

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
August 1, 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/Bisbee moved to approve the minutes from the July 18th 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza indicated that it was a busy weekend with the Blueberry Arts Festival happening, it was a perfect weekend for weather for the festival. Mayor Omerza indicated that Clerk Langowski and Omerza attended an IRRR event at Giants Ridge last Tuesday evening.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda.
- B. Make the Joint Powers Ambulance Meeting on August 7, 2023 at 4pm at the Winton Community Center a Special Council Meeting so all Council Members can attend if they choose.

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Tree Board: Minutes included in the council packet

Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC): Minutes included in the council packet

Park & Recreation Board: Minutes included in the council packet

Planning & Zoning Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

A.Forsman asked about Bisbee's comments in the Planning and Zoning minutes regarding the citizen's needs are not aligning with the city vision at times, and citizens feel like there is a lack of being heard.

Bisbee indicated that he has been hosting some public forums in which citizens are encouraged to show up and express their view points on certain topics, and sometimes it feels like the city moves in one direction. The idea of the public forum is for more people to be heard and part of being heard are them feeling that they aren't being heard. The idea is to bring those voices to light so we can have attendance at various board meetings so the city can hear more from the

citizens. Getting more input from the citizens so there is a little more feedback from the community, with more participation by the community.

A.Forsman asked so it's the some of the citizens not agreeing with the vision of the city?

Bisbee indicated that it is more along the line of a lack of being heard on certain topics. People do have the opportunity to be heard at the council meetings and sometimes they feel that they are not heard. The objective of these meetings is to engage in active conversation that can create a common understanding of certain topics so that he can bring that back to the table at council meetings and help the council members realize there interests so we can align our perspectives with the perspectives of the community.

A.Forsman also discussed the noise complaint regarding Zup's Food Market refrigeration compressors.

Langowski stated that the complaint we received was through the MPCA, the MPCA had received complaints from several households in the neighborhood. We are currently doing a noise study, with a noise measuring devise to gage what the decibel level is during different times of the day. The Building Department is working on it. We will let the council know what the results are.

Budget Committee

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Budget Committee to adopt the 2024 Budget Calendar.

Langowski indicated that we need to have the department heads and committees come forward with their budget requests for 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from Budget Committee to approve the TKDA Professional Services Agreement for \$60,100 for the Fire Apparatus Building.

Langowski indicated that this will be reimbursable through the USDA rural development grant once the project application gets approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Budget Committee to approve providing funding of up to \$48,616.35 if Fall Lake and Morse Township commit to matching the City of Ely contribution in that amount. The City of Ely contribution would be no less than \$34,300 as currently budgeted for 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ely Utilities Commission (EUC)

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve attendance to the Regional Commissioners Workshop in Grand Rapids, MN on September 27, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to move forward with the bio solids press trial at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for an estimated cost of \$12,000. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the Salvation Army HeatShare Program. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the \$500 payment to Mick Shusta for A Operator services. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve a lighting rebate to Piragis for \$891.03 and a residential AC/Heat rebate for \$2000 to Brett and Deborah Mickelson.

A.Forsman reminded everyone that these rebates are for both residential and commercial customers, more information is on the City Website or call the Unities office or Clerk's Office.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to pay AE2S \$19,574.08 for WWTF Improvements Project. Motion Carried Unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski indicated that we continue to work with the Federal EDA for the Trailhead and we are really close to getting all the check marks in place to be able to go out to bids for this project.

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to go out for bids for the Trailhead Project once we get approval from the Federal EDA. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the recent calls for the fire department. Marshall indicated that they had their annual testing on the air packs breathing system. Chief Marshall stated that the fire department had a very busy weekend with sales at the Blueberry Arts Festival, might be a record breaking year for pork chop sales.

Library Director

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

Police Chief – Assistant Chief Lorenz

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve Officer Mahoney's resignation from the Ely Police Department effective August 11, 2023. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to post for an open Police Officer Position. Motion Carried Unanimously.

City Attorney

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the 1st Reading Ordinance No. 371 An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 6, Section 6.41, Entitled Public Use of Cannabinoid Products. 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 July Newsletter

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for August 1st, 2023 for \$345,279.12
- B. Partial Pay Estimate #5 for the 2022 Street Improvements/Spaulding Phase III Project for \$22,176.00 to Utility Systems of America.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the Temporary Liquor License for Dorothy Molter Museum for the 5k Glow Run and Ely Marathon on September 22 and 23, 2023 at Whiteside Park. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Liquor License renewals 2023-2024 pending receipt of proper paperwork, insurance and fees. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the council meeting at 6:04pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk