

Council Minutes - January 3, 2023
Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

Clerk/Treasurer Langowski administered the Oath of Offices for Mayor Heidi Omerza, Council Members Al Forsman, Angela Campbell, and Adam Bisbee.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ely City Council was called to order by Mayor Omerza at 5:34pm in the Council Chambers.

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

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 366, and the December 20, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Additions 11.B. Partial Pay Estimate #9 for the WWTF Improvements Project to Rice Lake Construction Group for \$1,035,784.05.
 - B. Additions 13. D. Schedule a Public Hearing on February 7, 2022 at 5pm for the consideration to not renew a rental license at 105 W Conan St after the Rental Inspection on December 10, 2022 since the building was found to be not rentable since the building does not comply with a health, building, maintenance, or other provisions of the City Code.
 - C. Additions 13.E. Wastewater Treatment Facility Pump Replacements for \$167,153.85
- Kess/Campbell moved to add the additions A-C to the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Council Committee Representatives – Omerza indicated that if any council member would like to switch committees or not be on a particular committee to let Omerza or the Clerk's office know and we can discuss the list at the next Council Meeting.

Omerza stated that Former Mayor Skraba was sworn in at the Capital today to be the new 3A House of Representative.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.
- B. Call for sealed bids for the 2023 legal newspaper
- C. Advertise for open committee seats

Kess/Callen moved to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Kess indicated that Ida Rukavina is the new IRRR Commissioner and Steve Giorgi is the new Interim Executive Director. They are currently advertising for a new Executive Director for RAMS.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Select an interview committee for the Planning & Zoning Administrator
Langowski indicated that we have 4 applicants for the Planning & Zoning Administrator Position. We will have at least 2 council members, Langowski and at least one from Planning & Zoning on the Interview Committee – Kess and Bisbee offered to be on the interview committee.

Langowski indicated that the Rink at the Rec Center has been open and the ice is in really good shape, he encouraged the public to go check it out.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the recent fire calls for the fire department.

Library Director

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

Police Chief

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to accept the probation period completion for Police Officer Zachary Ward who will complete his one year of probation on January 5th. Motion Carried Unanimously

City Attorney:

City Engineer:

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

Campbell/Bisbee moved to approve the City and EUC claims for January 3, 2023 for \$71,277.38. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Partial Pay Estimate #9 for the WWTF Improvements Project to Rice Lake Construction Group for \$1,035,784.05. Motion Carried Unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve the 2023 official city depositories: Frandsen Bank & Trust, Boundary Waters Bank and 4M Fund. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza abstaining since her husband works at Frandsen Bank.

Callen/Debeltz moved to designate the Assistant Treasurer as the designated person to oversee, monitor, accept responsibility and evaluate the “nonattest/nonaudit services, which include the preparation of the notes to the financial statements to be included in the audit of the City of Ely for the year ending December 31, 2022. Motion Carried Unanimously

Campbell/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2023-001 Resolution Authorizing City Officials and Staff to Attend Meetings Outside of Ely. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee - Yes and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to Schedule a Public Hearing on February 7, 2022 at 5pm for the consideration to not renew a rental license at 105 W Conan St after the Rental Inspection on December 10, 2022 since the building was found to be not rentable since the building does not comply with a health, building, maintenance, or other provisions of the City Code.

Langowski indicated that we received a complaint on the property and followed up with a rental inspection which is included in the packet and the property was found to be not rentable.

Chief Marshall asked if the property currently has occupants. Langowski indicated there are occupants in the building.

A.Forsman asked that if there was an issue on December 10th it would have been nice to receive this as an agenda item and not as an addition to be able to look at the property before the meeting.

Bisbee asked if the building is inhabitable what do we do. Langowski stated that we will follow through with Building Official Whitney and Chief Marshall.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Wastewater Treatment Facility Pump Replacements for \$167,153.85.

Langowski stated that this was work that was planned throughout the project. The Utilities Commission is aware of these replacements and this is within the contingency of the project. We need to get this approved now so we can still receive the 2022 pricing.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Aaron Kania from the Forest Service the Kawishiwi Ranger District congratulated Mayor Omerza. Kania stated that he appreciates working with the City of Ely, we have an open door relationship and work well together.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk