

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
May 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the minutes from the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on April 11, 2024, the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 376 on April 16, 2024, the Public Hearing regarding 45 E Boundary St on April 16, 2024, the April 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, the Special Council Meeting on April 23, 2024, and the Special Council Meeting on April 30, 2024. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

Callen/A.Forsman moved to add Addition 13. E. Residential Rehab loan application for Kathy Quigley and Madalynne Reese for \$5033.90 at 1139 E Washington St to install a moisture barrier in the basement pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with the loan application. Motion Carried Unanimously

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza indicated that Calendar Parking has been lifted for the Spring until next Fall. Mayor Omerza indicated that the Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Ad will be in the paper and people have the chance to nominate people until May 28th at 4:30pm. Residents can send in a letter to the clerk's office nominating an individual that lives in City of Ely. Mayor Omerza stated that she brought her kindergartener class to City Hall for the Tree City Proclamation and they learned about mulching trees in front of the library.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to waive the readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Tree Board: Minutes included in the Council Packet

Park and Recreation Board

Recommendation from Park and Rec to make a resolution of support in pursuit of a Trail Town designation.

Bisbee/Kess moved to approve Resolution 2024-022 North Country Trail Town Support.

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

Bisbee/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Park and Rec to purchase dirt for Ely Little League.

Langowski indicated that it is 25tons of dirt for \$2400.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z)

Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from P&Z to appoint Emily Roose to the Sanitation Committee as the Planning and Zoning Representative. Motion Carried Unanimously

Board of Adjustment (BOA)

Matter of Information: Board of Adjustment approved the Conditional Use Permit for 26 and 36 E Conan St for the construction of a Public and Private Parking Lot

Langowski stated that this is the Old Ford Garage which will be demoed and put a parking lot and some green space. The next step it to apply to IRRR for the Demo.

Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from Board of Adjustment to Rezone the Depot on Central LLC (212 Central Ave N) from the Industrial (M) Zoning Code to Commercial (C1) Zoning Code. PID# 030-0280-00280, 030-0500-00322, and 030-0500-00326. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ely Utilities Commission (EUC)

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the purchase of a replacement pump for the Pioneer lift station from Quality Flow Systems for \$11,980. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve Change Order 12 for a reduction in contract price with Rice Lake Construction Group by \$7,000.00 to cover wage adjustment with subcontractor Nelson Roofing and Change Order 13 for an increase of \$14,776.62 to purchase an additional polymer pump at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the rental of a biosolids press from Fergus Power Pump for \$18,340.

Kess asked if we are going to purchase a press?

Langowski indicated that we are still investigating options for that. Last year we rented it with 3 other entities and this time we are renting it ourselves, this will eliminate our hauling of our biosolids and will reduce the cost of biosolids processing by around 25% or more. After this next rental we will see how it goes. We are working with Fergus Power Pump to see what the options are. If we have the ability to press twice per year and we have the opportunity to rent it through them it might be most cost effective. The biosolids press costs over a half million. We will see over time how it works, either way it will be a considerable cost savings.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve attendance to the MN Wastewater Operators Association Conference, July 24-26 in Grand Rapids, MN. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$447,949.23 payment of EUC March Bills. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman discussed the lead water line survey the city is completing. All the utility customers will be receiving a letter as to how to identify your water service line into your building. We need you to take a picture of your service line and send it into metertech@ely.mn.us. If you need help you can also call Jason at 218-235-3080 and he can come look at what kind of line it is. This is a federally mandated to help eliminate any lead lines in the system, you will not be charged for the replacement of your water lines, they will have grants available. We are required to get an inventory of the service lines that are coming into all buildings and homes in Ely. Langowski stated that if anyone has not had an AMI meter installed, where you can have remote meter readings taken, this is a great time to have those installed. You can reach out to metertech@ely.mn.us to get one scheduled to be installed. These are also free of charge.

Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB)

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from TAB that the City of Ely act as the fiscal agent for Ely Area Television's grant request to the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Minnesota States Arts Board. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to approve Ely Area Television \$200.00 for the additional filming in April. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Employee Relations (ER)

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Employee Relations to approve the revised direct deposit form. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from Employee Relations to approve the revised Police Sergeant job description pending the approval of LELS.

Chief Houde Indicated that LELS approved the Job Description.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Library Board: Minutes included in the Council Agenda Packet

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust: Minutes included in the Council Agenda Packet

Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS): Minutes included in the Council Agenda Packet

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Community Health Center – donation of server

Langowski indicated that the Community Health Center is in need of a server to better serve their cliental. We have an old on that Jim Robbins from Voltz would take the hard drives out and would work with them to clean up the server and set it up for them. It is worth maybe \$300.

Kess/A.Forsman moved to donated the old server to the Community Health Center.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Langowski discussed the Depot Project. The application that was sent into DEED may have to be transitioned into an assessment grant. The MPCA wants more soil borings and once that is completed then we would be able to work on the cleanup grant. This would be in the green space for the additional soil borings, this delays things a bit, but to be eligible for the funds this needs to happen.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the current fire and medical calls for the Fire Department. Chief Marshall thanked those that attended the Push In ceremony for the 2 new fire trucks, it was also the 135 years of the Ely Fire Department on that day. Chief Marshall gave a demonstration on fire extinguishers, how to use them and where to have them in your house, garage and car. He stressed the importance of having fire extinguishers as every fire starts small.

Library Director

ARSL Conference

Campbell/Debeltz moved to allow all three library staff members to travel to Springfield, MA to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference from September 11-14, 2024. The library will be closed September 10-14, 2024. Gardner Trust would be providing the funds to attend this conference. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Library Director Heinrich discussed the current programming for the Ely Library which can be found on the library website

Police Chief

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the Conditional job offer for open Police Officer Position to Charles Petersen pending passing background investigation, psychological, and medical examination. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Chief Houde stated that summer is here and it is starting to get busier in town with fishing opener this weekend. Make sure you are driving the speed limit in town and when coming into town, the speed limit sign is when you should be going that speed. The school area is also busy this time of year with Baseball, Little League, and Softball all going on, be mindful of the road closures and children around the school area. Chief Houde also reminded everyone to stop for pedestrians in the cross walks, it's the law.

City Attorney

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the Note and Mortgage for the Residential Rehab loan for Taylor Davis for \$4143.26 at 915 E White St to repair the sewer and have it lined. Motion Carried Unanimously

Bisbee/Kess moved to approve the Notice of Cancellation of Purchase Agreement for Gregory Paul Demarce for Lot 6, Block 4, East Spaulding, City of Ely. Motion Carried Unanimously

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

- Invitation to Ely Climate Group and CURE to a conversation on Sustainable Development in Rural Communities on May 9th at 4pm at the Ely Senior Center.
- Information from St Louis County Environmental Services regarding Household Hazardous Waste Collection on June 13, 2024 at the Ely Joint Public Works Facility from 10am-2pm, and on August 29, 2024 at the Northwoods Transfer Station from 10am-2pm. Information on Take-it-to-the-box pharmaceutical collections locations. Business Hazardous Waste is on June 6th at the Northwoods Transfer Station, and businesses need to pre-register with the county.
- City of Ely Notice to water customers requesting they identify their water service line material by submitting a picture to the Meter Tech via email, metertech@ely.mn.us. Customers may also have the City collect this information by contacting Jason, our Meter Tech, at 218-235-3080. This information should be provided by June 14, 2024.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for May 7, 2024 for \$67,889.28
 - B. AE2S Invoices: #94139 for General Consulting Services for \$2196, Invoice #94140 for WTP Improvements for \$6904.15, and Invoice #93982 for WWTF Improvements Project for \$2835.00.
 - C. SEH Invoice #464627 for the Prospector ATV Connect Four for \$4182.50
- Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A-C. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Seats

Bisbee/Campbell moved to appoint Bonnie Starkman an Ely Resident to the Tree Board with the Term Expiring 1/31/2027. Motion Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve change order #1 for the Trailhead Site Rebid project. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve change order #1 for the 2023 Taxilane Reconstruction Project at the Airport. Motion Carried Unanimously

Kess/Bisbee moved to approve the Temporary Liquor License for the Boundary Waters Connect/ Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness for July 5, 2024 at Chapman Street Commons, 115 E Chapman St. Motion Carried Unanimously

Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve John Hunn's resignation from Heritage Preservation Commission. Motion Carried Unanimously

Callen/Campbell moved to approve the Residential Rehab loan application for Kathy Quigley and Madalynne Reese for \$5033.90 at 1139 E Washington St to install a moisture barrier in the basement pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with the loan application. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

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

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk