

Council Minutes -February 20, 2018
Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Novak called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, D.Forsman and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on the EUC Rates on February 7, 2018, the Public Hearing for the IUP for the Jake Forsman Car Show and Burnout Competition on February 7, 2018 and the February 7, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA
 - A. Addition 12.A. Committee Assignments
 - B. Addition 13.B. Wolf Track Classic Sled Dog Race – In Kind Services from City of Ely**Additions A and B were added without objection.**
5. MAYOR’S REPORT
Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Mayor Novak attended a Mayors Meeting in Duluth with Mayors from around the metro and the range; he also attended the PolyMet Hearing in Duluth
Mayor Novak thanked City Staff for the snow removal and plowing efforts over the last weekend when we received fourteen inches of snow.
Mayor Novak also thanked the Water and Electric Department for dealing with all the water freeze ups over the weekend.

Council Member Kess thanked the Ely Fire Department, Babbitt Fire Department, Morse Fire Department, Ely Police Department, Lake County Sheriff’s Department and the Ely Ambulance for their efforts at a duplex fire at one of Kess’s rentals. Kess stated that two families were displaced cause of the fire. Two separate accounts have been set up at the Ely Area Credit Union for both families. Kess expressed his gratitude to the Ely Community for stepping up and donating clothes and gift cards to the families.
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight’s agenda
 - B. Approve Staff or Airport Committee members to attend the Minnesota Airports Conference, April 18-20, 2018**Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR

A. International Wolf Center Yearly Update – Rob Schulze-Executive Director, Nancy Tubbs-Board Chair, Krista Harrington-Interpretive Center Manager
Rob Schulze the Executive Director of the International Wolf Center gave an update on the Wolf Center. This last year they saw a significant increase in the number of visitors in a non-pup year. They expanded their billboard advertising this year to include six sites with the theme “Artic Wolves,” next year they are planning on expanding to a couple more billboard sites. They also made a major push to get the “Wolves at Our Door” program in as many local classrooms as possible this last year, as well as in schools throughout the Arrowhead Region. A total of 605 classrooms were visited throughout the State of Minnesota, representing a 36% increase over 2016. Eighteen Minnesota State Parks also had “Wolves at Our Door” programming over the summer months. Their education webinars continue to grow as well and continue to be an excellent extension of their Ely Interpretive Center and they are being watched by wolf enthusiasts around the world. Last year was the third year of the implementation of the 2nd Day Re-Entry and it has continued to grow in the number of visitors that have been utilizing it. This past summer they held their 2nd annual community day for local residents to experience the Center for a sharply reduced rate.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Standing/Special

Projects Committee

D.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from the Projects Committee to authorize JPJ to complete final design for 17th Ave Project and advertise for bids when the final design is complete. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from the Projects Committee to authorize JPJ to complete final design for the Water Tower Suppy and 7th Ave East projects and advertise for bids when the final design is complete. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from the Projects Committee to authorize TKDA’s proposal for the Trailhead Complex. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D.Forsman/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from the Projects Committee to direct City Staff to continue working with the DNR to develop mountain bike trails at Hidden Valley. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Airport Commission

Kess/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from the Airport Commission to select TKDA as the engineering consulting firm for the Airport. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Gardner Trust

Callen stated that the Gardner Trust is accepting grant applications for their spring grant round.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski stated that the City has had numerous water freeze ups this year already. Langowski stated that if your property has had a frozen a waterline in the past it is highly likely that you will freeze up this year. Langowski urged people that have had frozen water lines before to run their water at least the size of a pencil to guard against a freeze up. Langowski also reminded people that they are responsible for the cost of the additional water usage.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

Library Director Heinrich gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney

Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Regarding Rural Living Environment Development Agreement. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rural Living Environment Development Agreement Terms

A task group will be formed with John Fedo, Harold Langowski, Kelly Klun, and Mayor Novak to discuss the terms of the development agreement with Rural Living Environment.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to request the EEDA to be the fiscal agent for an IRRRB grant that is going to be a forgivable loan for the State Theater. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Correspondence from Arbor Day Foundation
- B. Correspondence from the Ely Community Health Center
- C. RAMS Newsletter

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

Debeltz/D.Forsman moved to approve the City and EUC claims for February 20, 2018 for \$647,319.96. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the following Committee Assignments:

- **Telecommunications Advisory Board – Mid-Term 1/31/2019**
Irene Hartfield
- **Park and Recreation Board – Term 1/31/2021**
Michelle Moore
- **Library Board – Mid-Term 1/31/2020**
Sue Savereide

Motion Carried Unanimously

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/D. Forsman moved to approve City of Ely in kind services to plow the Miners Dry area for the Pink Ribbon Riders. Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the In Kind Services from City of Ely for the Wolf Track Classic Sled Dog Race. Motion Carried Unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM

Mayor Novak discussed adding on the March Study Session discussion on tourism and to invite the Chamber, Tourism Bureau, Incredible Ely, Events Coordinator Bureau, and any others.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak Adjourned the meeting at 6:24pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk