

Council Minutes - April 21, 2020
Regular Meeting Ely City Council
Meeting was held via Zoom-video/teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Novak called the Ely City Council Meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: Council member Debeltz

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Callen/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and the April 16, 2020 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Addition 12.A HPC Minutes from April 21, 2020
B. Addition 12.B. Police Chief Interviews

Additions A and B added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Novak indicated that he has had some discussion with St. Paul about a possible change coming about having people meeting in person, the change has not happened, so as we move forward and start discussing our police chief interview everything will still be on Zoom, there will be no change to the policy.

Mayor Novak asked everyone to stay safe and healthy. People are starting to get cabin fever, walking around in public is great, social distancing is really important, you just never know, we have a lot of visitors up here so we have to be careful and follow the rules.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
B. Approve Phase 1 of the Archaeological Survey for Hidden Valley Mountain Bike Trails Total Project Costs without Curation for \$3,903.30.
C. Approve State of Minnesota Amendment of Lease Amendment No.3 Lease No. PS0035 for Motorcycle skill testing on public street space.
D. Storefront Rehab Loan for TMC Property, LLC /Cunningham Electric for work for 421 N Lakeview Ave, for renovation of existing building for future offices includes energy efficient lighting in garage/shop, new energy efficient heating system, new roof and other projects 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.

Callen/Omerza moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-D. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Standing/Special
a. RAMS: Minutes included in the agenda packet

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

i. FAA Cares Act Grant

Langowski stated that the Ely Airport will receive additional \$30,000 in an operations grant from the FAA which will help with the continued operation of the Airport.

The current 2020 Connector Taxiway project will be 100% covered by the FAA under the FAA Cares Act also, which will also help with the purchase of snow equipment for the Airport.

ii. 2020 Connector Taxiway Bids

Langowski indicated that we will get the FAA grant around the 4th of July; the bids came in 18% under the estimate.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

Library Director Heinrich indicated that it is National Library Week. They have a sidewalk obstacle course outside of the Library, come and try it out. They are also having an Emoji contest on Facebook and some other fun events on Facebook.

D. Police Chief

Sergeant Burger thanked all the people donating masks and other PPE. The stay at home order goes until May 4th. We have had some problems with the younger crowd, complying with the stay at home order and social distancing.

The website www.mn.gov/covid19 is a really good website with a lot of resources on it.

Omerza stated that prom was supposed to be this last Saturday. Thanks to the Ely Police Department for being the escort for the prom cruise through town.

E. City Attorney

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the 2nd 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. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for April 21, 2020 – \$155,906.42

B. Benchmark Engineering Invoice for Quad Cities ATV Club #2004-23 for \$1875.00 and Invoice 2004—24 for \$1,785.00

C. Partial Payment Estimate #4 for the West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 for \$78,277.52 to Utility Systems of America.

Callen/Omerza moved to approve claims for payment items A-C. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Update from K America Foundation on Ely Community Center and Covid-19 HPC Minutes from April 21, 2020 – Recommendation that K-America’s proposal for an extension be reconsidered after allowing them time to make more progress on Year 1 milestones.

Omerza/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from the Heritage Preservation Commission that K-America’s proposal for an extension be reconsidered after allowing them time to make more progress on Year 1 milestones.

Campbell indicated that she will be recusing herself on this motion since she placed an offer to purchase the Community Center and it was declined, so there is a conflict of interest.

Mayor Novak indicated that we are only a year into this.

Attorney Klun indicated that it is a 6 year term which is based on building seasons. Attorney Klun indicated that Council member Campbell should continue to recuse herself if she does have interest in the building and not make any motions regarding the building.

A.Forsman asked that the motion was to allow them more time before making a recommendation.

Mayor Novak indicated that it means we will continue to go along with the current contract, we are not modifying anything.

Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Abstain, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 5-1-1 with Debeltz Absent and Campbell Abstain.

- B. Addition 12.A. Police Chief Interviews

Omerza/Callen moved to have a Special Council Meeting on May 31, 2020 at 11:30am for the Police Chief Interviews. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

Omerza/Campbell moved to accept the applications and interview the four candidates that applied for the Police Chief. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

The candidates are Adam Borchert, George Burger, Chad Houde, and John Swenson.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Omerza/A.Forsman moved to approve the LELS Contract January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022.**

Attorney Klun indicated that this is a 3 year contract, with 2.5% wage increase each year, and full day holiday on both Christmas Eve and New Year Eve.

Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Absent, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-1 with Debeltz Absent.

14. OPEN FORUM

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff - Deputy Clerk