

## **Council Minutes - April 7, 2020**

### **Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers Meeting was held via Zoom-video/teleconference**

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Novak called the Ely City 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 the March 17, 2020 Regular Council Meeting. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: None

#### 5. MAYOR'S REPORT

The city is following the emergency declaration and proclamation order that was signed by the mayor; we will also have a resolution on the council agenda to extend the period that the mayor declared local emergency. Mayor Novak indicated that he has been spending a lot of time following and communicating with the governor's office in St. Paul and the executive orders the governor has issued and the information that has been coming out of Washington.

#### 6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
- B. Pay Equity Compliance Report
- C. Construction Documents for the Pioneer Mine Retaining Wall Construction Drawings from MacDonald & Mack Architects with change to include additional work to complete a laser 3-D scan of the wall, change taking the Phase 1 estimate from \$16,800 to \$22,300. The \$22,300 is within the budget of the project.
- D. Contract Change Order #1 for West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 to decrease the contract by \$17,441.54.
- E. Storefront Rehab Loan for E Sheridan St Properties, LLC for work for 246 E Sheridan St (Salerno corner), sewer infrastructure and concrete work in basement, bathroom framing and rough in, wiring to service panel and wiring of furnace 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.

**Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-E. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

#### 7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

- A. Cindy Beans – Update on the Ely Area Tourism Bureau's 2020 Marketing Plans and Clarification on the separation from the Chamber of Commerce  
Beans gave background of how the Tourism Bureau was originally formed. The Ely Area Tourism Bureau was formed as a committee under Ely Chamber of Commerce in 1986. The Tourism Bureau was compromised if an Independent Board of Directors, utilized the Chamber of Commerce as a Fiscal Agent, but had a separate budget and checking account,

they utilized the same staff and location which caused some confusion amongst stakeholders. The tourism bureau and chamber desired to remove the tourism bureau “committee” from the chamber of commerce and start an independent tourism bureau entity. The transition is not intended to disrupt efforts of either organization or relationships with their respective stakeholders.

Beans indicated that the Tourism Bureau represents all lodging properties in Fall Lake Township, Morse Township, Stony River Township, and the City of Ely. Lake County is anticipating a launch of a 4% County Wide Tax by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 3% will be spent on Marketing and 1% will be spent on events, Fall Lake and Stony River Townships are in Lake County and will have to rescind existing ordinances at a State level before adopting the new ordinance. The State of Minnesota will serve as the taxing authority for all of Lake County, they will withhold less than 2% of the gross as their administrative fee, but law they could keep up to 5% of the gross, they will also handle the tax enforcement in Lake County for example vacation rentals. State and Federal Campgrounds will now be required to collect lodging tax.

Only the 3% to be spent on marketing will be submitted back to Fall Lake and Stony River. Those townships will be required to submit an Event Proposal and Budget to be approved by Lovin’ Lake County for the remaining 1% to be spent on local events. Lovin’ Lake County is Lake County’s official Tourism Bureau; the board composition is yet to be determined.

Through the rebranding process of the Ely Tourism Bureau or Visit Ely, MN we will have a defined logo, slogan and design elements. #VisitElyMN has been working to give Ely a clean appearance and clear message, they are looking at promoting each season separately.

Kess stated that as part of the Lodging Tax Board he is excited to have Cindy taking a more active role in marketing the Ely Area and we are off to a really good start.

Mayor Novak agrees with Kess, things are moving along well.

Beans indicated that she would also like to see a newsletter go out every quarter to see what the lodging tax has been doing.

Kess asked in light of Covid-19 are they making any adjustments to the marketing budget.

Beans indicated that they have paused digital marketing, and some aspects of the marketing campaign.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### A. Standing/Special

#### Sanitation Committee

- i. **A.Forsman/Kess Recommendation from Sanitation Committee to formalize the committees support for organized collection and that the current system of organized collection is codified in the form of an ordinance as presented in the memo from Attorney Klun.**

Omerza asked if anyone remembers what the council tasked the Sanitation Committee to do.

Mayor Novak stated that the council tasked them to look into the competitive services in commercial refuse.

A.Forsman indicated at the sanitation meeting Nikkola brought us back on task, and we are going out to neighboring communities to see how they handle collection. The committee has taken it upon themselves to go out to other cities to see how other cities are handling collection.

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

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

**Omerza/Callen moved to approve the following items:**

**i. Advertising for bids for the 2020 Fiber Installation Construction Project**

**ii. Independent Fee Review (IFR) for the Connector Taxiway**

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

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

Heinrich indicated that the Library is still closed with the stay at home order. They are doing story time and children's activities via Facebook. Heinrich indicated that the wireless internet was down, but it is back up running today and CDC is sending a part that will be here soon.

D. Police Chief

Sergeant Burger indicated that there have been several arrests related to meth in the last several months, some of those individuals were eligible for the pre-charged diversion program. The diversion program is where they can go and essentially try to get clean and the charges would potentially go away. If you or anyone you know is struggling with addiction the police department can help or reach out to your friends. The police department has resources that they can give you to help you.

Sergeant Burger stated that with all that is going on with Covid-19 it is important think of your mental health. Burger encouraged people to get outside and go for walks. The Ely Community Care Team and Range Mental Health are also available if you need help.

Burger also acknowledged the donation of masks to the police made by high school students, Caleb Janeksela, Luke Olson, Harry Simons, Bryce Longwell, Eli Anderson, and Emmett Falteseck.

E. City Attorney

**i. Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance No. 342 an Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending to the Ely City Code, Chapter 3, Section 3.20, Rules and Regulations Relating to Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Attorney Klun stated that this is to update the ordinance to the current practice and it does not change the current contract. Attorney Klun stated that if the council has any changes to let her know.

Omerza asked about the size of the carts. Langowski stated the currently there is 32 and 64 gallon carts.

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

**ii. A.Forsman/Callen moved to schedule a Public Hearing on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm regarding Ordinance 342. 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. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. (53-54) US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management – News Release – Federal Court Affirms the Department of Interior’s Decision to Renew Twin Metals’ Leases
- B. (55-56) Update from K America Foundation on Ely Community Center and Covid-19
- C. (57-58) Correspondence from the Arbor Day Foundation
- D. (59-60) Correspondence from the Burntside Lake Association
- E. (61-62) City of Ely Covid-19 Announcement on City Services
- F. (63) Update from Building Official Whitney on Construction Inspection Support Services related to Covid-19
- G. (64) Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held on April 16, 2020 from 5-6pm via video/teleconference. If you would like to appeal your property value or classification please submit written comments to [deputyclerk@ely.mn.us](mailto:deputyclerk@ely.mn.us) or mail to City Clerk’s Office at 209 E Chapman St Ely, MN 55731.

A.Forsman asked to put Communication item B, Update from K America Foundation on Ely Community Center and Covid-19, under new business at the next council meeting. This will be added without objection.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

**Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the City and EUC claims for April 7, 2020 for \$144,948.88. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Whiteside Park Permit for the Ely Chamber of Commerce  
Mayor Novak’s Response to Chamber  
Mayor Novak asked if anyone wanted to speak or make a motion to this matter. No one spoke and no motions were made.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Callen/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2020-012 Authorizing submission of LCCMR Grant Request to Complete the Construction work on Pioneer Wall in City of Ely. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- B. **Omerza/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2020-013 Resolution Enacted Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.29 Extending the Period of a Mayor- Declared Local Emergency. 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

Mayor Novak addressed the Stay at Home order. Novak encouraged people to get your necessities, but don't mingle. Novak indicated that there have been some concerns with visitors coming to Ely; he stated that we cannot stop them from coming; Novak reminded people to not gather and to follow the governors stay at home order.

Omerza stated that events are being canceled for the summer, the CGMC has canceled their summer conference, and she is guessing more things will be canceled in the future.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk