

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers
August 20, 2024 Recessed and Reconvened on August 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Omerza called the August 20th Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Callen, and Mayor Omerza

ABSENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Campbell, and Bisbee

Mayor Omerza recessed the meeting until August 27, 2024 at 4:30pm for a lack of quorum.

Mayor Omerza reconvened the council meeting on August 27, 2024 at 4:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

ABSENT: Council member Campbell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Additions 8.A Budget Committee

B. Additions 8.A. Park and Recreation Board

C. Additions 13.B. Todd Crego's resignation from Park and Recreation Board and Tree Board, post for the 2 open seats on those boards.

Debeltz/Bisbee moved to accept the additions A-C. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Omerza indicated that the IRRR and the DEED Commissioners were in Ely to look at several local projects including the Depot and The Community Hub, thanks to Clerk Langowski for giving the tours.

Mayor Omerza stated that KARE 11 did another clip on the Ely Police Department and the recruitment initiatives with receiving a canoe.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

B. Schedule the Study Session with the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital and other interested communities and organizations on August 27th at 5:30pm. (The EEDA meeting for that evening has been canceled.)

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

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Standing/Special

Library Board

Matter of Information: Library Board determined that the city council must make decisions regarding ticketing, signage, and policy for electric vehicle charging parking, it is not the responsibility of the library board to make decisions regarding this matter.

Library Director Heinrich stated that in the city ordinances it states that the Ely City Council is in charge of all city parking lots.

Langowski suggested that a sign be posted for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging only with a 2-hour limit. Langowski stated that we have found that people park there for 8-10 hours at a time. Library Director Heinrich suggested that two of the parking spots should be for EV Charging. Heinrich indicated that she has looked at the usage of the charging stations and the EV chargers are using approximately three times more energy than the solar produces, so the charging stations are costing the city tax payers money.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to put signs up by the chargers for Electric Vehicle charging only and have a 2 hour limit on them. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Projects Committee

Callen/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to recommend the Right of Way on East 10th Street South between South 1st Ave East and South 3rd Ave E be vacated and to forward to Planning and Zoning for review.

Langowski indicated that Warren Johnson has purchased lots 3,4,5, and 6 in the Tower View Estates. He would like to reconfigure the lots and make them more buildable. There is a ROW platted for 10th Street that is on a steep side slope and does not have any utilities located on it. Lots 6, and Lots 3 and 4 can be served from the avenues and he plans on retaining the lot abutting his property. Langowski indicated that with this motion Planning and Zoning will take a deeper look at this.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Callen/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to authorize advertising the paving and storm water improvements on Conan Street from 8th to 10th Avenues, 9th Avenue from Harvey to White and 10th Avenue from Conan to Pattison. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Callen/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to authorize the paving of the storm washed out areas including Lakeview Avenue, the alley between Central and 1st Avenue and James Street and Pattison Street, the edge of the roadway on Washington Street between 4th and 5th Avenue, and the Sheridan and Chapman Alley behind Brittons Café.

Langowski indicated that we might get some assistance from Homeland Security from the storm damage to fix these areas.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to approve the work for commissioning the Trailhead Building for \$17,000 as proposed from IEA. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Callen/Kess moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to allow Low Impact Excavators to process the spoil material piled behind the Grahek Apartments for reuse.

Langowski indicated that Low Impact Excavators is interested in salvaging material that has been dumped in the area south of the hospital and Grahek and Sibley Apartments. This material was from the years of mulch being piled in this area and also from unsuitable roadway

excavated material being dumped in this area. They propose to remove and dispose of any additional trash found with the material and to grade the area in a suitable manner when completed. This would make the area more usable for future community needs with a potential green space.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee that the Fire Chief reviews the request before recommending the alley between 17th Avenue and N Savoy Road be abandoned.

A.Forsman asked that since this affects 3 properties, have we talked to all three to make sure they are all on board with this.

Langowski stated that we will check with all owners. We would potentially put a sign that states "No through traffic – Private Drive"

Chief Marshall indicated that he does not see an issue with this. Marshall stated that he appreciates the Projects Committee welcoming the Fire Department's comments on this matter.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Heritage Preservation Commission: Minutes included in the Council Packet.

Budget Committee

Kess/Debeltz moved to approve the Recommendation from Budget Committee to approve updating and repairing the Miners Dry Sprinkler system for a cost of approximately \$5000.

Langowski indicated that we have a dry sprinkler system in the building, the valve failed and now there is water in the system, we need this to be operational for safety.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Park and Recreation Board

Bisbee/Debeltz moved to approve the Recommendation from Park and Recreation Board to approve Kristen Anthony Ely Resident to the Park and Recreation Board with mid-term expiring 1/31/2027. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Clerk-Treasurer:

Fire Chief:

Chief Marshall discussed the current fire and medical calls for the Fire Department. Marshall stated that the new fire department members have started their training.

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 reminded everyone that school starts next Tuesday, please slow down around the school areas and watch for kids. The School Patrol will be out helping kids cross the streets.

The new squad car was delivered today, it still needs to be outfitted with “stuff” and will hopefully be in operation in November.

City Attorney

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the Note and Mortgage for the Residential Rehab Loan for Morgan Sauls for \$10,000 at 518 E Pattison St to waterproof the basement and for mold treatment. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS: Matter of Information

Correspondence from Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital Member Update August 2024

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. City and EUC Claims for August 20, 2024 for \$214,646.22
- B. Partial Pay Estimate #5 (Final) for the 2021 Partial Parallel Taxiway Project for \$16,700.23 to Ulland Brothers, Inc.
- C. Coalition of Greater MN Cities 2024-2025 Membership Dues for \$6319.00

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Resolution 2024-032 Resolution Authorizing City of Ely to Make Application to and Accept Grant Funds from IRRR Revenue Bonds for the Pioneer Mine Historical Site Maintenance and Displays Project. Roll Called: Council members A.Forsman-Yes, Kess- Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Callen-Yes, Campbell- Absent, Bisbee-Yes, Mayor Omerza-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve Todd Crego’s resignation from Park and Recreation Board and Tree Board, post for the 2 open seats on those boards and to send Todd a Thank You for his years of service. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Campbell Absent.

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN:

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk