

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2015

Mayor Petersen opened the meeting at 5:30pm on January 6, 2015 at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

Mayor Petersen thanked everyone he worked with during his term as Mayor of Ely and welcomed the new Mayor and Council members to their new positions.

Clerk Langowski gave the “Oath of Office” to Mayor Chuck Novak and Council members Albert Forsman, Daniel Forsman and Heidi Omerza.

Mayor Petersen adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Novak at 5:37 pm on January 6, 2015 at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Kess, A. Forsman, Omerza, Polyner, D. Forsman, Mayor Novak (7)

ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve minutes from December 16, 2014 Regular Meeting and December 30, 2014 Special Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition: 13.F. – Resolution 2015-002 MN Historical Society Grant Program

B. Addition: 10.D. – Letter to City

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve additions A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR’S REPORT

A. Omerza/Debeltz moved approval of the appointments to the various committees and appointment of Council member Debeltz as Acting Mayor for 2015:

Airport	Kess	Park & Rec	Omerza
Budget	A.Forsman, Novak, Kess	Planning & Zoning	Polyner
Cemetery	Debeltz	Police	Debeltz
Insurance	Omerza	Projects	D.Forsman, Novak
Gardner Trust	Polyner	Sanitation	A.Forsman
Employee Relations	Novak, Omerza, Debeltz	TAB	Novak
Fire	Kess	Park & Rec	Omerza
HRA	Novak	Utilities	A.Forsman
HPC	Polyner	CGMC	Omerza
Library	Omerza	HWY#169 Task	Kess
Community Jt Powers	Novak	Lodging Tax Broad	Novak
Mesabi Trails	R.Skraba		

Motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight’s agenda

B. Approve to call for sealed bids for 2015 legal newspaper.

C. Approve advertising for open committee seats

D. Approve staff to attend 2015 CDBG application process starting on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at the Mt. Iron Community Center.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve consent agenda items A-D. In discussion, it was stated that the criteria for comparing the bids for the legal newspaper is under review and will be discussed with staff and the League of MN Cities. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

A. Tom Mayfield, National Healthcare Capital and John Fossum, Ely Bloomenson Hospital Administrator gave a brief account on the process of the refinancing of the City's Series 2008A and 2008B Health Care Facilities Revenue Notes. The Cities involvement in this loan is in name only and the City is not obligated in any way to repay the loan. Having the City's name on the loan, offers the hospital tax-exempt financing.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve setting the Public Hearing date as February 3, 2015 at 5:00pm before the regular council meeting at 5:30pm for the above mentioned Hospital Revenue Notes Refinancing. Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Council member Omerza read to the public the Performance Review Report on each Department Head that underwent a review on December 30, 2014. She also stated that she will be attending the CGMC Legislation Day in St. Paul on January 28, 2015. It was noted that many areas of the Capitol Building is closed to the public due to construction of the building. EEDA needs to discuss their Legislative Goals for 2015.

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve changing the EEDA regular scheduled monthly meetings to the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm in order to promote positive discussions without the 30 minute time limit they have now. Motion carried unanimously.

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, December 17, 2014:

1. Approved the purchase of 24 CIP- LED Street Lights from WESCO for \$26,640.00.
2. Approved payment of the November EUC Bills List for \$477,450.98.
3. Approved payment of the Michel's Power Application for Payment #3 for the Commercial Feeder Rebuild Project for \$92,740.32.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the EUC consent agenda items 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director Heinrich, gave an update on the upcoming programs and events offered at the Library.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney:

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. **Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS) request for membership and dues \$700 from the City of Ely. In discussion, Mike Forsman stated that the RAMS organization works to make sure that proceeds from the Taconite Tax goes to benefiting units of local government. Council member Kess stated that RAMS is in a transition period but the City should remain as an active supporter. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. St Louis County Fair request for donation. (No council action taken)
- C. Hwy 169-Eagles Nest 3A Alternative – Public meeting to be held Wednesday, January 21, 2015 from 6-9pm at VCC-rm104.
- D. Council member A.Forsman read a letter sent to the City from Jim Woods, Funeral Director at Kerntz Funeral Home which praised the City Employees for their efforts in preparing a grave site in a timely manner with very little notice.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for January 6, 2015 - \$639,058.12
 - B. TL Construction, Payment application #6 for City Hall Remodel - \$200,468.05.
 - C. TL Construction, Payment request #1 for City Hall Terrazzo Flooring - \$41,325.00.
- Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve claims for payment A-C. Motion carried unanimously.**

12. OLD BUSINESS:

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the 2015 official city depositories: Wells Fargo Bank, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Boundary Waters Bank and 4M Fund. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Council member Omerza abstaining due to her husband's connection with Frandsen Bank.**
- B. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve designating the City Clerk as responsible authority to oversee non-audit audit services. Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2015-001 authorizing City officials and staff to attend meetings outside of Ely. WHEREAS, During the coming year there may be meetings concerning the affairs of the city and other business, which are of vital interest to the city, which arises on short notice, and WHEREAS, It becomes necessary from time to time for the Mayor to attend meetings, meet with public officials, contact businesses interested in the City of Ely and other persons or organizations related to the affairs and development of the City upon short notice, and WHEREAS, in such situations it is desirable that the mayor and any city official or officials or personnel of the mayor's selection, carry out these activities at his/her discretion, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall have the authority to make trips which he/she deems necessary which are directly related to city business or directly related to approval authorization of the council. That approval of any travel expense for the mayor and any official or personnel accompanying him/her may be made subsequent to such a trip. Otherwise, and if possible any other officials or personnel, leaving the City of Ely shall advise the city clerk of the trip and nature of the business to be performed, and that the city clerk keep a record thereof. RESOLVED, that any request by other elected officials or city employees to attend meetings outside the City of Ely, or to travel outside the City of Ely on city business be in writing stating the dates involved and the purpose of such meeting or trip, and written request to be attached to the agenda. BE IT RESOLVED, That claims for per diem or reimbursement for travel expense for the trips outside the City of Ely by elected officials, except the mayor's trips for City business and its development, or city employees, will be allowed only if the city council, or the city clerk's office has obtained four signatures on a written request for said elected official or city employee to travel outside of the City of Ely. ALSO BE IT RESOLVED, Excepting trips by the mayor and accompanying personnel or officials, that claims for per diem or reimbursement for travel expense for trips outside the City of Ely by elected officials or city employees will be allowed only if the city council has given approval for the trips at a Regular or Special meeting of the city council.**

Roll called: A.Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Interim Use Permit for the 7th Annual WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race on February 21 & 22, 2015 at the Ely Softball Complex. Motion carried unanimously.**
- E. Omerza/D.Forsman moved to approve Knights of Columbus application to conduct a bingo on February 8, 2015 and March 22, 2015 at St. Anthony's Church Hall, 231 E Camp St. Motion carried unanimously.**
- F. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2015-002 authorizing the City of Ely to make application to the Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grant Program. WHEREAS, the authorizing authority approves of the application for \$10,000 to enlist the services of an architect and mechanical/electrical engineer to complete the analytical work and to develop a Master Plan to prioritize and direct the work moving forward for the Ely State Theater Restoration Project by Ott Historic Rehabilitation, LLC. WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need for historic preservation and building improvement in the downtown area to increase tax base, promote job creation and revitalize underutilized buildings. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Ely is supportive of this application. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota does hereby adopt this resolution. Sponsoring the application to the Minnesota Historical Society thru the Legacy funded Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. Roll called: A.Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM: None

15. Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk