

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers  
December 6, 2022 – Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Ely City Council was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 5:32pm in the Council Chambers.

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

ABSENT: None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 362, the November 15, 2022 Special Council Meeting to Canvass the Election Results, the November 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting , the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 364 on November 29, 2022, and the Special Council Meeting on November 29, 2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:**

A. Additions 13.E. Resolution 2022-035 Resolution Declaring a Temporary Moratorium on Cannabinoid Products Derived from Hemp within the City of Ely.

**Omerza/A.Forsman moved to add Addition A to the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Skraba introduced Catie Clark the new editor for the Ely Timberjay.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

B. Approve Council to attend the 2022 Elected Leaders Institute Foundation Program or Advanced Program through the League of Minnesota Cities.

**Omerza/Kess moved to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**REQUESTS TO APPEAR:**

Billie and/or Mike Rouse – Frozen the Musical

Billie indicated that Mike entered a contest on behalf of the Ely Musical Theater Department at the High School. One school from each state won the contest and Ely was the chosen school. The dates of the play will be January 19, 20, and 21, 2024. Rouse indicated she would like to have snow sculptures in front of the school and is interested in ideas how Ely can become Frozen: Love is an open door. She would like the whole town to come together and do different things for this production. She will then report back to Disney on what amazing things Ely did.

Mayor Skraba indicated that this community never lacks in supporting theater and this is fantastic, I'm sure the community will come together to make this production great. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Standing/Special

Planning and Zoning Commission: Minutes Included in the Council Packet

Budget Committee

**A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to accept the recommendation from Budget Committee to donate the 1979 American LaFrance Fire Truck to the Ely Clown Band for use in Community Events, when the City is ready to part with the truck.**

A.Forsman indicated that the truck doesn't have much monetary value, but will be great to see it in community events like parades.

Chief Marshall stated that this is the last brand new fire truck that the city purchased, it has several names of deceased Firefighter members on it, so it has a lot of sentimental value to it, and it will be nice that it stays in Ely for Community Events with the Clown Band.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Ely Utilities Commission

**A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to go ahead with the proposal #QN22092801-01 from InControl for \$161,075.00 for Water Treatment Plant Control System Improvements.**

Langowski indicated that this will work in conjunction to the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project. This was last updated in 1990 and 2003; we are unable to find parts anymore, so this is a much needed project.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the EUC October Bills List for \$888,198.49. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the Rice Lake Construction Group Pay Application No. 8 for \$978,870.31. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve payment of \$2975.00 to Anthony Gornik for installation of 57 LCR units.**

Omerza asked how the project was coming along.

Langowski indicated that approximately 20 LCE units are left to install, and this is to ensure the off peak and dual fuel heating work in at each property that has it.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Housing & Redevelopment Authority: Minutes Included in the Council Packet

Kess indicated that the RAMS annual meeting and dinner is next Thursday, December 15th in Virginia at the Iron Trail Events Center.

**Omerza/Debeltz moved to make the RAMS Annual Meeting a Special Council meeting to be able to discuss the RAMS Board of Directors Ballot. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

Clerk-Treasurer

Bob Koschak purchase old logs at the old dump for \$365. Langowski indicated that these are the maple trees that were taken down from the boulevards.

**Kess/Callen moved to purchase the old logs at the old dump at Lookout Ridge Road for \$365.00. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Fire Chief:

Chief Marshall discussed the recent fire calls for the fire department. They also had some training on the new engine.

Mayor Skraba Recessed the meeting at 6:01pm for the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.

Mayor Skraba Reconvened the Council meeting at 6:40pm.

Library Director

Library Director Heinrich discussed the current programming at the Library which can be found on the Library website.

Police Chief

Chief Houde reminded everyone that Calendar Parking in effect.

City Attorney

**A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 363, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.1.29, Entitled Zoning Map Amendment.**

Attorney Klun indicated that these are the Voyageur North Properties; we had a public hearing before the Council Meeting regarding this ordinance.

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

**Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance No. 365, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.2.33, Sale of Land Located in the East Spaulding Plat.**

Attorney Klun stated that this ordinance is for the price change from \$19,700 to \$15,000 for Block 4 Lot 8 in the East Spaulding Plat. We had a Public Hearing before the Council meeting regarding this ordinance.

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

**Callen/Kess moved to approve the Purchase Agreement between City of Ely and Mark Wilson for Lot 8, Block 4 East Spaulding for \$15,000. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 366, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.1.30, Entitled Zoning Map Amendment.**

Attorney Klun indicated that this is a zoning change for 760 E Miners Drive. Planning and Zoning met today at 4:30p and had a public hearing and approved this zoning request.

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

**Callen/Kess moved to schedule a Public Hearing for December 20, 2022 at 5:15pm regarding Ordinance 366. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

City Engineer

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Matter of Information

- A. Correspondence from North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District regarding an open house for elected officials on December 20, 2020 from 1pm – 4pm.
- B. Northwoods Partners Newsletter Fall/Winter 2022

**CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:**

**Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the City and EUC claims for December 6, 2022 - \$1,140,962.32. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Callen/Debeltz moved to approve Invoice #436714 for \$2,337.50 and Invoice #436226 for \$2,272.00 to SEH, Inc for the Prospector ATV Trails. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Committee Openings

Tree Board

(2 Seats Open – Terms Expiring 1/31/2024 & 1/31/23) \*resident or non-resident - A.Z.  
Eck – Ely Resident

**Kess/Omerza moved to approve A.Z. Eck to the Tree Board with term expiring 1/31/2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA)

(2 Seats Open - Three year terms – Terms Expiring 12/31/2025)\*resident or non-resident

John Lahtonen –Ely Resident

Lisa Ledel – Ely Resident

Margie Olson – Ely Resident

Lacey Squier – Ely Resident

Dan Przybylski – Ely Resident

Mayor Skraba indicated that the council will vote by white ballot and write the names of 2 people on the ballot then Langowski will tally the vote.

Langowski indicated that John Lahtonen received 6 votes, Margie Olson received 6 votes, Lacey Squier received 1 vote, and Dan Przybylski received 1 vote.

**Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve John Lahtonen and Margie Olson to the HRA board with terms expiring 12/31/2025.**

A.Forsman indicated that Lahtonen has been on the board and will continue his last term on the Board. It was nice to see all the applicants that applied to the HRA and Forsman would like to encourage them to apply for other city boards or commissions.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Debeltz/Callen moved to approve all 2023 Tobacco License renewal applications pending the receipt of all required documentation and payment for the term of 1/1/2023-12/31/2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2022-034 A Resolution Designating 2023 Polling Precinct Location for the City of Ely. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes and Mayor Skraba – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Omerza/A.Forsman moved to approve the League of Minnesota Cities Liability Coverage Waiver Form by checking Does not Waive. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Callen/Debeltz moved to approve Walker, Giroux & Hahne Understanding of Services that they will provide to the City of Ely for the year ending December 31, 2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Omerza/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2022-035 Resolution Declaring a Temporary Moratorium on Cannabinoid Products Derived from Hemp within the City of Ely.**

Attorney Klun indicated that in August 2022 the State Legislature passed a law allowing Cannabinoid products in the state. This last week we received two inquiries from new businesses wanting to sell CBD/THC in town. We don't want to restrict these businesses, we just want to know who is selling and make sure they are following the laws by licensing them. This resolution will put a moratorium on any new businesses selling these products until March 7, 2023 or until an ordinance is passed for licensing

to establish rates and regulations. Attorney Klun indicated that this does not restrict current businesses selling these products, just any new businesses.

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

**OPEN FORUM:** None

**Omerza/Campbell moved to add to the agenda to close the meeting to discuss LELS Negotiations under MN State Statutes 13.D.05. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Mayor Skraba recessed the meeting at 7:07pm, with a 5 minute break to clear the chambers.

Mayor Skraba closed the meeting to discuss LELS Negotiations at 7:15pm.

Mayor Skraba opened the meeting at 7:34pm

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Skraba adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk