

## Council Study Session Minutes, February 24, 2015

### I. Call to Order

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Novak at 5:30pm on February 24, 2015 at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

Present: Council Members A.Forsman, Kess, Omerza, Polyner, D.Forsman, and Mayor Novak (6)  
Absent: Council member Debeltz (1)

### II. Additions & Omission: None

### III. City Budget: Clerk Langowski stated there was a budget meeting last night and everything seems to be on track. They will be proceeding with the auditors for the City's annual audit.

### IV. Old Business: None

### V. New Business:

1. Discussion ensued on the City's membership in various outside organizations. It was felt that the City needs to be more diligent in choosing which organizations they belong. The organization of interest should show results that benefit the Community and if City initiatives are ignored then there is no reason to participate or to keep paying the membership dues. Also, it is important to have delegates from the Council on these outside committees and boards who will be the voice of the City and therefore, the lines of communication will remain open.

#### 2. Planning & Zoning/Board of Adjustment – joint discussion

- a. Ordinance 293 – signs
- b. Ordinance – Potential revision to Board of Adjustment language
- c. Ordinance – Day Care Center/Group Home – Special Home Occupation
- d. Ordinance – Sheridan Street Corridor Overlay
- e. Ordinance – Comprehensive Re-zone – Old Ford Garage
- f. Blight Ordinance change

Mayor Novak began the discussion by stating that the Planning & Zoning Commission is an advisory board and all recommendations of the board should be brought to the Council for final approval before any action by Planning and Zoning takes place. Any requests for Ordinance changes must be approved by the Council before being given to the City Attorney to draft the change.

Council & P&Z member Kess stated that the P&Z group does follow procedures and processes and any changes or recommendations are brought to the Council. They understand that they are not an independent body.

Planning & Zoning official, Gregg Cramer, stated that over the last couple of months the process by which the board operates has been addressed. They have followed the recommendations from the Council and have brought forth to the Council all recommendations approved by the P&Z board for their approval and have highlighted in their minutes any motions or Council action that is required. Also, P&Z minutes have been included in the Council agenda packets in a timely manner.

Attorney Klun stated that the language of the code regarding the Board of Adjustments should be changed to reflect clearly that the Council has final say in their rulings. Also, it was discussed that conditional use permits need to be worded carefully as they do stay with the property forever.

3. Clerk Langowski presented the City's five year Capital Improvement Plan for discussion. He stated the list is looked at and updated frequently by the Projects Committee. The City does a sidewalk inspection annually and works to fix at least two blocks of sidewalk a year. He stated that 17<sup>th</sup> Ave E will be introduced for a bonding bill. They typically work on the streets in the worst condition first with Public Works funds which are in the budget. Council member A.Forsman suggested adding a walk way to the West side of Whiteside Park. Clerk Langowski stated they will add curb & gutter and sidewalk on the West side of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue E from Sheridan St. to Harvey St. to the project list. A.Forsman also expressed the need for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West to be repaired as it is the main route for Ambulance transports.

Council member Polyner reminded everyone of the Steering Committee meeting to be held tomorrow, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p at the Jt Facility.

**Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.**

Deputy Clerk  
Claire Huisman