

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Petersen at 5:30pm on November 18, 2014 at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

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 minutes from the November 5, 2014 Regular Meeting and November 7, 2014 Special Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition: 13.C. – Resolution 2014-045

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve addition A to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT: None

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. Cara Leitheiser and Adam Borchert from the Ely Jaycees presented a check to the Council for \$4,643.10 which was collected in a fireman's boot during the 4th of July festivities in Ely as a donation to the Ely Firework Fund.

Debeltz/Omerza moved approval to send the Ely Jaycees a "Thank You" note for their hard work in achieving the fireworks donation for the City. Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Reporting on the Airport Committee, Clerk Langowski stated that the Brush Clearing Grant application was sent in and the Runway project is scheduled for May 2015.

Council member Nikkola stated the ER meeting has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be a Budget meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 3:30p. Also, the proposed property tax statements went out this week and it looks like taxes have gone down.

Council member Omerza stated the TAB meeting will be this Thursday at 4:00p. She reported that she had been in the cities for League and CGMC Conferences. She will have a full report at the next meeting. Bill Tefft was present with the ad hoc committee for the Pillow Rock Project. This committee would like to move Pillow Rock to a more suitable area for displaying. Some of the locations considered were: Entrance to Whiteside Park; as a feature in a pocket-park on the old Pamida property; placed at either entrance to the City by the "Welcome to Ely" sign. They have Geologist looking into the feasibility of moving the rock from its present location on City right-of-way property.

Omerza/Kess moved approval of the Park and Rec Board recommendation to allow the rock to be moved if found feasible to do so and at no cost to the City of Ely. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Polyner stated the Incredible Ely meeting held last night to recap the Design Team findings had a good turnout. Many projects are slated to begin this spring from the Design Team's suggestions.

Council member Sheddy reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade to be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving at 5:00pm and ending in Whiteside Park with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Mayor Petersen reported on the Joint Powers Meeting where they discussed the Dentist shortage in Ely and the Nursing Home funding issue. Morse township representative talked about the Lucky Boy logging project. They approved the City to cross Morse land to access the Lucky Boy property.

Council member Kess noted that the Events Coordinator Position was approved by all entities involved. He also stated that the Tree Board is growing trees for the City's use in gravel beds which have been provided by the City.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

- i. Clerk Langowski will be interviewed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor on Thursday, November 20, 2014 concerning the collection and use of taconite tax from the mining industry. He will convey to them how critical this tax is to Ely and its citizens along with IRRRB grants, homestead tax relief and other forms of aid and grants made possible by the production tax. The homestead credit results in a 35% tax relief for homestead properties but does not apply to commercial or non-homestead properties. He welcomes input from anyone who has ideas for how the taconite tax should be changed or distributed differently.

B. Fire Chief

- C. Library Director handed out T-shirts to the Council and Mayor for their support and assistance in the New Library project. She thanked everyone, especially volunteers, Public Works employees, and the VCC Law Enforcement students who provided their assistance during the big move.

D. Police Chief

- E. City Attorney Klun stated the Reed Rd intervention is an ongoing process and she will keep the Council informed as it progresses.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital annual meeting to be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00pm.

The Mayor stated he will try to attend this meeting. Also, on this day is a meeting with Legislatures at noon which has been deemed as a Special Council meeting so all on the Council may attend.

- B. All Night Grad Party request for donations.

- C. **Debeltz/Sheddy moved to approve the Chamber of Commerce request for City assistance in putting up Christmas decorations within the City. In discussion, the Chamber and the Beautification Committee are looking into updating the City's winter decorations for next year. Motion carried unanimously.**

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for November 18, 2014 - \$691,926.97.

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

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 294, 2nd Series amending Chapter 20, Section 2 Sales of Land of the City of Ely to John Ott. Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12, Block 9, original plat of Ely for \$5,500. This motion also authorizes the closing of the sale of this property.**
Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2014-044 approving support of the US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Ely, Minnesota is a member of the Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) and is also a member of the CIRI Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition (Coalition), which was created as a collation of member communities for the purpose of seeking a US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Ely, Minnesota supports the US EPA Brownfield Assessment grant application which will be submitted to the US EPA on or before December 19, 2014 by the City of Virginia, Minnesota, on behalf of the Coalition. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon approval of the Coalition's application to the US EPA, the City of Ely, Minnesota may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for the above-referenced community-wide assessment project, and the that City of Ely, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer of Ely, Minnesota is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the City of Ely, Minnesota. **Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **Nikkola/Omerza moved to approve & sign Certificate of Substantial Completion for the First Avenue East Sewer/Conan/White Street Alley Project #12-580. Roll called: Debeltz-yes, Kess-yes, Nikkola-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, Sheddy-yes and Mayor Petersen-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2014-045 authorizing the City of Ely to submit to St. Louis County, the CDBG application for the 8th Ave E Utility Improvement Project. 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 on November 18, 2014 in regards to the 8th Avenue East Utility 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 8th Avenue East Utility 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 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.**

Clerk Langowski reminded everyone of the Study Session on November 25, 2014 which will have on its agenda: the Building Official position and a budget discussion. The Study Session will have a brief recess at 6:00pm for the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.

14. OPEN FORUM - None

15. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to close the meeting at 6:18pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk