

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
June 4, 2024 – Minutes**

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:

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Additions 9.A.i – Supplemental Information for Pioneer Mine – Ore Car Donation
- B. Additions 13.B. Resignation from Victoria Scarbrough from the Library Board and to post for an open position.

Callen/Campbell move to accept the Additions A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza indicated that the grounds at the Cemetery looks great for Memorial Day and there was a huge attendance for the ceremony.

Mayor Omerza congratulated the Track Team and Baseball team for continuing their seasons. Mayor Omerza thanked the Ely Police Department and Ely Fire Department for helping out with the Curtain Falls incident and to all the other rescue squads that helped out, especially the St. Louis County Rescue squad for spending a couple weeks up there looking for the 2 missing people.

Mayor Omerza stated that last night at the Ely Softball Fields the City named the fields Jerome Debeltz Fields for all of Jerome's dedication and countless hours working on the fields. Thanks to all of his time and dedication he and his family have put into the fields and Softball Association.

Debeltz thanked the Council, Clerk Langowski, the City Crew, Past and Present softball players. Debeltz indicated that it is quite an honor for this and he is very appreciative of this.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Debeltz/Campbell moved to make the June 13, 2024 a Special Council Meeting for the Community Presentation by SafeTech Solutions regarding the Future of EMS at 4pm at the Ely Senior Center. Motion Carried Unanimously

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Board of Adjustment (BOA)

Matter of Information: Board of Adjustment approved the variance for Frisky Otter at 302 E Sheridan St to have an additional freestanding sign on the property.

Matter of Information: Board of Adjustment approve the variance submitted by Daniel Krings at 718 Lakeview Ave N for the front yard setback requirements in the Shagawa Lake Shoreland Overlay District of 35 feet, to 20 feet for the proposed residential home remodel.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Matter of Information: June's Planning and Zoning meeting will be on June 12th at 5:30pm due to June 19th being a Holiday.

Ely Utilities Commission (EUC)

A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve attendance to the MMUA Summer Conference in Fargo, ND, August 19-21,2024. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve Clerk Harold Langowski's nomination to the MMUA Board of Directors.

A.Forsman stated that it is an honor for Langowski to serve on this board, fellow board members of the MMUA have nominated him which is an honor in itself.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to publish the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report in the Ely Echo and the City of Ely website. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$77,864.16 payment to Rice Lake Construction Group for Pay Estimate #17 at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$4,832.98 payment to Duluth Archeology Center, LLC for phase one of the archeological review of the new pump house area.

Langowski indicated this is needed for federal funding.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$43,080 payment to WESCO for the purchase of decorative light poles. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$1,138.48 lighting rebate to MN North College, VCC Campus.

A.Forsman reminded residents to use these rebates.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$404,414.90 payment of EUC April Bills. Motion Carried Unanimously

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve \$1000 payment to Mick Shusta for A Operator Services this is for 2 months. Motion Carried Unanimously

Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB)

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to authorize to proceed with CTC on the installation of fiber and purchase of equipment not to exceed \$20,000 if an agreement can be finalized concerning the use of WIFI with the festival organizers.

Langowski indicated that in the past Midco provided a trailer for events for vendors to use WiFi. We have been working with CTC on how to provide WiFi in Whiteside Park. Currently our web cameras are on a private residence and we have issues with them being down. This would give us different waypoints to be able to eventually put web cameras in Whiteside Park. Langowski indicated that we have a meeting with CTC tomorrow to see how the work and where the points would be. The Chamber and Farmers Market has been included in the discussion to include a booth fee for vendors to get some of the money back for set up of equipment and to have some money eventually for equipment replacement as needed. The service charge from CTC is dependent on the speed requested. To run the cameras, we only need 100 MB at a price of \$100 per month, during the busy months of the summer when the festivals are it would require 1GB for a monthly cost of \$400. This motion would be to continue to work down this path.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to pay Ely Area Television \$200 for the Additional filming in May. Motion Carried Unanimously

Employee Relations (ER)

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from ER to approve job description of Building Engineer and the position posted internally per the employee contract. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from ER to authorize the ER Committee to interview the three internal candidates for the position of Public Works Foreman. Motion Carried Unanimously

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Pioneer Mine – Ore Car Donation

Langowski indicated that Nick Wognum President of the Ely Arts and Heritage Center had been contacted by CN Railroad concerning the donation of an old DM&IR Ore Car to the City of Ely for the Pioneer Mine Historic site. We have discussed the project with CN representative and Renee Beaumier PE with North Shore Track Services (from Ely) concerning the donation. It is our understanding that this will come at no charge to the City of Ely. They will pay for the transportation, crane service, and track necessary to set it on. We would only be responsible to

have a location leveled for it to be set on. We will be working with Leustek's also who are donating some equipment to get the project completed. Miner's Dry continues to get more and more rentals so this would be a nice addition to the History of Pioneer Mine.

Debeltz/Callen moved to accept the donation of the DM&IR Ore Car and to provide in kind services for the location of the ore car to be leveled. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the current fire and medical calls for the Fire Department. They are in the process of interviewing and testing four potential new applicants for the Fire Department. Chief Marshall indicated that the Ely Fire Department assisted the St. Louis County Rescue Squad with working on the demobilization of Curtain Falls Rescue. The Fire Department will be helping to unload equipment from aircraft tomorrow at the airport.

Library Director

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

Police Chief

City Attorney

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance No. 377 An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.1.30, Entitled Zoning Map Amendment (Old Depot Site – 212 N Central Ave).

Attorney Klun stated that we had a public hearing earlier regarding this ordinance.

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

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

Callen/Campbell moved to approve the City and EUC Claims for June 4, 2024 for \$85,697.81. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Bisbee/Debeltz moved to accept the resignation from Aspen (A.Z) Eck from the Ely Tree Board and Park and Recreation Board and to post for the open positions. Motion Carried Unanimously

Campbell/Debeltz moved to accept the resignation from Victoria Scarbrough from the Library Board and to post for an open position. Motion Carried Unanimously

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:03pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk