

## **Council Study Session Minutes, August 25, 2015**

### **Call to Order**

The Ely City Council Study Session was called to order by Mayor Novak at 6:12pm on August 25, 2015 at the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

**ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Bradley Peterson, Attorney Lobbyist with Flaherty & Hood and the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities gave an overview of the past Legislative Session.

The CGMC's highest priority this year was to get LGA back to its 2002 level. Given the \$2 billion surplus, it seemed like an achievable goal. However, hopes for an LGA increase this year were dashed due to the Legislature's failure to pass a tax bill.

The CGMC partnered with its sister organization, the Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP) on many economic development issues in 2015. Top priorities were workforce housing, broadband expansion, job training, and infrastructure improvements.

The CGMC was hopeful that the legislature would pass a major transportation bill that addresses its top transportation priorities: funding for city streets and the Corridors of Commerce program. Despite the disappointment that the Legislature failed to pass a major transportation bill, there is a bright spot: for the first time ever, cities with populations under 5,000 will get money from the state to help finance their streets. The new money in the bill included \$3 million for the port development assistance program, \$5 million for rail grade crossing safety improvements and \$5 million for Greater MN Transit. The bill also appropriated \$10 million for transportation economics development program (TED grants).

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk