

**ELY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2015
ELY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jim Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Stephanie Mehmen, Bill Grove, Kay Hale, Dave Rasmussen, and Bob Ballantyne. Also present: Jim Miller, Conor Wiesender, Scott Knies, Sarah Sellon, Theresa Vavra, Ed Vavra, John Parthemure, Randy Zbanek, Cullen Woods, Teri Billick, Dean Billick, Tommy Rohner, Elizabeth Rohner, Ruth Rohner, Kati Jo Bruhn, and Clerk-Administrator Aaron Anderson.

Mayor Doyle led the City Council and others attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mehmen, second by Hale, moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of:

- Agenda, as presented.
- Minutes of the December 8, 2014 regular meeting.
- Treasurer’s Report for the period ended December 31, 2014
- Bills Payable for January, 2015 totaling \$96,657.78.
- Resolution No. 15-0112-01, Designating Official Newspaper.

Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Treasurer’s Report (summary) for the period ended December 31, 2014

	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	\$ 32,522.14	\$ 4,844.57		\$ 681,728.47
Road Use	13,338.90	20,130.09		-1,645.02
L O S T	17,164.42			259,754.97
TIF Fund	601.98			159,074.41
Debt Service		27,406.31		-19,368.36
Other Projects		88,687.07		738,587.47
Library Project				-64.23
Way Point Sign				-25,065.70
North End Infra				-25,589.93
Water Utility	20,799.98	13,287.73		296,010.16
Water/Sewer Reserve	5,888.34	12,210.00		138,144.80
Sewer Utility	28,216.10	21,879.09		53,812.44
Sewer Debt Service	11,788.34	21,229.70		67,644.84
Sanitary Utility	11,722.08	5,716.05		38,195.92
Storm Water	72.77			525.90
Farmers Market				1,220.76
PR Clearing	13,087.60	11,716.05		3,635.94
Totals	\$ 155,202.65	\$ 266,106.66		\$ 2,364,602.84

Communications. Library Director Sarah Sellon presented a report on activities at the Ely Public Library. Linn County Deputy distributed the monthly Sheriff’s Office Activity Report. Dave Rasmussen asked why snow is not being removed from the Hoover Trail, Mr. Anderson reported Linn County Conservation has not accepted the indemnity agreement they require.

Mayor and City Council directed the Clerk/Administrator to have Public Works remove snow from the segment of the Hoover Trail north from City Park within Ely city limits

Citizen Requests. Randy Zbanek stated he has seen one city truck and employee drive up to Wright Bros. Blvd, then turn back, followed by a second city truck and employee a little bit later, followed by a third. Clerk-Administrator Anderson replied he will investigate. Mr. Zbanek said, speaking as Fire Chief, that he does not understand why a city employee who was being paid was assigned to help put up holiday decorations when he and all the Fire Department members are volunteering their time. Mr. Anderson reported it was because he was told a Fire Department member is concerned the decorations might damage their truck and that city employees will not be assigned to take them down, nor will they be assigned to assist in the future.

Mayor Doyle stated the holiday lights and decorations look great and thanked the Fire Department for their work.

Special Events Ordinance – Ordinance No. 239. Mayor Doyle reported he asked the Clerk/Administrator to prepare an alternate draft of the proposed ordinance that deletes the set end time for music performance, allows City Council to determine when music performances have to end, removes the permit fee and makes city employees responsible for setting barricades for all street closings. Mayor and City Council discussed both versions of the draft ordinance among themselves and with others attending. Items discussed include, but are not limited to: perception of waste in having City employees erect and remove street closure barricades as an overtime expense, liability issues related to people who are not city officials or employees closing or opening streets, the end time for musical performances, statements that there have been no significant problems in the past, and whether the City Council could achieve their goals through a policy statement or other method.

Clerk-Administrator was directed to research liability and authority regarding city employees closing streets for special events or allowing the event organizer perform those actions, and report back to City Council.

First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 239, Special Event Ordinance. No motion was offered to introduce and approve first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 239, Special Events Ordinance; the ordinance dies for lack of a motion.

The Clerk-Administrator was directed to work with interested parties to develop a policy statement regarding standards for event organizers that do not include specified end times for music performances or fees.

Ely City Park Improvements Project.

Project Status Report. Clerk-Administrator Anderson the plans called for a three-gallon on demand water heater and that Linn County Public advised the plumbing contractor it would not meet health code requirements. Dave Rasmussen reported Parks Commission will consider a change order to install a 50-gallon commercial grade water heater instead of the three-gallon on demand unit at additional cost of \$2,977.

Application for Payment No. 4, Seydel Construction. Rasmussen moved to approve Partial Payment No. 6 to Seydel Construction for the amount of \$53,289.34 under the Ely City Park Improvement project, second by Ballantyne. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Resolution No. 15-0112-02, Approving Change Order #2. Mayor Doyle reported Change Order #2 to the Ely City Park Improvements Project is to get rid of the contract specification for the contractor to provide a public address system, and a \$765 deduction to the contract amount. Dave Rasmussen reported the Parks Commission considered the public address system proposed to be inadequate and that Parks Commission intends to purchase an acceptable public address system separate from the contract. Hale moved to approve Resolution No. 15-0112-02, Approving Change Order #2, second by Grove:

Aye: Mehmen, Grove, Hale, Rasmussen, Ballantyne
Nay: None
Absent: None

Mayor Doyle declared the motion carried and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

Highland Road Resurfacing Project

Discuss Project. Mayor and City Council discussed project parameters including surface, options for connecting fire hydrants in the project area to water mains that are at least six-inches in diameter and preferred project schedule. City Council directed bids to have hot mix asphalt and Portland cement concrete surface alternates, and for the City Engineer and Public Works Director to further research options for supply mains to fire hydrants in the project area.

Schedule Public Hearing re: Plans, Specifications and Form of Contract. Hale moved to schedule a public hearing re: plans, specifications, form of contract and engineer's cost estimate of the Highland Road Resurfacing project for 7:00 p.m. March 9, 2015; second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Ely City Park Hillcrest Street Entrance Parking Lot Project

Update and Discussion. Clerk/Administrator Anderson reported Ely should know the outcome of the pre-application to the IDALS Water Quality Initiative Urban Conservation grant program January 23, 2015. Mayor and City Council discussed options on how to proceed depending on the outcome of the grant application. City Council directed the City Engineer to proceed on plans and specifications for hot mix asphalt surface with integral curb for the full perimeter of the parking area if the grant pre-application is not successful, and to proceed with permeable pavers if the grant pre-application is successful. City Council also directed the City Engineer to include paving the walking path from the parking lot to the playground area as an alternate.

Budget and Finance

Preparation of FY 2015-16 Budget, General Discussion of Priorities, Projects, etc. Clerk-Administrator reported FY 15-16 property valuation information is not available from Linn County. Mayor and City Council discussed general budget goals and scheduled budget workshops with Parks Commission, Library Board and a general budget workshop for 6:00 p.m. Thursday January 22.

Administrative, Personnel and Staffing

Report re: Employee Life Insurance Benefit. Clerk-Administrator Anderson reported he is still waiting for confirmation paperwork. Kay Hale reminded Mr. Anderson of the importance of completing this as soon as at all possible, and noted that it is a benefit the city offers employees.

Resolution No. 15-0112-03, Approving Contract with Linn County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Doyle reported this resolution renews the contract for law enforcement with the Linn County Sheriff's Office for twenty-five hours per week at \$32.00 per hour. Rasmussen moved to approve Resolution No. 15-0112-03, Approving Contract with Linn County Sheriff's Office, second by Hale.

Aye: Mehmen, Grove, Hale, Rasmussen, Ballantyne
Nay: None
Absent: None

Mayor Doyle declared the motion carried and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

Designate Alternate Representative to Corridor MPO Policy Board, and Representative to Corridor MPO Executive Committee. Mayor Doyle reported the mayor is Ely's designated representative to the MPO Policy Board, and that the MPO requests members designate alternate representatives to the policy board and representative on the executive committee. Mehmen moved to designate City Clerk/Administrator Aaron Anderson as alternate representative on the MPO Policy Board, and as designated representative to the Corridor MPO Executive Board; second by Grove. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Discussion Items Mayor and City Council discussed re-starting the Community, Cultural, Recreational Facility feasibility process, including a second introductory/planning open house.

Hale moved to adjourn, second by Grove; motion carried – 5 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

James E. Doyle Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Aaron Anderson, Clerk/Administrator