

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
October 17, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Omerza called the meeting to order at 5:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

ABSENT: Council member Bisbee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the October 03, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and September 26, 2023 Study Session. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza stated that Dr. Chopp has a new dentist in her office, Dr. Spencer Wihlm. Dr. Wihlm received the Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program through the IRRR which he will receive \$30,000 for four years totaling \$120,000 as long as he stays for a total of 5 years.

Mayor Omerza and Clerk Langowski attended the CGMC meeting in Eveleth with all the local legislatures.

The school district had an open house last night for the community members to see the updated building. Mayor Omerza stated that the Independent School District is key to our economic development of Ely

Mayor Omerza indicated that the public car chargers at the library are not to be used overnight, the parking lot is only open from 7am-7pm. The library workers will park where the chargers are to make sure that they can be used by patrons if needed. The chargers have a label on them to ask the library workers if a vehicle needs to be moved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Callen/Debeltz moved to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Heritage Preservation Commission: Minutes included in Council Packet

Projects Committee

Callen/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee direct Attorney Klun to assist with drafting of easements for the Prospector Loop Trail connection of Bear Run and the Y-Store to Pfeiffer Lake sections.

Kess asked if there was any cost to this to the city.

Langowski indicated that Attorney Klun would draft the legal descriptions and the documents needed for the easement.

Kess asked if any other towns or townships would be willing to help.

Langowski indicated that he wasn't sure, the Prospectors Loop asked us first.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Callen/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to submit the Ely Water System Improvements for CDBG funding.

Langowski stated that these projects will include the raw water intake structure replacement, water supply line – 25,000 feet replacement of the city water supply line from Burntside Lake to the city water plant, water plant improvements, lead service line replacement (city-wide).

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Tree Board: Minutes included in the council packet

Police Commission: Minutes included in the council packet

Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Minutes included in the council packet

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS)

Kess stated that Paul Peltier the new executive director has been doing well. Discussion at the September meeting was had that dues increase will be coming for RAMS, they have not increased their dues in several years.

The RAMS Annual Dinner will be on December 14th, save the date.

Campbell indicated that the Gardner Trust finished the fall grant round and gave out \$8000 in grants.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski stated that the water at the parks has been shut off for the winter and winterized, they are working on shutting the water off in the cemetery this week. The street sweeper has been out picking up leaves, and we are working on finishing up the patching and paving of the summer's projects.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the recent calls for the fire department. Marshall indicated that a number members volunteered for the Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition by selling burgers and brats out of the fire hall, they donated \$1000 to the scholarship fund.

Library Director

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

Police Chief

Debeltz/Campbell moved to accept Officer Wimmer's resignation from the Ely Police Department. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Debeltz/Callen moved to send Officer Wimmer a Thank You for his services to the City of Ely. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Debeltz/Callen moved to post for an open Police Officer Position and have open until filled. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to offer a conditional job offer for open Patrol Officer Position to Courtney Schurhammer pending passing background investigation, psychological and medical examination. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent.

Chief Houde indicated that Calendar Parking will be starting on November 1st. The 1st couple of weeks they will issue warnings to let everyone know about calendar parking.

City Attorney

Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance 372, 2nd Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 10. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Absent, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance 373, 2nd Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Deleting From the Ely City Code, Chapter 6, Section 6.32, Entitled Kennels. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Absent, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve Resolution 2023-025 Resolution of the City of Ely, Minnesota, to Establish License Fees for Dogs.

A.Forsman asked about the dangerous dog fee, he received communication from a resident regarding the fee.

Chief Houde indicated that the state statute sets the maximum for dangerous dog fee at \$500, and we decided to do half of that for potentially dangerous dog.

Discussion was had on when the fees would be charged for a potentially and dangerous dog. Mayor Omerza asked how many dangerous dogs do we get in a year. Chief Houde indicated possibly around 2.

Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Absent, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Note and Mortgage for the Residential Rehab Loan for Joseph and Nicole Shusta at 539 E Chapman St for \$6,000 for a new furnace. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

- A. Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital Newsletter The Pulse October 2023
- B. Save the Date- RAMS Annual Dinner Thursday, December 14, 2023
A.Forsman/Kess moved to make the RAMS Annual Dinner on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia, MN a Special Council Meeting so all Council Members can attend if they choose. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent
- C. Correspondence from Northwoods Partners – Festival of Trees
- D. Thank you from the Ely Chamber of Commerce for the support during the 2023 Harvest Moon Festival
- E. Correspondence from Minnesota Public Facilities Authority regarding the 2024 Clean Water Intended Use Plan Priority List and 2024 Drinking Water Intended Use Plan Project Priority List

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for October 17th, 2023 for \$580,157.74
- B. Pay Estimate #3 for the East End Development Project for \$189,919.97 to Low Impact Excavators, Inc.
- C. Invoice #90086 to AE2S for the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project for \$14,167.25
- D. Invoice #454833 to SEH for \$6417.15 for the Prospector Loop Trail

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve Claims for Payment items A-D. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

1545 E Harvey St Schedule/Timeline

Langowski stated that the property owner has repaired the trailer, and the plan is for the trailer to be moved in the spring and then she is going to sell the property lot.

A.Forsman stated he is glad to see the timeline and progress for this lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2023-026 Resolution Authorizing Application of the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club to Sell Pull Tabs at Kwazy Wabbitt. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Absent, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Debeltz/Campbell moved to accept the Resignation from Scott Kochendorfer from the Police Commission and advertise for an open seat on the Police Commission.

Chief Houde indicated that Kochendorfer is now a part-time police officer and this would be a conflict of interest for him to be on the Police Commission.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the Turkey Trot on November 23, 2023 from 8am-10:30am a 5k or 10k walk/run event put on by End of the Road Yoga.

A.Forsman asked about the homeowners along the route on Savoy.

Langowski indicated that this route affected the least number of residents, and we will let the organizers know to make sure that the homeowners are able to leave their properties if needed.

A.Forsman stated that they need to be courteous to the homeowners and let them get to and from their homes.

Langowski indicated that we have discussed these concerns with the event organizers and the event organizers for the other races in town also.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Callen/Kess moved to approve the Trunk or Treat event on October 31st in Whiteside Park and Closing 7th Ave (Linda Fryer Way) from Sheridan Street to Harvey Street.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

Callen/Debeltz moved to schedule the continued combined Study Session meeting with Planning and Zoning on November 28th to continue to discuss the updated permissible and conditional uses list.

Omerza asked what we need to continue this discussion. Planning and Zoning - Zoning Map, List of Zoning Definitions, what the X's and O's mean on the Permissible and Conditional Uses list. If anyone wants any other information before the meeting or in the packet let the clerk's office know.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Bisbee Absent

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the council meeting at 6:29pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk