

Study Session Meeting – April 24, 2018 5:30pm
Council Chambers, Ely City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Novak Called the Study Session to order at 5:30pm

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, and Mayor Novak

ABSENT: Council Member D.Forsman

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS: None

REQUEST TO APPEAR

Scott Mills to present comparison of current Rental Ordinances and recommendations for updates to protect City and visitors in the evolving short term rentals.

Mills stated that the City of Ely currently does not have an ordinance specifically regulating short-term dwelling rentals. The City has a rental Ordinance 242 in Section 16 of the Code Book which could possibly be modified to include Short Term Rentals.

Mayor Novak noted that we should have rental inspections for these dwellings; safety for the people should be a concern.

Langowski stated that the City has had a rental license in effect since 2009 and it was revised in 2014. Short Term Rentals are a new issue that we need to discuss. Currently rentals require a one year license and they are inspected every 4 years. A concern with the short term rentals is they compete with hotels and commercial businesses. Langowski stated we will need to look at our current rental ordinance and see if we can make some changes to it or do we need to write a new short term rental ordinance.

Kess stated that hotels pay commercial real-estate taxes where short term rentals would pay residential real-estate taxes. A concern Kess has is the safety with people coming and going.

Mills stated that some communities have banned short term rentals. A short term rental is 30 days or less.

Doug Whitney, Building Official, stated that Ely does not have that many short term rentals, but we do have people switching back and forth by having college students in the winter and summer rentals for workers or visitors. Some concerns are parking and how short term rentals impact the neighborhood.

A.Forsman stated that snowbirds might rent out their house when they are away and that could pay for their vacation.

Mayor Novak stated that we need to be aware if short term rentals are paying Lodging Tax and Sales Tax and that the property owner has proper insurance.

Kess stated that the Short Term Rentals could change the character of a neighborhood and our community since they are operating a commercial business in a residential area.

Mayor Novak stated that he is not in favor of banning Short Term Rentals, but we need to look at regulating them.

Mills stated that some Cities regulate the amount of turnover you can have in a month, and state that a responsible person must always be available.

Mayor Novak stated that it sounds like the council is in favor of something being done with Short Term Rentals.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the study session at 6:12 without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk