

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council Minutes – City Hall, Council Chambers
May 16, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ely City Council was called to order by Mayor Omerza at 5:30pm 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 May 2, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Additions 8.A. Heritage Preservation Commission
- B. Additions 8.A. Tree Board
- C. Additions 8.A. Park and Recreation Board
- D. Omission 6.B. Joint Powers Ambulance Meeting – Canceled

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza indicated that she attended the US Forest Service Open House.

Mayor Omerza read the Proclamation to Recognize National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Mayor Omerza reminded everyone that this Friday and Saturday May 19th and 20th are the City Clean Up Days at Whiteside Park.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.
- B. ~~Omitted - Make the Joint Powers Ambulance Meeting May 18, 2023 at 4pm at the Winton Community Center a Special Council Meeting so all Council Members can attend if they choose.~~

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve consent agenda item A. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Library Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Heritage Preservation Commission: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Projects Committee

Callen/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to direct staff to develop a sale price for the described turn around vacation in Chandler for the property David Franks is interested in purchasing. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Callen/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to proceed with the environmental work on the city property next to the depot and former rail yard area for the fee not to exceed \$15,000. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS): Minutes Included in Council Packet

Tree Board

Bisbee/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from the tree board that future requests for tree tapping permission is denied.

Bisbee indicated that the tree tapping is causing more harm than good to the trees. Kess stated that he talked to Todd Crego who is also on the Tree Board. The trees that are being tapped are some of the older trees. Kess indicated that he trusts the members of the tree board like Rita Koch who have a forestry degree.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Bisbee/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from the tree board to have Council Member Adam Bisbee be Ad Hoc Council Representative and to advertise for another open citizen position on the Tree Board. Motion Carried Unanimously

Park and Recreation Board

Bisbee/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from Park and Recreation Board to approve the Heavy Metal Sports to lease the basement of Semers pavilion from June 1 through August 31st, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously

Bisbee/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from Park and Recreation Board to allow Heavy Metal Sports to hold an Adventure Race at Semers on September 2, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski indicated that construction season is upon us. The road limits go off next Wednesday with lots of activity started and lots to be completed in a short summer.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall indicated that St Louis County is in a high fire danger right now. No open burning is allowed, but camp fires are allowed. The new fire truck will be going in for detailing this week and will be put into service after that.

Chief Marshall indicated that he has received a retirement notification from Tom Erchull. Erchull has been on the on the department since 2003 and served 11 years as Fire Chief.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to send a letter of thanks to Tom Erchull for his service to the City of Ely. Motion Carried Unanimously.

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 to watch for kids and pedestrians with the busy traffic season upon us. Don't be in a rush and be aware of your surroundings.

Kess/Callen moved to put a moratorium on calendar parking until next fall starting today May 16th. Motion Carried Unanimously.

City Attorney

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the Note and Mortgage for the Commercial Renovation Loan for the Jasper Company for \$17,000 to Remodel the Kitchen for the Jasper Company Bakeshop & Roasting Room at 36 W Sheridan St. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the 1st Reading Ordinance 370 An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, amending Chapter 2, Section 2.57 Police Civil Service Commission. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Yes, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Callen/A.Forsman moved to approve the Mortgage Satisfaction for E. Sheridan Properties, LLC recorded on May 1, 2017 as Document No. 01308239 for 209 E Sheridan St, Ely Folk School. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the Mortgage Satisfaction for Tina and Russell Brown recorded on March 31, 2015 as Document No. 01257617 for 15 S 1st Ave E. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve Resolution 2023-014 and Order of the City of Ely – A Resolution and Order of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Declaring the Real Property at 109 W Conan St Blight Pursuant to the Ely City Code.

Attorney Klun indicated that we had a public hearing tonight relative to 109 W Conan St and the blight conditions that exist on the premises. We heard testimony from the Building Official relative to the conditions, it had improved slightly, but the conditions still exist. We have this resolution and order which would allow for 10 more days for the property to be put up to our standards, if it is not brought up to standard the city could issue a summary enforcement relative to the condition and assess those costs on to the property.

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

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital – The Pulse Newsletter March/April 2023

Arrowhead Library System summary of the 2023 Annual Budget.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

A. City and EUC claims for May 16, 2023 for \$490,738.43

B. Invoice # 87232 to AE2S for the WWTF Improvements Project for \$27,940.81.

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to approve Claims for Payment items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve the Tamarack Enterprises Off Sale Cannabinoid Dealer License at 134 W Sheridan St pending proper paperwork, background check, insurance and fees.

Bisbee indicated that looking back on the ordinance we did not put a cap on the number of licenses and if that would be something we would consider doing in the future.

Langowski stated that we did not put a cap on the number of licenses, but the market will probably dictate how many licenses will be applied for.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve Chapman St Books and Prairie Fire Tobacco Off Sale Cannabinoid Dealer License at 139 E Chapman St pending proper paperwork, background check, insurance and fees. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Edwards Oil DBA Lucky Seven General Stores Off Sale Cannabinoid Dealer License at 620 E Sheridan St pending proper paperwork, background check, insurance and fees. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:07pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk