

Ely City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Ely City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Novak at 5:30 pm on February 17, 2015 at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Polyner, D.Forsman, Mayor Novak (6)

ABSENT: Council member Omerza (1)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2015 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition: 6.C. – Stony River Township –Fire Protection Agreement

B. Addition: 12.C. – RAMS

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

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor attended the Dorothy Molter Fundraiser at the Grand Ely Lodge last week where he had the honor of giving the welcoming speech for the event.
- He announced the Chamber Board is seeking nominations for the Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual or group for their unselfish giving and promotion of Ely. Nominations should be submitted to the Chamber by February 27th.
- The Mayor will be speaking at the Rotary meeting held tomorrow.
- He will also be attending a dinner at Fortune Bay this Friday hosted by the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

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

B. Approve Police Chief to attend the MN Chiefs Conference and Executive Training in St. Cloud, April 20-22, 2015.

C. Approve Mayor and Clerk to sign the City of Ely and Stony River Township Basic Fire Protection Agreement effective April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017.

Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve consent agenda items A-C. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. CGMC Legislative Action Day report and CGMC key priorities list – Omerza

Mayor Novak stated he attended the Joint Powers meeting where discussion ensued on RAMS and the dentist shortage.

Council member A.Forsman stated that the Utilities Commission chose their officers: President-Tony Colarich; Vice-President-Dick Zahn; Secretary-Kurt Soderberg.

Council member Polyner reminded everyone of the Steering Committee meeting to be held on Feb. 25th and also the next P&Z meeting to be held tomorrow, Feb. 18th.

Council member D.Forsman presented the Projects Committee minutes from their last meeting.

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve the Projects recommendation for the City Council to set up a sub committee to investigate the current five dollar Street and Infrastructure charge to City residents on the Utility bills. Motion carried unanimously.

D.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the Projects recommendation on choosing Option II for the Safe Routes to School project on 11th Ave. E which allows for a 20' width from the center line to the curb face. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted to add discussion on the City Five year Capital Improvement Plan to the next Study Session agenda.

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from EEDA to direct the Clerk to prepare a bonding bill request for Ely's Business Park II and 17th Ave. improvements. 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, February 11, 2015:
 1. Approved to purchase \$2205.00 worth of additional safety equipment required by` OSHA for the electrical department. They are now required to wear fire resistant pants as well as fall restraints.
 2. Election of Officers: President: Tony Colarich, Vice President: Dick Zahn, Secretary: Kurt Soderberg
 3. Approved to revise a draft ordinance to submit to the council on the point of sale compliance of upgrading sanitary discharge system.
 4. Approved the EUC December Bills List for \$371,344.35.
 5. Approved payment of the MN Rural Water Association Dues for \$250.00.

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

Clerk Langowski stated that the Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program information is in the agenda.

B. Fire Chief

- C. Library Director Heinrich stated that the 2nd stain glass window has been installed in the new Library and there is talk of doing a 3rd stain glass window.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney:

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. **Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to send the Ely Winton Rod & Gun Club a “Thank You” note for their donation to the Ely Rec Club of \$278.00. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the Roller Girls request to salvage old roller skates found in the Community Center to make them available for open skating in the Ice Arena. Motion carried unanimously.**

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for February 17, 2015 - \$587,114.72
- B. Northern Door and Hardware for City Hall Doors – keypads and power supplies for exterior doors - \$1,970.00.

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve claims for payments A & B. Motion carried unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Polyner moved to approve the following 2015 Committee Appointments: Charter Commission – Ryan Callen; Vincent O’Conner; Richard Pucel; Gardner Humanities Trust – Rebecca Spengler; Planning & Zoning – Mauro Caruso; Library Board – Mauro Caruso. Motion carried unanimously.**

D.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the following 2015 Committee appointments pending verification of residency of the applicants: Airport-William Vosburgh; Planning & Zoning – Scott Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Tabled motion: Polyner/Kess to approve the Tree Risk Assessment proposal from S&S Tree and Horticultural Specialists, Inc for \$4,222 which will provide two certified arborists for two days for a level 2 tree risk assessment was brought off the table by Mayor Novak. In discussion, Dixon Shelstad, Jim Barott, Mary Groeninger, Valerie Nesteruk from the Ely Tree Board presented information regarding the proposed tree assessment. Mr. Shelstad stated the tree board has been working on new plantings. They have been working with the University of Minnesota for advice and proper procedures on tree handling. Mary Groeninger stated they would like to put together a 10-15yr comprehensive plan for planting trees in order to have a diverse, multiage tree inventory throughout the City. In order to complete this plan, they need the expertise of an Arborist to guide them. She assured the Council that they will be out there with the Arborist to help and monitor as they perform their assessment. Council member A.Forsman was concerned that they would waste money evaluating trees that were destined to be cut down or harmed due to street construction. Mayor Novak voiced concern that residents should have a say in tree placement in front of their properties. Valerie Nesteruk stated they have been working closely with the City and the residents on tree placements and evaluations. They have done fundraisers and tree plantings have been done by volunteers. Former**

County Commissioner, Mike Forsman gave the name of Bob Olen, Horticulturist as a free resource for the Tree Board to contact. Council member Polyner extended her gratitude for their involvement in the Tree Board and their caring of the trees. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Tabled motion: Debeltz/Kess to approve renewing the City's membership with RAMS and to pay the annual dues of \$700. Mayor Novak brought the motion off of the table. Council members Kess and A.Forsman attended the annual RAMS dinner where after discussion and presentations, they felt that RAMS was a valuable organization for the City to be a member. Motion carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve appointing Mayor Novak, Council member A.Forsman and Clerk Langowski to the Negotiating Committee for the Community Center Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the Zambelli Fireworks proposal of \$15,000 for the 2015 Firework display. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Polyner brought forth the suggestion to have the City of Ely as the official sponsor of the July 4th events in the City of Ely. Mayor Novak stated that Council member Polyner should research the matter and come back with more information to the Council.

14. OPEN FORUM: None

15. Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Claire Huisman
Deputy Clerk