

Council Minutes - January 15, 2019
Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Novak Called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from January 2, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
 - A. Addition 8.A. Annexation Task Group
 - B. Addition 9.B.i Hiring of New Firefighter
 - C. Addition 9.E.i Vang vs City of Ely (Closed Session)
 - D. Addition 11.B Pay Estimate #7 for the 17th Avenue East/7th Avenue East/ Water Tower Supply Line Project for \$16,859.41 to Casper Construction Inc.
 - E. Addition 13.C Document for Request for in kind services from the City of Ely for the Ely Winter Festival
 - F. Addition 13.G Residential Rehab Loan for Ryan and Michale Callen for \$4500.00 for 110 W Conan St to replace sewer lines in basement and in basement floor to meet point of sale ordinance pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing.
 - G. Addition 13.H 2019 Legal Newspaper Bids
 - H. Addition 13.I Selection of Acting Mayor**Items A-H were added without objection.**
5. MAYOR'S REPORT
 - A. Council Members Committees for 2019
Airport- Kess, Budget – A.Forsman, Novak, Kess, Cemetery – Debeltz, Insurance- Omerza, Gardner Trust- Campbell, Employee Relations – Omerza, Debeltz, Campbell, Fire – Callen, HRA – Novak, HPC – Campbell, Library – Omerza, Park & Rec – Omerza, Planning & Zoning – Callen, Police – Debeltz, Projects – Novak, Callen, Sanitation- A.Forsman, TAB – Debeltz, Liquor & Tobacco – Debeltz, Utilities – A.Forsman, Alternate – Callen, RAMS – Kess, Mesabi Trails – R. Skraba, Community Joint Powers – Novak, CGMC – Omerza, Hwy #169 Task Force – Callen, Lodging Tax Board – Kess, Events Coordinator Board- Ross Peterson, Ely Area Ambulance Board - Novak
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. **Debeltz/Campbell moved to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously.**
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - A. Standing/Special
Annexation Task Group
Debeltz/Callen moved to direct the Clerk Langowski to schedule a joint meeting with the Town of Morse and the Ely City Council to discuss Annexation. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Other Committee Reports

Omerza stated that the League Legislative Polices will be passed at the league meeting this week.

Kess stated that the RAMS Annual Dinner was last Thursday.

Mayor Novak discussed the Event Coordinator Bureau. They are going to license the Ely Marathon and Wendy will pay a license fee to the Event Coordinator Bureau to have the Marathon. Ross Peterson is going to take Mayor Novak's position on the Event Coordinator Bureau. Ellen at the Chamber will be the Events Coordinator and any new events will go through her and she will bring them to the Event Coordinator Bureau and the Bureau will decide.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

B. Fire Chief

i. Hiring of New Firefighter

Callen/Debletz moved to hire Justin Akins as a new firefighter pending background check, drug test and physical. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Chief Erchull stated the fire department is now at full staff with 35 fire fighters.

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

i. Vang vs City of Ely

Debeltz/Callen moved to close the meeting after open forum to discuss the settlement proposal for Vang vs City of Ely per MN Statute 13D. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

A. Correspondence from the St Louis County Youth in Action

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for January 15, 2019 – \$755,134.48

B. Pay Estimate #7 for the 17th Avenue East/7th Avenue East/ Water Tower Supply Line Project for \$16,859.41 to Casper Construction Inc.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Tour of Minnesota requesting camping in Whiteside Park June 17th and 18th. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Langowski stated the Tour of Minnesota is a week-long bicycle tour that started 40 years ago and visits different parts of the state each year. This year they are starting in Grand Rapids and plan on staying in Ely for 2 nights. There will be 200 riders, friends and family that will stay in hotels or camp in the park and also eat, shop and recreate in Ely. The school will provide access to showers for the bikers that are camping.

- B. Debeltz/ Callen moved to approve the request from Grand Ely Lodge to plow both Pioneer Mine Parking lots for the Northland 300 snowmobile group that will be staying at the Grand Ely Lodge from January 23-27, 2019. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- C. Debletz/Omerza moved to approve the request for in kind services from the City of Ely for the Ely Winter Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- D. 2019 Committee Seats**

Debeltz/ Callen moved to approve the following committee appointments:

Airport Commission: Mike Popesh- renewing- Term Expiring 1/31/2022

Cemetery Committee: Gail Sheddy – renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/2022

Gardner Trust: Becky Zientek – renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/22

Heritage Preservation Commission – Phil Hyde – renewing - Term Expiring 1/31/2022

Library Board – Tom Conaway – New Application- Term Expiring 1/31/2022

**Planning and Zoning – Mike Banovetz & Jerritt Johnson – Renewing –
Term Expiring 1/31/2022**

Police Commission – Mike Banovetz – New Application – Term Expiring 1/31/2022

**Telecommunications Advisory Board – Judy Niemela & Irene Hartfield – renewing –
Term Expiring 1/31/2021**

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Debletz moved to approve renewing Warren Nikkola’s term for the Ely Utilities Commission, term expiring 1/31/2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Kess moved to approve the new application for Mauro Caruso to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission term expiring 1/31/2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the new application for Michael Banovetz to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission term expiring 1/31/2022. Roll Called A.Forsman - Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – No, Callen – No, Campbell – No, and Mayor Novak- No, Motion Fails 3-4

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the new application for Anthony Colarich to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission mid-term expiring 1/31/2021. Motion Carried Unanimously.

- E. Callen/Omerza moved to approve the 2019 EUC Water, Sewer and Electric Rate Recommendations of \$1.00 per month on the Water Fixed Charge, No increase on Sewer rates, and a 1% increase across all categories for Electric. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

F. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the State of Minnesota Grant Contract PO ID 3000006898 FY2019 for \$250,000.00 for the Pattison Street and Camp Street Project. Motion Carried Unanimously.

G. Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the Residential Rehab Loan for Ryan and Michale Callen for \$4500.00 for 110 W Conan St to replace sewer lines in basement and in basement floor to meet point of sale ordinance pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen abstaining.

H. 2019 Legal Newspaper Bids

As required by the City Charter Chapter 12 Section 12.01, we have solicited bids to designate a legal newspaper of general circulation in the city. Bids were received from The Timberjay and The Ely Echo. The low bid is based on the cost per lower case alphabet for the legal ads and the cost of the sample display ad. The Timberjay's bid was \$0.1857 for the Legal Print Ads and \$8.85 for the Sample Display Ad. The Ely Echo's bid was \$0.3516 for Legal Print Ads and \$18.27 for the Sample Display Ad. The Charter requires the bid to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. **Kess/Campbell moved to award the 2019 Legal Newspaper bid to The Ely Timberjay as the low bidder. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

I. Selection of Acting Mayor

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to elect Omerza as acting mayor. Motion Carried Unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM: None

Mayor Novak recessed the meeting at 6:12pm.

Mayor Novak closed the meeting at 6:24pm to discuss the settlement proposal for Vang vs City of Ely per MN Statute 13D.

Mayor Novak opened the meeting at 6:33pm

Debeltz/Omerza moved that the City Council agrees with the Leagues offer to settle the lawsuit with Vang, Motion Carried Unanimously.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk