

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
December 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

ABSENT: Council member Callen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to approve minutes from the December 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, December 5, 2023 Truth in Taxation Meeting, and the December 13, 2023 Special Council Meeting. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Tree City USA Proclamation

Girls Volleyball Team Proclamation and Recognition

Mayor Omerza indicated that she went to the EMS hearing in Mt. Iron with Clerk Langowski to discuss the dire situation with funding and other issues with the EMS Services. Hopefully some results will be had this legislature session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

B. Approve Council Members to attend the League of Minnesota Cities 2024 Elected Leaders Institute Advanced Program

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the consent agenda items A and B. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)

Campbell/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from HPC to authorize the HPC to enter into a contract with Moving Tree Media, LLC to provide video/oral histories services for the Memorial High School centennial anniversary celebration at a cost not to exceed \$8,500. To direct the City Attorney to assist with the content and form of the contract. The funding for the services of Moving Tree Media will come from the \$10,000 State Legacy Grant. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Tree Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Park and Recreation Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Bisbee indicated that Park and Rec is going to post a public notice to let people know about the new parking lot and boat dock project on the northeast end of Miners Lake.

Library Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Ely Airport Commission

Bisbee/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from Airport Commission to change the meeting time to 5:00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Ambulance Joint Powers Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski indicated that we have been trying to flood the Rec Center Ice Skating Rink weather permitting. Hoping after Christmas the temps will be lower and we can open the rink. We will keep everyone posted on the City Website under Rec Center and on the City Facebook page.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the recent calls for the fire department.

Library Director

Library Director Heinrich discussed the current programming at the library which can be found on the library website. Heinrich also indicated that with the nicer weather they were able to get a new story stroll out on the Trezona Trail.

Police Chief

Chief Houde indicated that he has received a lot of positive feed back with the recruitment and retention promotion with the canoes.

City Attorney

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

- A. Correspondence from Happy Days Learning Center
- B. Correspondence from the Ely Area Food Shelf
- C. 2024 Committee Seats Expiring

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for December 19, 2023 for \$1,116,715.27
- B. Invoice #457724 to Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc (SEH) for \$7,590.50 for the Prospector ATV Trail

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A and B. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Bisbee/Kess moved to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for the Local Housing Trust Fund

Langowski indicated that this would provide availability of \$150,000 in grant funds for the HRA to start a housing trust fund. They will then be able to use the money that they have been levying for sometime that has built in an account and that would be used to match, then with that \$150,000 they can start some of the initiatives that they have started. We have met with Minnesota Housing Partnership last week and it sounds like we might have some other opportunity to bring in some other funds that were not otherwise available.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the In Kind Services for the Wolf Trac Classic that will be held on February 25, 2024. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve The Green Mining Company, LLC Off Sale Cannabinoid Dealer License at 43 E Camp St pending proper paperwork, background check, insurance and fees. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Kess/A.Forsman moved to approve The Green Mining Company, LLC Tobacco License Application at 43 E Camp St pending proper paperwork, insurance and fees. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to accept the retirement Notice from Mike Popesh. Mike's last day with the City of Ely will be on January 12, 2024 with 43 years of service. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Campbell/Bisbee moved to approve Walker, Giroux & Hahne Understanding of Services that they will provide to the City of Ely for the year ending December 31, 2023. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve Resolution 2023-033 Resolution Approving the City of Ely Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024.

A.Forsman thanked the city staff for meeting our goals on the Budget Committee, we were also very fortunate for the increase in LGA this year.

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

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to approve Resolution 2023-034 Resolution Approving and Adopting Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2024. Roll Called: Council Members A.Forsman – Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen – Absent, Campbell – Yes, Bisbee – Yes, and Mayor Omerza – Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Residential Rehab Loan for James and Brittney Thorstenson at 122 E Harvey St for up to \$10,000 for a new energy efficient propane furnace, pending proper paperwork, fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with loan application. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

OPEN FORUM: None

Mayor Omerza wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:08pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk