

Council Minutes - May 19, 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 5:30pm.

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

ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 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:

A. Addition 8.A. Park and Recreation Minutes

B. Addition 13. A Police Chief Contract

Additions A and B added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Novak indicated that it was a disappointing legislative session, there was not a bonding bill passed hopefully there will be a special session.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

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

B. Change Order No. 3A for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Project at the Ely Airport, the total cost of the Change Order is \$14,712.00

C. Cooperative Agreement between the County of St. Louis and City of Ely to reconstruct the roadway along with portions of the Storm Sewer, Sanitary Sewer, Water Systems and related landscaping on County State aid Highway 155(James Street) from County State Aid Highway 21 to the intersection with 8th Ave, in Ely, St Louis County, Minnesota.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C. 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: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Standing/Special

Library Board: Minutes included in the agenda packet

Projects Committee

Callen/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from the Projects Committee to not allow Andy and Paula Hill at 2111 Sibley Drive to construct their driveway from Pioneer Road, the driveway access is to be from Sibley Drive per the ordinance. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Board –Minutes added in the additions

Omerza/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board that the city opens park bathrooms, picnic areas, beach, and Skate Park and that the playground areas continue to stay open with appropriate signage and documentation.

Omerza indicated that Deputy Clerk Velcheff and herself sat in a League of Minnesota Cities webinar on Parks and Recreation regarding Covid-19. The main things that came out of the webinar were for the city to have signage at the parks of whether things are open, sanitized, how often they are sanitized, and that park equipment and bathrooms are use at your own risk.

Langowski stated that we will put signs in the parks and on the bathrooms indicated that they are use at your own risk. The bathrooms will be sanitized daily every morning, with staff working overtime on the weekends to clean the bathrooms. The docks will be put in at Semers and will be signed appropriately as use at your own risk along with the picnic tables and benches in both parks. Langowski indicated that the water is not on in the parks since the temperatures were still low last week. The water department will work on turning the water on at the bathrooms in the parks by June 1st. The outside spigots will not be turned on this summer as they cannot be sanitized.

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

Omerza/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board that there be no rental until after June 2020 of the Whiteside Pavilion, Rec Center, or Semers Pavilion, with the exception of the Farmers Market, unless the current restrictions change. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Parks and Recreation that we allow the Library to do a story walk on the Trezona Trail at the end of June. 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

Callen/Kess moved to approve the additional work required by the MPCA for the Community Center Tank Removal.

Langowski indicated that the \$26,573 will be 90% reimbursed by the petro fund through the MPCA.

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

D. Police Chief

Omerza/Debeltz moved to hire Matthew Egan-Ostrokol as the Part-time Civil Enforcement Officer for the summer of 2020, Matthew is a VCC Law Enforcement Student. 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. City Attorney

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter from John Swenson – applicant for Police Chief

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for May 19, 2020 – \$356,454.25.

B. Invoice #513001 from the Town of Morse for the Prospectors Loop Trail for \$108,680.00

C. Partial Payment Estimate No. 5 for the West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 Project for \$101,551.12 to Utility Systems of America, Inc.

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

13. NEW BUSINESS:

Police Chief Contract

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the police chief contract for May 29, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

Attorney Klun indicated that this contract has the same wage at the previous chief contract with a 2.5% wage increase in 2021 and 2022. Other changes to the contract include full holiday on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, removal of \$50 Cell Phone Stipend as he will have a city cellphone, and removal of \$170 meeting stipend. The contract also includes \$6000 in HCSP at retirement in exchange for a life insurance policy.

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

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:08pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk