

**Study Session Meeting – Council Chambers, Ely City Hall
February 27, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Omerza called the study session to order at 5:30pm.

Present: Council Members A.Forsman, Debeltz, Callen, D.Forsman and Acting Mayor Omerza

Absent: Council Member Kess and Mayor Novak

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS: None

REQUEST TO APPEAR

2017 Heritage Preservation Annual Update and 2018 Plans

Celia Domich, Heritage Preservation Commission Member gave an update on the 2017 HPC Accomplishments and the 2018 Plans for the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Omerza thanked the HPC for all the work done with the community center and for the work on the VFW Project receiving a Statewide Preservation Award.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on Transient Merchants (Peddlers) and Camping during Festivals

Langowski stated that the Transient Merchant, Peddlers Permit is an issue we have been looking into for several years now, and we have asked our Planning and Zoning Administrator to look into this further by looking at our current ordinances and policies. It is tough to determine what activities require a peddlers/transient merchant license and which ones do not, what festivals are taking care of the permit, or do we need to take care of that as well. One thing we would like to do is include the chamber in on this and also include the police chief as well. This is something we would like to get worked out before summer.

Mike Banovetz, Planning and Zoning Commission, clarified the definitions of a peddler and a transient merchant. A peddler is a person who goes from house to house, or door to door, a transient merchant is a person who temporarily sets up business out of a vehicle, trailer, or other portable shelter. Tim Riley and Mike are going to talk to the chamber about background checks for their vendors for the festivals.

Tim Riley clarified the difference in the existing City of Ely Ordinance on food vendors versus what the League of Minnesota Cities has in place as a recommendation. The current ordinance

states that any person can sell produce from any farm. Currently the City of Ely Ordinance does not protect the local farmer.

A.Forsman stated that we have vegetable vendors that come up here in the summer, would this affect them?

Riley said this is one of the issues we will have to work through. One of the questions on the application could be to state how close of a relationship do you have with the farm where the produce came from, so we can protect the local growers. Another suggestion is to have everyone have a permit, but if it came from a local farm there would be no charge, these are all things we will have to work out.

Langowski asked who is exempt from getting a permit and who is not? There will be many issues we will need to work through, but getting the Chamber and the Police Department involved this will help to work through these issues.

D.Forsman asked if any local farmers are having issues with some of the other farmer vendors coming in.

Riley stated that a good contact to see about this would be the Farmers Market group to see if they have had any issues

ADJOURN

Acting Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk