

**Council Minutes - September 3, 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/A.Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019 Public Hearing, the August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting, the August 27, 2019 Special Council Meeting, and the August 27, 2019 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.**
4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
  - A. Addition 11.F. Partial Payment Estimate #6 for the Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project in the amount of \$147,544.50 to George Bougalis and Sons.
  - B. Addition 13.G. Send a letter of support for the Northeast Service Cooperative Grant Application for the Border to Border Grant.**Additions A and B approved without objection.**
5. MAYOR’S REPORT  
Mayor Novak stated that Senator Smith was in town today on a Rural Minnesota Tour. She toured the town, including the hospital, ten below co-working and Twin Metals.  
Omerza stated that when they were driving around Ely with Senator Smith they had a really good discussion about workforce, housing, and child care. Senator Smith asked a lot of questions about the housing and the housing study and also about broadband, Omerza indicated that she seemed to understand where we were coming from, from our point of view. Senator Smith also discussed the agencies at a State and National level that we could use to help. Omerza stated that it was really nice to have Representative Rob Ecklund participate in the day.
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
  - A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight’s agenda
  - B. Approve council and staff to attend the 2019 League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meetings.**Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.**
7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
  - A. Standing/Special
    - Tree Board: Minutes included in the council packet
    - Budget Committee: Minutes included in the council packet
    - Telecommunications Advisory Board: Minutes included in the council packet
    - Ely Utilities Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust: Minutes included in the council packet  
Housing & Redevelopment Authority: Minutes included in the council packet

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

i. The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

1. Approved compressor repair for \$4,248.73 from JH Foster.
2. Approved purchase of a grit pump for \$4,500.00 from General Pump Service.
3. Approved the annual Heat Share Agreement with the Salvation Army.
4. Approved the Chamber of Commerce request for services at the Harvest Moon Festival.
5. Approved payment of the EUC Bills List for July 2019 for \$609,771.04

**Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the EUC Consent Agenda items 1-5. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

Council Member Omerza gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

D. Police Chief

Chief Lahtonen reminded everyone that school is open and to watch out for children when you are driving around the school area.

E. City Attorney

i. **Omerza/Callen moved to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 337, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending Chapter 5, Sections 5.07.2, 5.41, and 5.44 Alcoholic Beverages Licensing and Regulations.**

Mayor Novak indicated that the liquor stores do not have to be open, it is an option for them to be open on Sundays.

Callen asked if this ordinance follows state statute.

Attorney Klun indicated that the ordinance follows along with state statute for the hours of Sunday off sales being 11am-6pm. Attorney Klun indicated that there is a special addition to hotel on sale which is essentially liquor cabinets in a hotel room from the state statutes in the ordinance.

**Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- No, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Council Member A.Forsman voting No.**

**Omerza/A.Forsman moved to have a public hearing regarding Ordinance 337 – Sunday Off Sales on September 17, 2019 at 5:00pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

- A. Correspondence from Sarah Burger from Wildlife Liquor and Mark and Dotte Zojonc from Mikes Liquor.
- B. Correspondence to Governor Walz regarding the Twin Metals Star Tribune editorial from RAMS and the Iron Range Mayors
- C. Correspondence from the Superior National Forest

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for September 3, 2019 – \$285,176.37
- B. Greater Minnesota Partnership 2020 Membership Dues - \$500.00
- C. League of Minnesota Cities 2019-2020 Membership Dues - \$3,815.00
- D. Minnesota Mayors Association Annual Dues - \$30.00
- E. Partial Payment Estimate #2 for the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvement project for \$439,762.96 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.
- F. Partial Payment Estimate #6 for the Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project in the amount of \$147,544.50 to George Bougalis and Sons.

**Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the claims for payment items A-F. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Morse and the City of Ely  
Mayor Novak indicated that he found some language in the MOU that should get reviewed. Mayor Novak indicated that we should get together again to discuss this, possibly at projects committee.

**Debeltz/Omerza moved to send the MOU between the Town of Morse and the City of Ely to the Projects Committee for discussion and to make the Monday, September 9, 2019 Projects Meeting a Special Council Meeting so all council members can attend if they choose.**

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Callen stated that Planning and Zoning is meeting tomorrow, he will bring the MOU up at the meeting.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Trail Improvements and Vermillion River Bridge Construction. Motion Carried Unanimously.**
  
- B. **Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the St. Louis County CDBG Program Requalification Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Joint Cooperation Agreement. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**C. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-029 Resolution Authorizing City of Ely to Make Application to and Accept Funds from IRRRB FY20 Regional Trails Grant Program for the Hidden Valley Mountain Bike Trails.**

Langowski made a note that this resolution was passed already, but the dollar amount has been revised.

**Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**D. Omerza/Callen moved to approve Resolution 2019-030 Resolution Approving and Adopting Proposed Tax Levy Collectible in 2020.**

Mayor Novak indicated that this is the initial levy with a 2.64% increase, the final levy will be in December.

**Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**E. Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the Ely Chamber of Commerce’s request for In Kind Services from the City of Ely for the Harvest Moon Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**F. Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the Commercial Rehab Loan for ASIN-MITIG, LLC, DBA Rockwood Bar and Grill for new windows and to replace Roof Top HVAC Unit for \$17,500, pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**G. Omerza/Callen moved to send a letter of support for the Northeast Service Cooperative Grant Application for the Border to Border Grant. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

14. OPEN FORUM: None

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:58pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk