powers Board – (Nikkola)

Old Business:

- A. Chuck Novak and Geoff Galaski (Executive Director) presented an update on the Ely Area Ambulance Service. Several key points included: \$5.05/per capita cost for ambulance service; the Board meets annually and this year they will meet on August 28th; they are a 501c3; 553 ambulance runs in 2012; they contract with the Ely Hospital for EMT's; all ambulances are four wheel drive; they offer aid to Babbitt and Tower.
- B. John Jamnick with JPJ Engineering stated they are working on the plans and a schedule for the City Hall renovation. This will be brought to the Council along with ideas on how to proceed with the new Library building design.
- C. The Hiring Policy will be brought back to the next Council meeting for approval after the addition to #6, second paragraph, language stating that interview questions will pertain to a candidates "work ethics".

New Business:

- A. George Eilertson with Northland Securities gave an overview on the financing options that the City can utilize to finance the City Hall renovation and the new Library projects. The City of Ely has an A+ credit rating and a debt limit of approximately \$4.3 million. The financing options require a Capital Improvements Plan approval followed by a public hearing. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- B. Council member Sheddy asked the Council if they were interested in having a City booth at the Harvest Moon Festival to hand out literature and answer questions regarding City projects, public concerns, etc. Council member Omerza stated the HOOP Club would be willing to donate their tent for the event. The booth would be manned by Council and/or Commission members only. This will be brought to the next Council meeting for further discussion and/or approval.
- C. Council member Nikkola discussed with the Council, the idea of funding UpNorth Jobs as an Economic Development tool by forming a Joint Powers Board. He would also like to invite neighboring towns to come to the next Study Session in August, along with the City Attorney to hear a presentation from an UpNorth Jobs

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representative. This will be brought to the next Council meeting for further discussion.

Council member Omerza reminded everyone of the upcoming VFW Baseball State Tournament to be held in Ely August 8-11, 2013.

Council member Polyner asked for a Sheridan St update. Langowski stated it would be a couple of more weeks before construction began.

Omerza/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk