



March the way we like it...not snowing.

What a productive month! We got rid of the snow AND the cold weather. I even saw a kid or two running around the neighborhood in shorts and, for once, didn't think it was such a bad idea. Just a reminder up front Ely's Annual Cleanup Day is Saturday, May 18th. For more information click [HERE](#). Now let's get you caught up on this past month!

First off, Mary introduced, and council discussed, a new ordinance for construction site erosion and sediment control. After discussion council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance. This is part of the MS4 compliance required of the city by the state.

Second, Joe Horaney with Cedar Rapids-Linn County Solid Waste Agency gave a presentation on the agency and stated that disposal fees would remain the same for 2019. Check out the presentation [HERE](#) that contains a ton of helpful info for Ely residents! He also informed council that the city would receive a recycling incentive for being an associate member in the amount of \$4715 for FY20.

Next, a public hearing was opened for FY 2020 budget. Admin Hoy announced that the taxable value in Ely is \$92,146,627. Tax Levy will be \$10.81 which includes funding for the capital projects. After no comments were heard the public hearing was closed. Council moved to approve the FY20 Budget with an unanimous vote.

Fourth, the Park Board presented council with the proposed master plans for Vavra Park. They also shared a survey taken to gauge public interest in developing Vavra Park. Of the 143 responses 81% of them were favorable to the park renovations. They also shared an increase in park reservations over the past 6 years, showing a need for additional rental park space. Council then opened a public hearing on the plans, specification and form of contract for the State Street/Vavra Drive Capital Project. There being no comments the

public hearing was closed. Council moved to adopt the resolution approving the plans, specifications and form of contract with a unanimous vote.

Council then reviewed the 6 bids that were received for the project. City engineer, Scott Pottorff, recommended accepting the bid from Boomerang Corporation out of Anamosa in the amount of \$1,079,588 with an Alternative 1 bid of \$73,165. This was nearly \$100,000 under the estimated cost of the project. Council considered the Alternative #1 bid which included adding a sidewalk along Vavra, parking spots for Vavra Park and access into the park via stairs and a handicap sidewalk. The Park Board offered to contribute \$15,000 from their budget for the Alternative #1 bid. After a long discussion no final decision on Alternative #1 was made by council and a special meeting was called for later in the month to continue the discussion. Council then moved to adopt a resolution to award the contract for the base bid to Boomerang Corporation. The vote passed unanimously. NOTE: During the special meeting held on March 25th council continued the discussion of the Alternative #1 bid with members of the Park Board in attendance. General consensus among council members was to remove the stair access to the park and have all patrons utilize the handicap path. This would save approximately \$15,000 on the project. Council requested the Park Board have a special meeting to discuss this change and a final decision on the bid would be made at April's council meeting.

Lastly, Rob Smith shared with the council that St John's Lutheran Church congregation voted unanimously to donate the property located at 1600 Rowley to the City of Ely for the purpose of building a parking lot. Council instructed Admin Hoy to have the city attorney draw up a purchase agreement outlining the terms of the sale/donation to be acted upon at the April Council Meeting.

Thanks for taking the time to catch up. One more reminder: Saturday, April 27th, will be Ely's Park & City Clean-Up Day. Please take a morning to donate your time helping to clean up our town. Lunch will be provided at the library for volunteers. This is a family-friendly event and all helpful hands are appreciated, kids included! Please meet at the library at 8:00am. For more information please reach out to City Hall.

Until next time!

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