

Council Study Session Minutes, November 26, 2013

Call to Order:

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30pm on November 26, 2013 at the Ely City Hall.

Present: Council members Debeltz, Kess (left meeting at 6:36pm), Nikkola, Polyner, Sheddy and Mayor Petersen (6)

Absent: Council member Omerza (1)

Addition: Equipment Replacement Schedule

Addition: Library Design/Build Team – request for qualifications

Addition: CIP Report on Airport

Request to Appear:

Celia Domich, member of the HPC, presented the reuse study from John Rova on the Community Center. Key points discussed: total estimated cost for all upgrades to the building is \$2.6 to \$2.7 million; Celia will get clarification from Mr Rova on whether the old boilers are intended to be reused or if it will be upgraded to the preferred hot water heating system; also, there seemed to be no ADA approved bathroom on the main floor. Council member Kess thanked Mr. Rova and the HPC for their hard work in putting this study together.

City Budget:

The City of Ely will cut the levy by 2% to offset the increase in property taxes due to the County losing \$30,000 in fiscal disparity. Council member Kess feels the City could lower the levy by more than 2%. Mayor Petersen and Nikkola both stated that we need to plan for 3 to 5 years down the road.

Old Business:

John Jannick with JPJ Engineering gave an update on the new Library Building & City Hall renovation projects. The next step in the project is to request for proposals from General Contractors to complete the building projects. A general contractor should be selected sometime in January. Input from Council members on their choice for building options and design can be turned into the City Clerk. Clerk Langowski stated that the committee to pick a contractor should be comprised of the Council.

Discussion on Charter adjustments and using Robert Rules will be discussed at the next Study Session. Also for that meeting, they will discuss 2013 budget adjustments and looking at different ways on the process for adopting the budget.

Clerk Langowski presented the Airport CIP report. They are moving forward on the design work at the airport for both the runway lighting and runway rehabilitation for 2013. The 2014 budget includes replacement of MIRLs and Electrical Distribution for \$120,000 and Runway Rehab for \$525,000. Total local share is \$645,000 and the Total project cost is \$6.45 million.

New Business:

Discussion ensued on making the City's Rehab Loans more available to residents especially those who need help with funds to get rid of their blighted property by allowing the loans to be used on demolition projects and by lowering their current interest rate of 4% to something more manageable for the resident and their project.

Nikkola/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk