

Council Minutes - December 03, 2019
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, Campbell, and Mayor Novak

ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2019 Public Hearing for the Sale of Land to the Cunningham's, the November 19, 2019 Public Hearing for the Vacation of ROW to the Cunningham's, the November 19, 2019 Regular Council Meeting (added in the additions) and the November 26, 2019 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition 9.A.i 530 E Camp St Demolition Bids

B. Addition 13.G Resolution 2019-046 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on a Modification to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3

Additions A and B were added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Novak thanked Council Member Debeltz for sitting in for him at that Christmas Parade and the Christmas Tree Lighting in Whiteside Park.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda item A. Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Budget Committee

A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to direct the City Attorney to report the status of Storefront and Rehab Loan delinquencies to the Budget Committee. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Heritage Preservation Committee: Minutes Included in the Packet

Telecommunications Advisory Board

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to approve the purchase of a new disk recorder for \$4113 from Ely Custom Theaters. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Employee Relations

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from ER to hire Zachariah Jackson the Police Officer candidate from the hiring list to start after January 1st pending the psychological background, physical and fitness test.

A.Forsman indicated that this was brought through the budget committee and was factored into the 2020 budget.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

530 E Camp St Demolition Bids

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the demolition bid for the demolition of 530 E Camp St be awarded to GMen Environmental Services for \$9,002, pending IRRRB grant award. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A. Fire Chief

B. Library Director

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

C. Police Chief

Chief Lahtonen welcomed Zack Jackson to the Ely Police Department.

Chief Lahtonen commended the Public Works Crew for their work during the snow storm this last weekend.

Langowski asked residents to not push snow into the streets or into the sidewalks as it is against city ordinance, think about your neighbors.

D. City Attorney

E. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

A. Northwoods Partners Newsletter

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for December 3, 2019 – \$119,505.07

B. Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board 2019 Dues for \$400.00

C. SEH Invoice #376927 for \$903.00 for the Prospector ATV Trail

D. Benchmark Engineering Invoice #1906-51 for \$2325.00, Invoice #1908-42 for \$1625.00, Invoice #1910-12 for \$105.00, Invoice #1906-52 for 500.00, Invoice #1908-43 for \$1500.00, Invoice #1909-41 for \$625.00, Invoice #1910-13 for \$377.50, and Invoice #1911-11 for \$1437.50 for the Quad Cities ATV Trails.

E. Pay Estimate #5 for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Airport Project for \$38,778.87 to KGM Contractors, Inc. for State Project #A6920-49

F. Pay Estimate #5 for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Airport Project for \$76,817.00 to KGM Contractors, Inc. for State Project #A6920-48

G. Pay Estimate #5 for the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvements project for \$135,933.55 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.

H. Pay Estimate #3 for the West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 project for \$266,054.32 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A-H.

Langowski gave a status update on the projects. Langowski indicated that the Airport projects that we did this year were the access road, parking lot and the apron those projects are about 99% complete. West Camp and Pattison street are complete up to the point of wear course bituminous, and some seeding and restoration of landscaping. The West End Development Project was going strong up until the day before Thanksgiving when we got the snow storm. The drillers were going to possibly be coming back next week to finish drilling the area that needs to be drilled for utility instillation. Recycling Center is open at the current area on HWY 169; we are working on getting the new area down at the Softball Fields on the Old Airport Road plowed and ready for the Recycling bins. Langowski also indicated that Compost, brush and ash are no longer accepted at the recycling center.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Forming a Sanitation Committee – 3- Council Members, 1 – EUC Member, 1- Planning & Zoning Member, and Advertising for 2 Citizens at large.

Omerza/A.Forsman moved to advertise for the 2 Citizens at large and to inform the committees to nominate someone and to bring to the next council meeting on December 17th. Motion Carried Unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/Omerza moved to accept John Braun’s Retirement Notice and to send him a letter of thanks for his 20 years of service to the City of Ely as a Public Works Employee. Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Debletz/Omerza moved to accept John Lahtonen’s Retirement Notice and to send him a Thank you for his 26 years of service with the Ely Police Department and 10 years of service as Police Chief after he retires. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Novak indicated that this position is a direct report to the council, so the council will do the hiring for the new police chief.

Attorney Klun indicated that according to the City of Ely Hiring Policy first the city council will have to approve the position, job description, and search process. Klun indicated that the council should make a committee to determine the process for hiring a new police chief.

Mayor Novak, Omerza and Callen volunteered for the committee.

C. Lakeshore Liquor requesting Parking Space in front of Business

Langowski indicated that the current city code Section 9.09 Subd.5 indicates that any merchant whose place of business abuts the street with controlled parking may reserve one parking space for the use of said merchants customers only, and said merchant may place a sign restricting that parking place to its customers upon application to the Clerk’s Office and approved by resolution of the Council. The fee shall be approved by resolution and shall not be less than \$10 per month or more than \$50 per month.

Langowski indicated that the previous owner of Lakeshore Liquor had a sign, but it was stolen and never replaced.

Kess indicated that this could open the door to numerous other businesses requesting a parking spot.

Debeltz/Omerza moved to direct this to the Projects Committee to research reserved parking spots. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve all 2020 Tobacco License renewal applications as indicated on page 62 of the council agenda packet, pending the receipt of all required documentation and payment for the term of 1/1/2020-12/31/2020. Motion Carried Unanimously.

E. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-045 Resolution Authorizing The City of Ely to Make Application to and Accept Funds from IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for the Demolition of 530 E. Camp Street. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously

F. December Study Session –
Debeltz/Omerza moved to cancel the December Study Session. Motion Carried Unanimously.

G. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2019-046 Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on a Modification to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3.

Langowski indicated that Tif #1 was the Grand Ely Lodge Project and the entire Business Park, Tif #3 was the over lay of the Department Revenue Building when the utilities were extended for the Department of Revenue Building. A few years ago we had to go to the School Board, County Board, and the State Legislature to get our TIF district modified to blend the two together and extend the duration to collect enough funds from the TIF district to pay the debt service on the districts. There are additional adjustments that are being required by the state auditor that just came up a month ago, which puts us in a time crunch because this needs to be done by the end of the year for us to be able to collect the TIF Fund to get enough debt service to pay the debts. We also need to get a waiver from the school district and the county board indicating that they waive the 30 day notification. If we can get this adjustment made we will be done with these TIF districts in 2022.

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

14. OPEN FORUM

John Esse- 344 W Harvey St

Esse discussed the packet he gave to the council several weeks ago about all the different money the City has received from the IRRRB. Esse stated that the Ely Economic Development Authority website has done a really good job at listing all the places that business owners can get funding.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk