

**Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers  
September 03, 2024 – Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Omerza called the September 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2024 Recessed and Reconvened on August 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:**

- A. Omit 9.E Development Agreement for Land Swap- City Land Survey
- B. Addition 9.E Annual Crack Sealing of City Streets
- C. Addition 11.E. Pay Estimate #3 for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building to Max Gray Construction, Inc for \$576,699.81.
- D. Additions 5.A Next Park and Recreation Meeting to be held at the Rec Center

**Debeltz/Bisbee moved to accept the Additions and Omissions A-D. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**REQUESTS TO APPEAR:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Standing/Special

Planning and Zoning Commission

Matter of Information: Planning and Zoning approved a Home Occupation Permit for on site pet boarding service that complies with Chapter 10.04 of the City Code, and each year the permit could be withdrawn if complaints are received.

**Campbell/A.Forsman moved to approve the recommendation from Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the vacation Right of Way on East 10<sup>th</sup> Street South between South 1<sup>st</sup> Ave East and South 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave E be vacated and to have Attorney Klun work on the ordinance process. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Planning and Zoning to approve the list of zoning additions designations that are currently do not have a zoning designation and to direct Attorney Klun to work on the ordinance. (see attached list) Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Campbell/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from Planning and Zoning to take the removal of “land stability” requirement in Chapter 11.41 information back to the City Attorney for more clarification.**

Langowski indicated that this has been in the Trezona Hills area since it was platted, to have a certificate of land stability. The question has been raised as to who would provide that and what would they actually be certifying. We do sell the land as is, so we are not sure who would provide the certification or who you would even hire to do the certifying.

Kess indicated that if it is unstable land, it would be at the buyer’s expense?

Langowski stated that the land that is being sold has been in this state for many decades, if anything is moving it would be in the bluff area or would have shown itself. Typically, the land that we are looking at there are not signs of that type of movement.

Attorney Klun indicated that this is just in the Shoreland Overlay District surrounding Miners Lake.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Matter of Information: Planning and Zoning asked for Public Comment per the conditions of issue of an Interim Use Permit granted to the Ely Event Coordinator Bureau for the annual Ely Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 5K Glow Runs, whether supportive or critical, related to the race and related festival events which took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. This year’s events will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The Planning and Zoning Administrator received one letter in support of the events. Planning and Zoning Commission had no objections to the marathon proceeding.

Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB)

**Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from TAB to pay Ely Area Television \$125.00 for the additional filming in July/August, Invoice #61416. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Employee Relations : Minutes included in the Council Packet

Ely Utilities Commission (EUC)

**A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the purchase of 10 Holophane light fixtures at \$1,349 each, for Sheridan Street and the Trailhead. These are a replacement for the previously approved Cooper Fixtures. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.Forsman/Bisbee moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to move forward with the next step in the EV study with CALSTART, a clean transportation – nonprofit organization.**

A.Forsman indicated that this study is to further look into fleet Electric Vehicles and to see if Ely is a fit for there program.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the \$285,296.38 payment of the EUC July Bills. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from EUC to approve the \$500 payment to Mick Shusta for A Operator Services. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Donald G Gardner Humanities Trust

Matter of Information: Gardner Trust will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:30pm beginning in September.

Ely Lodging Tax Board:

Kess gave an update on the Lodging Tax Board:

Over the last year, the Lodging Tax Board has:

- Updated the Joint Powers Agreement including unorganized townships, excluding Stony River, and establishing a new relationship with Lake County. This has been a long process.
- Continued to meet and review lodging tax receipts (approximately \$325,000/year)
- Continued to fund the Tourism Bureau
- Signed an agreement with Granicus, a company that monitors short term rentals.

Last year the council asked the Tourism Bureau to fund the promotional efforts of local organizations. They refused, but a compromise was reached to fund a few activities (Ride the Range). Kess is asking the council to endorse the idea that Lodging Tax Dollars be used to promote a balanced approach to tourism marketing. This would include support for the Tourism Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Winterfest, Blueberry and Harvest Moon Festivals, Ride the Range, Ely Baseball, and other promotional activities and events.

The Lodging Tax Board will need to develop new agreements with the Tourism Bureau and with the other organizations. This is a significant change and doesn't have to happen all in one year. If the Council agrees with this approach I will bring it to the Lodging Tax Board for further discussion. Kess is also going to ask for set dates for meetings of the Lodging Tax Board. Kess indicated that they have learned that the money can go to multiple organizations.

**Kess/Campbell moved to have the Tourism Bureau fund the promotional efforts of local organizations by having Lodging Tax Dollars be used to promote a balanced approach to tourism marketing and to develop new agreements with the Tourism Bureau and with other organizations. Motion Carried Unanimously**

The Park and Recreation committee will be meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Rec Center at 5pm.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

Clerk-Treasurer

~~(Omitted) Development Agreement for Land Swap- City Land Survey~~

Annual Crack Sealing of City Streets

Langowski indicated that as we continue to complete bituminous repair and preservation projects, we have prioritized approximately 9000lf of crack on city streets and about 746lf at the airport. This work is to ensure further life of bituminous surface. The roadway sections to be completed would be 17<sup>th</sup> Ave – Camp to Miners Drive, Miners Drive- 17<sup>th</sup> Ave to Pioneer Rd, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – Pattison to Sheridan, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – Pattison to Sheridan, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East – Harvey to Conan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East – James to White, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East – Boundary to Pattison, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East – Sheridan to Camp, and Chapman Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Ave East to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East and at the Airport 746lf for the cracks in the ramp and parking lot. The estimate from J and A Enterprises to complete the work is for \$18,614.86.

**Kess/Callen moved to approve the annual crack sealing of the streets and airport by J&A Enterprises for \$18,614.86.**

Kess indicated that the quality has been good in the past with this, but do we ever go out and get quotes on this.

Langowski stated that typically we have been using Starkman Paving for all of our bituminous patching and J&A Enterprises for our crack sealing, they are the two vendors that do this work locally.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Fire Chief

Chief Marshall discussed the current fire and medical calls for the Fire Department. Public Safety Open House is on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-6pm. The Ely Fire Department led the procession for Todd Scholz's Celebration of Life, amongst several other department. Todd was an Ely Fire Department Member from 1995-2012. Marshall asked to remember Todd's family, his wife Shanna, and son JD in your thoughts and prayers.

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 is back in session and there is an increase in pedestrian traffic around the school.

Chief Houde indicated that we have had a couple visitors in town, a mama bear and her 2 cubs. Please bring in your bird feeders and garbage's in so the bears are not attracted to them, and make a mess or ruin them. If you have an issue with the bears, please call 911 and indicate that it is a non-emergency unless it is an emergency, Houde stated that they have been working with the DNR about the bears in town, at this time they are hoping that they will go back to the woods eventually.

Chief Houde stated that Harvest Moon is this weekend, be aware of the extra traffic in town. To sign up for Emergency messages text HarvestMoon to 888777.

City Attorney

City Engineer

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:**

- A. City and EUC Claims for September 3, 2024 for \$320,632.46
- B. Burntside Ridge Trail Association additional dues of \$300.
- C. AE2S Invoice #96688 for the WWTF Improvements Project for \$1750.00 and Invoice #96977 for General Consulting Services for \$366.00.
- D. SEH Invoice #471482 for the Prospector ATV Trails for \$3,960.00 – Table Invoice until we get the matching funds.

E. Pay Estimate #3 for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building to Max Gray Construction, Inc for \$576,699.81.

**Bisbee/Debeltz moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A-E. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Committee Seats

Park and Recreation Board (1 Mid-Term Seat Open – Term Expiring 1/31/2027)

New Applicants: Resident or Non-resident - Steven Toddie – Non-Resident

**Bisbee/Campbell moved to appoint Steven Toddie to the Park and Recreation Board with a term expiring 1/31/2027. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Mayor Omerza reminded everyone that there are 2 seats open on both the Heritage Preservation Commission and the Tree Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the in-kind services request from the Ely Chamber of Commerce for the 2024 Harvest Moon Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the Residential Rehab Loan application for Anthony Gornik for \$10,000 at 517 E Chapman St to reside and insulate the house pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with the loan application. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Callen/A.Forsman moved to approve the Residential Rehab Loan application for Kevin Aijala for \$10,000 at 45 E James St to reroof garage pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and proceed with the loan application. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Agreement between St. Louis County and City of Ely for the Burntside Water Main Intake Project. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**OPEN FORUM:** None

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Omerza adjourned the meeting at 6:02pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk

**Land/Parcels that need zoning (Currently don't have a Zoning designation)**

<u>Parcel I.D./Location</u>	<u>Proposed Zoning Designation</u>
1886 SHAGAWA RD W ELY MN 55731	Parcel #030-0269-00110 (SMU) Shoreland Mixed Use - This property was annexed in from St Louis County. SLC Zoning was SMU as well
1884 SHAGAWA RD W ELY MN 55731	(SMU) Shoreland Mixed Use - This property was annexed in from St Louis County. SLC Zoning was SMU as well
15 S 4TH AVE W ELY MN 55731	(P1) Public - This is the location of the new trail head building. P1 allows for wayside and roadside park or community center type buildings, which this would fit both.
(No Address, City owned)	Either P1 (Public) (which would be in tune with the neighboring parcels the city owns), and allow for further P1 uses in the future, or (O) Open Space, which would be more in line if the parcel is to stay undeveloped). I would propose (P1) to alleviate having to rezone it in the future.
(No Address, City owned)	(O) Open Space Zoning- The land is not suitable for development
(No Address, City owned)	(O) Open Space Zoning- The land is not suitable for development
(No Address, City owned)	(P2) Public (2)- This would be in line with neighboring zoning and would allow future growth of public housing if needed. Unknown how suitable the land is for building.
ELY-BLOOMENSON HOSPITAL	(P1) Public- In line with neighboring zoning and this is an extension of the existing properties.
No address yet, will be consolidated	(R1) In line with neighboring properties and this property will eventually be consolidated with a property that currently has a single family home on it
No address yet, will be consolidated	(R1) In line with neighboring properties and this property will eventually be consolidated with a property that currently has a single family home on it