

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER
The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Novak at 5:37 pm on January 20, 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/A.Forsman moved to approve the minutes from January 6, 2015 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
A. Addition: 9.A.iii. – 2015 CDBG Report (Harold)
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve addition A to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
5. MAYOR'S REPORT
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve writing a letter to Legislators and the Governors' office in support of appointing Kristen Wilmunen to the Governors' Broadband Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to recommit the motion from January 6th Council meeting to join RAMS Organization and pay the \$700 membership dues. Roll called: A.Forsman-no, Kess-no, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried 5 to 2.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to table the payment for the RAMS dues until the Campaign Finance Committee makes a decision on the conflict with the newly elected Executive Director. In discussion, it was felt by some that it was still important to show the City's support for this organization even in their time of transition. Mayor Novak felt the decision should be postponed until the Campaign Finance Committee makes a final decision on the new Executive Director of RAMS. The Clerk will contact RAMS for more information. Roll called: A.Forsman-no, Kess-no, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried 5 to 2.
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.
Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve consent agenda item A. Motion carried unanimously.
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
A. Planning & Zoning 2014 report
B. HPC Report/Request
Polyner/A.Forsman moved to approve giving the HPC authority to disperse old Law Books from City Hall to various interested institutions. 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, January 14, 2015:
 1. Approved sending a letter thanking Mick Shusta and Steve Krtinich for the work they did for the City of Ely to receive the 2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award.
 2. Approved the Ely Winter Festival request for assistance.
 3. Authorized Butch Gornik to attend the NMBA 2015 Electrician Continuing Education in Grand Rapids on February 12 – 13, 2015.
 4. Approved payment of the December EUC Bills List for \$371,344.35.
 5. Approved payment of the Miron Construction Co., Inc. Invoice #145606-0002 for \$14,708.19 for pump installation at the WWTF.
 6. Approved payment of the KBM, Inc. Invoice #150101 for \$6,045.87 for the Commercial Feeder Rebuild Project.
 7. Approved payment of the Michel's Power Application for Payment #4 and Change Orders #1, #2, and #3 for \$160,502.94 for the Commercial Feeder Rebuild Project.

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the EUC consent agenda items 1-7. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **Kess/Omerza moved to approve the purchase of new office furniture for the new Administrative offices upstairs of City Hall from Range Office Supply at their proposed price of \$3,921.00. The existing furniture will remain in their current location for the Police Department which will be taking over those existing offices. Motion carried unanimously.**

- iii. **Clerk Langowski and Mayor Novak attended a CDBG meeting in Virginia last week. They have agreed to fund \$100,000 to the City of Ely for the 8th Ave. Project. (\$200,000 was originally requested)**

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney:

- i. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve closing tonight's meeting at the end to discuss the Reed Road situation and to develop legal strategy for the proposed law suit. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ii. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the Commercial Rehab Loan for \$17,500 to Jason Zabokrtsky and for the City Attorney to finalize the paperwork. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Polyner abstaining due to business involvement.**

- iii. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the request by Mr. Echtenkamp for an easement to access W. Shagawa Rd across City Property. Mr. Echtenkamp will agree to pay the remaining Attorney fees to complete the easement. Motion carried unanimously.**

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to send a “Thank you” note to WSA Fraternal Life for their donation to the Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to send Mick Shusta and Steve Krtinich a “Thank you” note for their hard work in achieving for the City the 2013 Water Fluoridation quality Award. Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Thank you note from the Chamber of Commerce to City of Ely for assistance with holiday decorations and parade.
- D. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approved Ely Winter Festival request for support and assistance from the City of Ely in preparation for the Festival held February 5th to the 15th, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for January 20, 2015 - \$1,004,606.28
Omerza/Polyner moved to approve claims for payment A. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. JPJ Engineering, final payment estimate #3 for the First Ave E Sewer/Conan/White St Alley project #12-580 to Utility Systems of America - \$21,401.60 along with change order #1 for this project which decreases project amount by \$2,324.00.
Omerza/Polyner moved to approve claims for payment B. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. JPJ Engineering, final payment estimate #3 for the Chapman St Alleys 8th to 10th Avenues project #13-727 to Utility Systems of America for \$19,986.60 along with change order #2 for this project which decreases the project amount by \$29,320.00.
A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve claims for payment C. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve a new Civil Defense/Fire Siren for \$20,484.00 from DSC Communications. In discussion, it was stated that the current Fire Siren has been disconnected and due to its age it is no longer functional. The old Civil Defense Siren is still in operation. Some feel that with pagers and cell phones, a fire siren is no longer necessary. (This item is in the current budget.) Motion carried 6-1 with Kess voting “no”.**

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution #2015-003 in support of the HWY 169 North Task Force Eagles Nest recommendations. WHEREAS** there have been countless accidents and at least nine documented fatalities on Hwy 169 between Tower and Ely with three in the Eagles Nest Lake Area in the past fifteen years. **WHEREAS** in 2005, Congressman Jim Oberstar secured federal transportation funds through SAFE-TEA-LU to complete safety improvements on Highway 169 from Virginia to Winton. **WHEREAS** the Highway 169 North Task Force has worked diligently with MnDOT to develop the preferred Alternative 3A, South Alignment.

- WHEREAS** the Highway 169 North Task Force has made recommendations to MnDOT for Highway Safety Improvements in the Eagles Nest Project Area of Highway 169, between Soudan and Ely. **WHEREAS** the preferred Alternative 3A Hybrid Reconstruction Plan for the Eagles Nest Area achieves the most safety improvements with the least amount of social, economic, environmental and detour impact for the schools, businesses, local residents and visitors. **WHEREAS** the elected officials in the City of Ely, Town of Morse and Ely School Board have been unanimous in the support of the Highway 169 North Task Force recommendations. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota, does hereby adopt this resolution in support of the preferred Alternative 3A Reconstruction Plan to improve safety for the communities residents and visitors and to reduce and/or eliminate the dangerous curve and black ice conditions currently present. **Roll called: A.Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B.** Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2015-004 in support of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project. **WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota has seen delays and lost production due to the lack of available trains for commerce, **WHEREAS**, currently nine trains a day are utilized to transport oil with an anticipated growth of production requiring double this number in the next 10 years leading to increased traffic and safety concerns. **WHEREAS**, the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline project will provide for 1,500 high paying construction jobs and an estimated \$25 million in taxes paid in rural Minnesota. **WHEREAS**, the Bakken Oil Field Production will reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil and provide a safer local supply, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota, does hereby adopt this resolution in support of the construction of the Sandpiper Pipeline. **Roll called: A.Forsman-yes, Kess-yes, Debeltz-yes, Omerza-yes, Polyner-yes, D.Forsman-yes and Mayor Novak-yes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- C.** A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the purchase of a snowmobile for the Ely Nordic Ski Club. The Ski Club will reimburse the City for the cost of the snowmobile from a Grant they received to make this purchase. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- D.** Debeltz/Omerza moved to invite the Planning & Zoning Commission to the February 24th Study Session in order to discuss their relationship with the Council and procedures & process regarding permits issued by the P&Z and rulings from the Board of Adjustments. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- D.** MN Association of Small Cities membership - \$878.50 – **No action was taken on this item.**
- E.** Kess/Omerza moved to approve payment of \$50 to the Iron Range Economic Alliance for 2015 membership dues. **Motion carried unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM

Roger Skraba and Bill Erzar spoke on behalf of the HWY 169 Task Force. They invited the public to the Public Meeting held tomorrow night at Vermilion Community College from 6-9pm. They are in support of MnDot's Preferred Alternative 3A hybrid reconstruction plan for the Eagles Nest Area. This plan achieves the most Safety Improvements with the least amount of social, economic, environmental and minimal detour impacts for schools, businesses, suppliers, area employees, local residents, visitors and motoring public.

Mayor Novak closed the meeting at 6:45pm for the closed session to begin after a short recess.

Debeltz/Kess moved to re-open the meeting at 7:16pm. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Omerza/Debeltz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk