

## **Council Study Session Minutes, October 30, 2013**

Call to Order:

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

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

Omission: V.2. – Beautification Committee (Kara)

### **CITY BUDGET:**

Mayor Petersen began the discussion on the EUC Budget. The EUC Rate Committee met last Monday night. He noted that the Electric Fund charges a residential rate to the Water & Sewer Funds. They will be asking the Council for approval to change to a wholesale rate which would lower the electric charge for the water and sewer plants by approx. \$70,000/yr. Due to increase in Capital Projects for the Water & Sewer Dept, there will be a small increase in water & sewer rates, which they would like to offset with a reduction in the franchise fee.

Clerk Langowski gave a brief summary of the EUC Budget as presented. Rob Wilmunen, EUC member also spoke to the Council with an overview of the budget. Any rate changes will be recommended by the Ely Utilities Commission.

In discussion on the General Budget, Mayor Petersen felt the main priority was on the Building Project. Council member Nikkola stated that exact budget numbers could not be nailed down until final decisions were made on the Bond Rating and the outcome of the Library Grant Application which would not happen until the middle of December. Clerk Langowski stated the levy is now set at 0%. There is also possible debt that could be retired in 2014. Council member Kess suggested using the increase in LGA to lower property taxes for the residents of Ely. Council member Omerza stated that freezing the levy puts the City in a good position if our full LGA is not awarded to us due to the Government's recent shut down. Budget discussion will continue at the next Council meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Ely License Bureau offered to sell Ely Dog Licenses for the City of Ely for a fee of \$2/license. Due to their accessibility and increased customer base, they feel they would be able to reach out to more pet owners. The Council decided to let the Clerk's office handle this issue and to decide what will work best for everyone.

Attorney Klun presented the Council with documentation on several properties in Ely that are considered to be Nuisance Properties. Civil Enforcement citations have been issued to each property owner resulting in minimal compliance. She is asking for Council recommendation on a preferred process to get these properties cleaned up. This will be brought to the next Council meeting for final decision on the clean up process.

Mayor Petersen announced:

- Calendar Parking will begin on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Ely Football team will be playing in Esko, Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:45pm.
- Ely Sophomore, Seth Prigge, will run in the state cross country meet held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Olaf campus in Northfield.

**Nikkola/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman  
Deputy Clerk