

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
July 16, 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:

Callen/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

- A. Addition 9.A.i. Bid for Train Depot Excavation and Disposal of Contaminated Soils
- B. Addition 10.C Correspondence from Ely Community Resources asking for additional one-time donation
- C. Addition 13.F Resolution 2024-031 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Deputy Clerk for Election Purposes
- D. Addition 8.C. Request for Benches around town

Kess/Debeltz moved to add the Additions A-D. Motion Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Volunteer of the Year: Mayor Omerza indicated that Council members Callen, Campbell and herself were on the committee for Volunteer of the Year, they had three applicants. Bob and Allison LaTourell were nominated and Mayor Omerza read their nomination letter. Mayor Omerza presented Bob and Alison a Certificate and Key to the City.

Mayor Omerza thanked the Ely Events Group and the All-Class Committee for the events planned over the 4th of July week. There were a lot of people in town and Omerza indicated that it seemed like one of the busiest parades.

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:

Tom Kelly – Walker, Giroux & Hahne – Audit Presentation

Tom Kelly with Walker Giroux & Hahne presented review of the 2023 Audit. The only deficiency noted was the Segregation of Duties which occurs due to the limited number of personnel within the City's administration office, the segregation of accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible. It was recommended that officials and management should constantly be aware of this condition, attempt to segregate duties as much as possible and provide oversight to partially compensate for this deficiency.

Management Points included during the audit: 1) we reviewed pay requests submitted to grant funding sources for reimbursement. Several of these requests contained expenditures spanning long timelines across the course of the year. We recommend the City establish a December 31 cutoff period for pay requests to be submitted for that calendar year-end expenditure request for reimbursement submission, and submit pay requests on a regular, scheduled basis throughout

the year. 2) it appears the city is levying an appropriate amount for debt service obligations not paid for by other revenue sources (such as rents or utility revenues), the city should specify an amount on the final levy that exceeds said obligations by 5 percent. 3) With the City now accounting for loans to businesses and residents in the Economic Development Authority Special Revenue Fund, Storefront Renovation Special Revenue Fund, and Revolving Rehab Special Revenue Fund, it is important that loan balances, disbursements, and receipts are reconciled regularly. To make these reconciliations easier, we recommend that all receipts for principal and interest on these loans be coded to specific revenue accounts by fund, as well as loan disbursements be coded to their own specific expenditure accounts by fund in which no other transactions are coded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Projects Committee: Minutes included in the Council Packet

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

Request for Benches around town:

Bisbee/Debeltz moved to accept the donation of 5 park benches totaling over \$11,000. The locations of the benches will be one on the south side around Miner's Lake (near the area across from St Louis County Health Department), one on the north side of the Trezona Trail, one in Whiteside Park, one in front of the Senior Center, and one near the Pillow Rocks.

Langowski stated that the included cost includes the cost of installation and the cost of the concrete pad, the benches will be green and we hope to have them installed by the Marathon.

Motion Carried Unanimously

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer

Bid for Train Depot Excavation and Disposal of Contaminated Soils

Langowski indicated that we did not get the Deed application approved for the cleanup that is going to be occurring, in a meeting yesterday it was discussed about the ongoing work for the foundation on the actual depot structure, that work could be eligible from Deed when we make application again this fall. For that work to be eligible, the City of Ely would be the applicant, the project is on private property, and the property owner would be responsible for all these expenses, but we could possibly get them reimbursed through this application. Langowski indicated he is asking for approval to post this in the Echo for quotes and get quotes until the end of the month. After that the work can get started, and we can get all the necessary information to Deed to be successful in getting the clean-up grant.

Debeltz/Callen moved to post for Quotes in the Echo for the Train Depot Excavation and Disposal of Contaminated Soils. Motion Carried Unanimously

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the current fire and medical calls for the Fire Department. Marshall stated that the 4th Parade, Rock the Parks, and Fireworks all went well over the 4th of July week. The 4 new firefighters are getting their physicals, background checks completed. Last Friday the fire department had ladder 1 as a sprinkler for the kids during the little league field by the park.

Library Director

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

Police Chief

Chief Houde indicated that the 4th of July and All Class events all went well. Chief Houde reminded everyone that Blueberry Art Festival is the weekend of July 26-28, remember to slow down and watch for pedestrians. They will also have the emergency alert text happening again at ElyBlueberry text to 888777.

City Attorney

Attorney Klun discussed the proposed County moratorium prohibiting registration and operation of cannabis businesses through December 31, 2024. The County Board is meeting at Ely City Hall on July 23rd to have a hearing and decide on the county wide moratorium. The county's cannabis ordinance will only apply in areas where the County has zoning authority, so the City of Ely will act on our own regulations, which is why we put in our own moratorium for any new businesses. Our current moratorium doesn't affect the current businesses, they can still get their licenses and sell what they are currently selling, they just cannot add anything new.

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Correspondence from St Louis County regarding county wide moratorium prohibiting registration and operation of cannabis businesses through December 31, 2024.
- B. Correspondence from Ely Area Community Foundation regarding their Open House for the New Community Hub at 760 Miners Dr on July 31, 2024 from 4-7pm. Invitation to the City Council to attend.
- C. Correspondence from Ely Community Resources asking for additional one-time donation
A. Forsman indicated that he had heard that there were some issues with the funding for this, but did not know the extent of it until reading the letter in the packet. Once reading about this Forsman indicated that he immediately sent an email to our representatives to ask them how this happened. Forsman stated that he received a response from Senator Hauschild within an hour. Hauschild responded indicating that it was the first time he was hearing the concerns with the shift to the new agency of Children, Youth and Families. Hauschild indicated that he has not been made aware of other delays or changes to funding, if that is the case Hauschild indicated he will look into it. Forsman stated that this is something we want to know why the state would allow funding like this to lapse for a year. We all know how important ECR is to our community and we give them \$5000 quarterly to help them. Currently they are showing a \$200,000 gap in funding this year with out the grants and such from the state.
Kess indicated that he would like to step up and do the right thing, they do a lot for the community, and our finances are looking good right now. Kess stated he would be willing to give them up to \$25,000 from the city.

A. Forsman/Debeltz moved to review and send to the budget meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Omerza indicated that we need everyone to step up to the plate and donate.

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for July 16, 2024 for \$104,828.18
- B. Pay Estimate #1 to Max Gray Construction for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building for \$126,282.36
- C. Change Order #1 for the 9th Ave East Project and Final Pay Estimate #2 to Low Impact Excavators, Inc for the 9th Avenue East Project for \$12,329.97
- D. AE2S Invoice #96037 for the Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project for \$2,682.05, and Invoice #96026 for General Consulting Services for \$1,464.00.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the Lease of Vacant for Placement of Residential Dock between the City of Ely and Robert J Mattila and Sharon J Mattila.

Campbell asked to explain the location of this.

Langowski indicated that it is in Spaulding off of the small boat landing around 20th Avenue. There has been a long-standing lease with the dock, even with the previous owner. This is an annual lease; we have had others interested in dock leases in the same area. That is why every year this will come up and it will come in front of the council.

Attorney Klun indicated that this is a unique plat where they do not own all the way to the shoreline, the city owns the shoreline. The dock would technically go on the city's property and that is why they would need a lease from us.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the resignation of James F Beaty from the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Campbell thanked Jim; he has been a valuable commissioner for almost 9 years.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Debeltz/Kess moved to approve Resolution #2024-029 Resolution Authorizing Application for Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters to Apply for Raffle Permit. Roll

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

Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the In Kind request from Ely Chamber of Commerce for the Blueberry Arts Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to approve Resolution #2024-030 Resolution Authorizing Application for Ely Blue Line Club to Apply for Raffle Permit. Roll Called: Council members A.Forsman-Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell- Yes, Bisbee-Yes, Mayor Omerza-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bisbee/Campbell moved to approve Resolution 2024-031 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Deputy Clerk for Election Purposes. Roll Called: Council members A.Forsman-Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell- Yes, Bisbee-Yes, Mayor Omerza-Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Mayor Omerza thanked the city crew for all their help with all the activities and everything they did for the 4th of July and All Class Reunion.

Debeltz thanked the city crew and Langowski for all their help with the upkeep of the Softball Fields.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk