

Ely City Council Special Meeting, September 10, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Ely City Council Special Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 8:30pm on September 10, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Shedly and Mayor Petersen (7)
Absent: None

III. BUSINESS:

A. Mayor Petersen stated that this meeting was called to discuss the building plan and the bonding. At the last meeting, Phil Hogan brought to the Council, a compromise plan to wait 6 months before moving the plan forward. The Mayor read aloud an email sent to him by Phil Hogan and his group in which they respectfully withdrew their Compromise Proposal.

Clerk Langowski stated the proposed Resolution on the agenda tonight was drafted as another way to move forward on the project if the Council chose to accept the Compromise Plan that was presented to them.

Mayor Petersen pointed out that delay in the project will cause the City to lose a lot of money due to interest rates rising and missing the deadline on the Library Improvement Grant which Library Director Heinrich has been working to get completed for submission by October 17, 2013.

The Mayor gave the opportunity for the public to speak.

- a. Chris Lillemo, Harvey St, was in favor of keeping the old clinic site free for public parking. The Community Center needs to be preserved as a historic building.
- b. Nan Snyder, Pioneer Rd, spoke in favor of keeping the library in the Community Center and upgrading the building in stages.
- c. Sara Skelton, Library board member from Eagles Nest Township, stated that for the library to stay in Community Center is not in the best interest of the library. Also, where would the patrons go during the renovation?
- d. John Esse also spoke in favor of a new library building.
- e. Todd Denio, Camp St, stated a non-profit cannot afford the renovation of the Community Center. The people want the library left in the Community Center and for the building to be upgraded at any cost.
- f. Phil Myers, Lakeview Ave, stated he represents the silent majority that feels the City should move forward with a new library building. He stated that it is selfish for those who wish to stop the plan for the new building costing the City and tax payers money.
- g. Scott Denio, White St., stated the City needs to look at all options and they also need to listen to the public.
- h. Celia Domich, HPC member, reminded the Council that a referendum is part of the Law and our democratic right.
- i. Phil Hogan, Morse Township, stated that there needs to be a Regional approach and there is no leadership toward working together.

IV. Shedly/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk