

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2013, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:45 pm on November 19, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess, Nikkola, Omerza, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (7)
Absent: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the November 5, 2013 Regular Meeting and November 7, 2013 reconvened meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
A. Legislative meeting hosted by Ely Area Joint Powers on Monday, December 2, 2013 at Creek Ridge Lodge at 11:30am.
Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve calling a Special Council Meeting on December 2, 2013 at 11:30am at Creek Ridge Lodge to allow all council members to attend the above referenced meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Addition: 13.F. Discussion regarding newspaper article - Sheddy

Sheddy/Debeltz moved to approve additions A & B. Motion carried unanimously.
5. MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Petersen congratulated the Ely Football Team for their success as a team this season and for their efforts in the State Tournament held at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.
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. Tree Board member, Mary Groeninger, gave a brief overview of their activities. She stated that Gary Johnson will be giving a report on the Tree Inventory that was done in Ely at 4:30p at VCC. They have been working on a Master Tree Plan which will be finished shortly and presented to the Council. 21 trees, consisting of Elm, Hackberry, Oak and Linden varieties, were planted in the two blocks of Conan St. The newly constructed Gravel Bed is ready for tree planting. This bed is next to the Community Gardens behind Sibley Apartments.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
A. Council member Sheddy reminded everyone of the tree lighting to take place in the park on November 30th after the holiday parade.

Council member Polyner stated that the HPC is still waiting for the Rova Study results. They are hoping to present it to the Council at the Study Session next week. City events can be found on Ely.org.

Council member Omerza stated that the TAB and ER meetings set for this Thursday have been moved to December 5, 2013 at 4pm and 5pm respectively. She brought forward that the League of MN Cities is looking for cities to host their Community Conversations: Phase II program. The League would visit the City and present information about cities, services and funding that addresses critical issues facing the community. Cost to the host City is minimal, generally covering League members travel expenses.
Nikkola/Kess moved to approve for Ely to apply to become a host City for this program. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Nikkola also attended the 2013 Greater MN Regional meeting in Hibbing. He stated there will be a budget meeting tomorrow at 10:00am in City Hall.

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, November 13, 2013:

1. Approved the 2014 EUC Budgets and rate recommendations.
2. Approved reducing the electric rate charged internally for the water and sewer utilities to the wholesale rate.
3. Approved asking the City Council to reduce the Franchise Fee to \$50,000 in 2014.
4. Approved the purchase and installation of a transducer for the WWTP for the not to exceed price of \$5,000.00.
5. Approved payment of the Minnesota Power October Bill for \$202,884.77.

Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve the EUC consent agenda items 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Clerk Langowski gave a brief update on the renovation plans for City Hall and the new Library building. This will be discussed at the next Study Session.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

i. The Ely Library was recognized as a Star Library for 2013. This means the Ely Library was one of the 5 most visited libraries in Minnesota.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Northern Lakes Arts Association request for office space. This will be taken under consideration during the planning process for the renovation of City Hall.

B. Debeltz/Omerza moved to send the Township of Eagles Nest a Thank you note for their donation of \$1,500 to the Ely Library. Motion carried unanimously.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for November 19, 2013- \$584,751.54

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

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Clerk Langowski presented the residential demolition bids which were opened on November 12, 2013 for three property owners who are requesting funding assistance through IRRRB. IRRRB will pay \$3/sq ft or 75% of the demolition cost, whichever is less. Property owner would be responsible for the rest. He proposed using the City's Rehab Loan Program to help the property owners with their portion of the costs. This will be discussed further at the next Study Session.

Nikkola/Sheddy approved the Clerk's recommendation to accept the low bid of \$31,490 from the G-Men Environmental Services pending property owners' agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Kess/Nikkola moved to approve Resolution #2013-037 appointing a City Agent for LMCIT Property/Casualty Program. WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust requires cities to use the services of an agent in order to participate in the LMCIT property/casualty program; and **WHEREAS,** the City Council has reviewed and considered the written materials from LMCIT discussing the agent's role and compensation in LMCIT; and **WHEREAS,** the Norshor Agency, Inc has agreed that they are willing to provide to the city the services listed below under the terms and conditions listed below; The City Council of the City of Ely resolves as follows: Appointment: 1. The City of Ely hereby appoints as its agent for the purposes of the City's participation in the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) property/casualty (and workers compensation) program(s). 2. This appointment shall remain effective indefinitely unless and until it is

terminated or amended by council action. Compensation: 3. As compensation for the services provided to the city as described in Paragraph 4 below, the agent will receive annually a fee equal to 5% of the annual premiums paid by the city to LMCIT for property, liability and automotive coverage (and 2% of the annual premiums paid by the city to LMCIT for workers compensation coverage). This fee shall be included in the amounts billed to the city by LMCIT and shall be paid to the agent by LMCIT on the city's behalf. Services: 4. The agent will perform the following services: a. Advise and assist the city in assembling and accurately reporting underwriting data, including updating property values, for rating purposes. b. Advise and assist the city in evaluating and selecting among coverage alternatives such as deductibles, limits, optional coverage, alternative coverage forms, etc. c. Review coverage documents and invoices to assure coverage has been correctly issued and billed. d. Advise the city on potential gaps or overlaps in coverage. e. Assist the city as requested in submitting claims and interpreting coverage as applied to particular claims. f. Review loss reports for correct reporting, appropriate reserves, etc. g. Assist as requested with safety and loss control activities. h. Assist the city in identifying risk exposures and developing appropriate strategies to address those exposures. **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, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Nikkola/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2013-038 approving application for CDBG and other CPD Programs: WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is preparing a Consolidated Plan/Action Plan to meet application requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and other Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs, and **WHEREAS**, St. Louis County has requested CDBG-eligible projects from participating communities for inclusion in the Action Plan, and **WHEREAS**, the City of Ely has conducted public hearing(s) on November 19, 2013 in regard to the 2014 Infrastructure Improvements Project and the City of Ely CDBG application for the project, and **WHEREAS**, it is found that the project meets the Benefit to Low/Moderate Income Persons federal objective of the CDBG program and is prioritized by the community as a high priority need. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Ely CDBG application related to the 2014 Infrastructure Improvements Project is hereby authorized to be submitted to St. Louis County for inclusion in St. Louis County's Consolidated Plan/Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute all documents, agreements or contracts which result from this application to St. Louis County.

Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance #283, 2nd Series, amending Chapter 10, Section 10.23 MN Uniform Fire Code. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.**
- E. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to approve all 2014 Soft Drink and Tobacco license renewal applications pending the receipt of all required documentation for the term of 1/1/14 to 12/31/14. In discussion, Mayor Petersen questioned the necessity of the soft drink permit. Administration will look into this. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Council member Sheddy abstaining.**
- F. Council member Sheddy stated his disapproval of the article written by Mayor Petersen and published in the Ely Echo regarding the Mayor's personal opinions on certain issues. Council members Nikkola and Omerza expressed their disappointment as well. Kerry Davis from the Chamber Board also voiced that they were disheartened with the Mayor's article.

14. OPEN FORUM - None

15. **Debeltz/Nikkola moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk