

Council Minutes - October 6, 2020
Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular City Council Meeting on October 6, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Novak at 5:30pm

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and Special Council Meeting on September 29, 2020. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Addition 8.A Sanitation Committee
- B. Addition 10.C Ely Community Resources – Pumpkins in the Park October 30, 2020 in Whiteside Park
- C. Addition 13. J Residential Rehab Loan for Dean Hanninen for 417 E Pattison St for a new propane furnace for \$6000 pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with loan processing.
- D. Addition 13. K. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Amendment to Lease Number LMIS010297 for the Mountain Bike Trails at Hidden Valley – a 30 year lease for \$38,751.50.

Additions A-D were added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Novak indicated he has been speaking with the legislatures and staff members the possibility of a bonding bill passing is over 80% and the chance that we get our funding for the Trailhead is 95%. We will see what happens when they bring it up for a vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR

- A. International Wolf Center – Grant Spickelmier Executive Director and Krista Harrington.
Grant Spickelmier indicated that he is the new Executive Director for the International Wolf Center. Spickelmier gave a brief background of his past work experience. He was a Zoo educator for 25 years, 17 years at the Minnesota Zoo and 8 years at the Oregon Zoo. He has taught wildlife education programs at all levels from preK through undergraduate. One unique project he worked on while working at the Minnesota Zoo was to design a videogame called Wolf Quest. This was the first videogame ever funded by the national science foundation. In the game you get to be a wolf living in Yellowstone National Park, you get to live the life of a real wolf. At the time they needed a science advisor, so he worked with the International Wolf Center.

Spickelmier indicated that at the Wolf Center from Mid-March – June they did a lot of online programming and education. They would video conference with schools/classrooms with educational programs for the students and they are planning on doing it this fall also. Once a month they host online with a scientist and usually get 100-120 people signed up for the webinars. They have had a 16.9% increase in their website over the summer also.

Krista Harrington indicated that the Wolf Center opened up to the public again on June 22nd. They implemented an online registration process and limited the amount of people that were in the building. They had to put a lot of programs on hold including the new pups, but they will be coming in the spring of 2021.

Spickelmier thanked the Ely City Council and indicated that they could not work and exist without the Ely Community.

Mayor Novak thanked the Wolf Center for coming to give the City an update and we are glad that they were able to open for the summer.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Standing/Special

Heritage Preservation Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

Planning and Zoning Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

Board of Adjustment:

Matter of Information: The Board of Adjustment denied the Variance for a 1380 sq. foot garage with a 14 foot setback at 211 16th Avenue E for Melissa Latourell.

Budget Committee: Minutes included in the council packet

Ely Utilities Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

Telecommunications Advisory Board

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to offer Todd Crego a two-year contract at the proposed rate of \$1,750 per month and additional reimbursement is allowed as requested for courses and seminars.

Langowski stated that TAB appreciates the efforts Todd has been making and appreciates the help that Mauro Caruso has given also.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

RAMS: Minutes included in the council packet

Sanitation Committee: Minutes included in the additions council packet

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

i. CARES Act Funding – Business Assistance

Langowski indicated that Omerza, Kess, Fedo and himself met to discuss additional assistance to affected businesses from the CARES Funding. It is the intent to mail an application directly to the businesses that were decided that were affected the most and may have not received other assistance. They categorized the businesses into three tiers, one tier being restaurants, bars, salons, gyms, and dentists, another tier being lodging,

outfitters and bait shops, and another tier being general retail stores. Langowski indicated that the group put together a mailing list; we will be sending a letter and application to each one of these businesses. The deadline for the application would be October 23rd to ensure adequate time to review and provide recommendation to the City Council. The funds need to be spent by November 15th, 2020.

Mayor Novak indicated that ARDC has come out with another program for businesses, and the county has a program for individual's residents if they need help.

Langowski indicated that Fedo has had five businesses contact him about the EEDA forgivable loan program. Please contact us if you need anything or want to know about the programs that are being offered.

Kess commented on the process, this was sort of an uncharted territory, because you are not sure how to sort businesses on how they were impacted or not, we did our best to try to create a system that would help those businesses who need it. Kess encouraged businesses to apply.

Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve the direction the ad hoc committee is going with sending letters to the businesses to see how they might need additional assistance. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

- ii. **Campbell/Debeltz moved to table Invoices SEH Invoice #384145 for \$3,809, SEH Invoice #390258 for \$13,931, and SEH Invoice #387625 for \$2,574 for the Prospectors Loop as we are waiting for the funding match; these bills have been previously approved by the council.**

Langowski indicated that this is no fault of the engineer or SEH. Langowski indicated that this is the process of getting adequate amount of reimbursable expenses to utilize the IRRR grant funds. We are the fiscal agent on a big portion of this project and Lake County is a fiscal agent on a portion of the project. There is approximately \$923,000 remaining on the IRRR grant, but we need to make sure we get the matching funds for the project. They have a tremendous amount of projects under way; work is being done on these projects. The understanding from day one of the projects was that for the City to get reimbursed the city was not going to spend any resources, until we knew we were going to get reimbursed.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

- iii. **Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation to award the 7th Avenue/VA Clinic Site Improvements project to Utility Systems of America as the low bidder at \$294,559.50.**

Langowski indicated that the City of Ely was approved for \$250,000 in grant funds through the IRRRB for this project.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

- iv. **Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation to award the Pocket Park Re-Bid to Hovland, Inc for \$85,958.75 including Material Alternative 1 for \$2924.00.**

Langowski indicated that we are getting \$50,000 from the IRRRB Beautification grant. The city will be providing some in kind work for some street lights. The Ott's are applying for a \$17,500 Storefront loan from the City and they will be using personal funds.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

- v. **Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Airport HVAC Quote for \$13,063.57 from Carlson Duluth Companies.**

Langowski indicated that the Airport is converting from fuel oil to propane and this will save money with the conversion. We will use some of the M&O grant money, and this quote came in lower than expected.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

- vi. The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular Ely Utilities Commission meeting of Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

1. Approved the purchase of six cobra street lights from WESCO for \$11,422.55.
2. Approved the purchase of twenty transformers from T&R Electric for \$9,160.00.
3. Approved payment of the August EUC Bills list for \$659,347.37.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Ely Utilities Commission Consent Agenda items 1-3. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

Heinrich gave an update on the library programs and curbside, more information can be found on the library website.

D. Police Chief

Chief Houde updated the council on the hiring process of a police officer; Maxwell Brewer will be starting on October 12th. The police department will be having training in the council chambers on October 12, 13, and 14th.

E. City Attorney

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the Commercial Waste Disposal Contract between the City of Ely and G Men. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

- A. Thank you from Grand Ely Lodge for refund of Liquor License Fee.
A.Forsman and Mayor Novak indicated that they received a verbal Thank You from some businesses. Mayor Novak indicated that it is nice to have people appreciate it.
- B. Correspondence from Enbridge for support of the Line 3 Replacement Project.
- C. Ely Community Resources – Pumpkins in the Park October 30, 2020 in Whiteside Park

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC claims for October 6, 2020 – \$924,130.79
- B. Partial Payment Estimate No. 6 for the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvements Project for \$83,858.79 to Utility Systems of America Inc.
- C. Partial Payment Estimate No. 9 for the West End Redevelopment District, Phase 1 project for \$105,621.59 to Utility Systems of America Inc.

Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the claims for payment items A-C. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 2020 Committee Seats – Park and Recreation Board
(1- Seat Open, Term Expires – 1/31/2023)
Lisa Marolt

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve Lisa Marolt to the Park and Recreation Board, Term Expires 1/31/2021. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Preliminary Official Statement regarding the City of Ely Minnesota \$1,815,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A and the Rule15c2-12 Certificate for the \$1,815,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A for the refinance of existing debt.**

Langowski indicated that this is for refinancing of the City Hall/Library Project. Interest rates are lower now and this would be an approximate savings of \$90,000.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent..

- B. **Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the Pricing Opinion Contract with Blue Rose Capital Advisors, LLC for the General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.**

- C. **A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2020-034 Resolution Supporting the US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application to be Submitted by the City Of Virginia, and Authorizing the City of Ely to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Virginia for a Community-Wide Assessment Project. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.**

- D. **Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve Resolution 2020-035 Resolution Making Levy and Assessment against Taxable Properties for Delinquent Water, Sewer and Electric Accounts. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.**

- E. **Kess/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2020-036 Resolution Authorizing The City Of Ely To Make Application To And Accept Funds From IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program For The Demolition of 274 N 5th Ave E. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.**

- F. **Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Commercial Renovation Loan for E. Chapman Street Properties, LLC for 115 E Chapman St for the Chapman Street Pocket Park for \$17,500 pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with loan processing. Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.**

G. A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2020-037 Resolution Authorizing to execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.

H. Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2020-038 A Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the 2020 General Elections. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.

I. A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2020-039 Resolution accepting Cares Act Grant funds from St Louis County for the Election and the State of Minnesota 2020 Cares Act Grant County – Municipality Agreement. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman- Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza -Absent, Callen – Absent, Campbell-Yes, and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried 5-0-2.

J. Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve Residential Rehab Loan for Dean Hanninen for 417 E Pattison St for a new propane furnace for \$6000 pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with loan processing. Motion Carried Unanimously.

K. Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Amendment to Lease Number LMIS010297 for the Mountain Bike Trails at Hidden Valley – a 20 year lease for \$38,751.50.

Langowski indicated that this is long awaited. We received a lease agreement about a year ago for a 10 year lease. At that time the lease excluded federal funds, which we are now receiving. We have secured \$340,000 in grants for this project and hope to have it constructed by early next summer.

Motion Carried 5-0-2 with Omerza and Callen Absent.

14. OPEN FORUM

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk