

**ELY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2016
ELY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Eldy Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Teri Billick, Stephanie Mehmen, Kay Hale, Judy Wery and Elizabeth Rohner. Also present: Jim Miller, Dave Schaab, Nancy Vincent, Kerry Vincent, Jeff Moyle, Glenn Buresh, Fran Buresh, Luanne Miller, Jim Miller, Diane Patterson, Frances Shupitar, Steve Richardson, Steve Stratton, June Stratton, Doug Rowland, Amy Riker, Dan Whitaker, Rob Smith., Lori Jensen. Lauren Louvar, Connie Hayes, Jackie Falter, Bob Falter, Ron Zahradnik, Sandi Zahradnik, Marv Peters, Mark Lansing, Carrie Kimm, Randy Rohner, Tom Rohner, April Miller, Steve Nyberg, Bill Hoffman, Terry Hoffman, Ken Jans, Ed Vavra, Theresa Vavra, Scott Rogers, Lisa Heno, Shannon Billick, Terry Smith, Randy Zbanek, Casey Grover, Pat O'Brien, Ginger O'Brien, Keith Schulte, Kathleen Banowetz, Barbara Cole, City Engineer Scott Pottorff and Clerk-Administrator Aaron Anderson.

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

Introduction of Ely Area Veteran. Mayor Miller recognized Marv Peters who introduced an Ely area veteran for recognition. Mr. Peters introduced Mark Lansing, a local veteran who has made a difference in defense of his nation and in his local community. Mr. Peters reported Mark Lansing lives in Ely with his wife Heidi, who is still actively serving. Mark and Heidi have lived in Ely since 2007. Mark joined the Iowa National Guard in Dubuque as part of the Iron Man Battalion. After passing advanced infantry training Mark served as an advance infantry scout while in the National Guard Iron Man Battalion, and decided to serve full-time. Mark was assigned to the 101st Airborne, Air Assault Division, earning the air assault badge during his four years with the 101st. Mark returned to Iowa, joined the Iowa National Guard's Company A, 334th Brigade Support Battalion for the Second Brigade out of the 34th Infantry Division out of Davenport. In 2003 Mark accepted a position with the 234th Signal Battalion as a full time active duty soldier for the Iowa Guard/Reserve located Cedar Rapids. This battalion was deployed to Iraq shortly after he joined. Mark worked with wireless and antenna communication in Iraq and later in Afghanistan. Mark retired from the military in 2013, took advanced industrial machines training at Kirkwood and started working for Reliable Machine in Cedar Rapids. Mark served two tours of duty without being harmed, and experienced a serious industrial incident while at Reliable Machine. Mr. Peters stated Mark has shown incredible courage and determination in recuperating from the work incident. Mr. Peters stated Mark is very active in the Ely community, Ely legion and his church. Mayor Miller and the City Council members and all attending joined Mr. Peters in thanking Mark Lansing for his service to our nation.

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

- Agenda, as presented.
- Minutes of the February 14, 2016 regular meeting.
- Treasurer's Report for the period ended February 29, 2016.
- Bills Payable for March, 2016 totaling \$86,760.28 totaling \$68,933.63.
- Appointment of Jennifer Norman, 1860 Wrigley St., to Ely Library Board of Directors.

- Appointment of Marilyn Grover, 1837 Wrigley St., to Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Communications. Youth Services Librarian Madeline Jarvis reported on activities at the Ely Public Library. Linn County Deputy presented the Sheriff's Office Activity Report.

Citizen Requests. Rob Smith, 1309 Worley Lane, discussed the condition of Worley Lane after curb and gutter street was built for the Kunkel Addition; and presented a request that the city improve the transition from concrete section to seal coat, the grade difference between concrete section and seal coat, and clean up construction debris and other items that remained after construction. Mr. Smith requested the city also consider improving the surface of the remainder of Worley Lane from chip/seal to asphalt or concrete surface. Mr. Smith reported Steve Stratton and other neighbors agreed with this request. Mayor and City Council discussed this matter with Mr. Smith, directed staff to work on correcting the grade and horizontal transition. Clerk/Administrator Anderson was directed to follow up with Mr. Smith in a week to ten days.

Jim Miller asked the City Council if they are aware the lagoon road is getting big cracks, Public Works Director Stark was directed to address this. Mr. Miller asked if anything is going on for the event center. Mayor Miller reported the event center on Rogers Creek Road is called Firelake Ridge Event Center and the site plan is on the agenda for the March Plan and Zoning Commission meeting.

Ginger O'Bannon asked if Ely plans to curb and gutter Banner Valley Road. Mayor Miller replied that is not in the immediate plans and would most likely happen after residential developments in that area are more complete. A gentleman asked how soon that will be, Mayor Miller replied it depends on the progress of the developments.

Dan Whitaker, representing the Ely Library Board of Directors, presented a letter from the Library Board supporting the CCREC process and project to Mayor Miller.

Odie's Request for Street Dance – Saturday June 4, 2016

Authorize Closing Dows Street from Alley East of Walker to Main Street from 3:00 p.m. to Midnight. Mayor Miller reported Tom Rohner, owner of Odie's, seeks to hold a street dance on Dows Street in front of Odie's on Saturday June 4, 2016, and requests authorization to close Dows Street from the alley west of Odie's to Main Street from 3:00 p.m. to midnight June 4, 2016. Tom Rohner noted they will provide portable restrooms and security, and that it will be very much the same as previous years. Mayor and City Council discussed the request, including that barricades are used on sidewalks so that pedestrians can get through and that Odie's plans on music ending at 11:30 they get people inside and the street cleaned up by midnight.

Mehmen, second by Wery, moved to authorize closing Dows Street from the alley east of Walker St. to Main St. from 3:00 p.m. to midnight, Saturday June 4, 2016, subject to the following conditions:

- Sidewalk traffic not be obstructed to non-participants during the event
- Odie's is responsible for all clean up of the closed segment of street and sidewalk

- Odie's is to provide at three portable restrooms and one ADA accessible portable restroom on their property during the event.
 - Odie's is responsible for providing additional security at their own cost.
 - City Council specifically authorizes Odie's to erect traffic barricades to close the street no sooner than 3:00 p.m. June 4, 2016, and shall re-open the street by midnight. The city will provide barricades.
 - The closed area of the street is to be open to traffic by midnight.
 - Odie's is responsible for any necessary clean up in the street and right of way area.
- Motion carried – 4 to 0; Rohner abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Request for Temporary Outdoor Service Area – Class C Liquor Permit. Mehmen moved to approve a temporary outdoor alcohol service area for Odie's, 1650 Dows Street, for Saturday June 4, 2016, second by Wery. Motion carried - 4 to 0; Rohner abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection & Disposal Service.

Public Hearing re: Ordinance No. 248, Amending Provisions Regarding Residential Waste and Recyclables Collection and Disposal. Mehmen moved to open public hearing re: No. 248, Amending Provisions Regarding Residential Waste and Recyclables Collection and Disposal at 7:34 p.m., second by Hale. Motion carried – 5 to 0; Mayor Miller declared the public hearing open at 7:34 p.m. Mayor Miller stated Ely currently charges a flat rate of \$7.00/month for garbage/recycling pickup, residents buy a \$1.00 tag for each bag they place at the curb and you can buy as many as you need; this system has been in place since 1993. Mr. Miller stated we are looking at moving to a system where Waste Management provides the garbage and recycling bins with certain sizes. Mayor Miller introduced Dave Schaab of Waste Management.

Dave Schaab, municipal service manager for Waste Management, reported the system they propose is that everything goes into a container provided by Waste Management. The reason Waste Management provides the containers is they own it, it is always under warranty and if anything goes wrong with the cart Waste Management replaces it. Mr. Schaab reported they propose three levels of service

- Light Generation
 - 64-gallon or 35-gallon cart for trash.
 - 64-gallon cart for recycling
- Standard Service (default)
 - 64-gallon cart for trash
 - 96-gallon cart for recycling
- Family Service
 - 96-gallon cart for solid waste trash
 - 96-gallon cart for recycling

Dave Schaab reported recycling would migrate from weekly service to every other week service, which is the reason for larger containers. He stated the recycling containers have big yellow signs with large easy rolling wheels and hinged permanently attached lid which you can be assured will help keep sure what you put out for recycling does not end up in the neighbors yard. Mr. Schaab stated the containers may seem large, recycling will change to every other week, noting that people who use two 18 gallon recycling tubs each

week would end up somewhere around 64 gallons every two weeks, same day as garbage but every other week. There will be a calendar on each cart. Mr. Schaab stated that for solid waste you will no longer need to put it in a 33 gallon bag, if it fits in the container it is good to go, trash does not have to be bagged when put in the container. Mr. Schaab stated that if you are a senior citizen or light generator you can use the light generation service. If you are a heavier trash generator you can have a 64 gallon container for trash and 96 gallon cart for recycling. For very serious trash generators the Family Service is 96 gallon cart for trash and 96 gallon cart for recycling. He stated you do not have to decide tonight, there will be a mailing with deadline information that comes out later. There will be a grace period when if you decide it is too small, you can get your carts swapped out at no charge. Waste Management will replace the cart if the wheel comes off or anything else fails; just let City Hall or our Cedar Rapids area garage know and we will replace it. Waste Management will also provide dry-cell battery recycling at no charge, and recycling for compact fluorescent bulbs at no charge. Waste Management will also provide home 1.4 quart medical sharps containers to properly dispose of residential sharps to anyone who has medical sharps at home.

Mr. Schaab stated benefits of the proposed service include that the community will look more tidy, more uniform on collection day than current service. It will be remarkably clean and remarkably uniform. He stated this is a big change, and that people are resistant to change. Mr. Schaab stated you will have a lot of opportunity to look at the carts, do not have to decide which carts you want, you can tell city hall later what your choice is. The only difference between what was first presented and tonight is the 35-gallon size. He stated this is an upgrade to the system and that in his experience after 60 days we would have to negotiate carefully to get people to give the carts back. He stated the 64 and 96 gallon carts stand up well to wind, most animals and the lids and that on service day it will look better. Mr. Schaab stated another mailer will go out to let people know the service is changing, what the rates are and how and when to report the cart size they want.

A lady asked will there be a spacing requirement for waste and recycling carts like in Cedar Rapids. Mr. Schaab replied they cannot be behind each other; it is okay as long as Waste Management can drive up to them.

A gentleman asked if go with the smaller garbage can will the rate still be \$14.25. Mr. Schaab replied rates for light generation with the smaller garbage can would be the same; this there is little difference in cost of providing the service to light generation and standard generation and not the size of the cart, that the difference in cost to serve light and standard service is about \$2.00.

Mayor Miller reminded everyone that there is already a \$7.00 charge on your water bill. The rates for the cart service would include that \$7.00, the \$7.00 is not on top of the new rates.

A gentleman stated this morning he put out a 13-gallon bag and recycling and to be nice to you he figures he uses one tag a week, which averages a monthly cost of \$11.25, and now I'm going to be paying \$14.25/month, which is a 19% price increase. He stated he sells to the people who build the trucks who are always telling him how much more efficient they are, and that they are only coming around once now for recycling. The gentleman stated that if I used a large and two tags a month I don't see that many cans out that often, would see a 45% increase; somewhere there is price disconnect between 19% and 45%. The gentleman stated his question is why are we doing this now.

Randy Zbanek asked why are we switching from what we are doing now. Mayor Miller stated we are losing money on the system we have now and would have to consider an increase in those rates anyway.

A fourth gentleman stated he pays \$7.00/month for recycling and recycles maybe a bin and a half a month; he is a contractor and throws his garbage away at the job site, his cost is increasing 50%.

Clerk-Administrator Anderson stated Ely is currently losing \$75 to \$120 a month depending on how much is collected and tipping charges. He stated there are approximately 650 stops, a person suggested just increasing the rate \$1/month per customer.

Terry Smith stated Waste Management's cost is going down because they are only picking up recycling every other week, and the fee is going up. Eldy Miller stated Waste Management will also provide all the carts, that he usually sees two or three garbage cans in the streets on his way to work, and that he personally buys at least one new trash can a year because his gets blown away. A fifth gentleman stated he lives on Dows Street and he has only seen that three times in two years.

Randy Zbanek asked if the entire city is like the pretty pictures with curb and gutter, which it's not. He asked if on the Ely blacktop where he lives will the cart stand up there when a semi comes roaring by, you will have to replace my cart three or four times a year. Dave Schaab asked how far from the road you are now, Mr. Zbanek stated about a foot off the roadway. Mr. Schaab stated that the carts will not need to be closer.

Jackie Falter asked if Waste Management is going to replace her garbage can if it blows away. Dave Schaab replied they will be serialized and that Waste Management crew will have the registration number and return it to you. He stated that sometimes they get lost and cannot be found in which case Waste Management replaces it. Ms Falter asked if Waste Management will replace stolen carts. Mr. Schaab stated they will replace stolen carts if the resident provides a police report about the theft. He also stated Waste Management will replace carts if the handles break and otherwise break. He stated they usually show up in the same area and they will figure out where and when. A gentleman stated you just said they don't blow around. Mr. Schaab stated that is why he does not like the 35 gallon carts which blow around more easily than the larger ones.

Jackie Falter asked if it blows away or is stolen, it is serialized, and it ends up a block away will the person at the end of the block know it belongs to me. Dave Schaab stated they may not know but we will, the cans will be registered. Stephanie Mehmen asked if people will be allowed to write their name on the carts; Dave Schaab replied they can. Ms Falter stated that on some occasions they have extra trash, or may need to move up to bigger cans. Dave Schaab stated you can move up to the higher level of service, Waste Management will drop off the larger cart and you just pay the rate for the higher level of service. Mr. Schaab stated they understand that there are times people will have extra trash that does not fit in the can; it will be collected at no additional cost. He stated that if you routinely have more trash than fits in the can, you will be asked to reconsider your level of service.

Terry Smith stated he does not put out that much, what they have as a minimum for older people who maybe put out one bag a month is a substantial, substantial, increase as they are going from maybe \$8.00/month to \$14.25/month. He stated they only put out one bag a month because they have a compost area and it will be a substantial increase for them. Mr. Smith stated it will be a \$7.00 increase for some people who put out one bag a month, which is \$80 a year which he thinks is way too much. Mr. Smith asked if these rates are a

proposal from Waste Management. Eldy Miller replied they are, with a 75-cent fee from the city to handle billing with a 5-year contract. Mr. Smith stated that rates are going up and their costs are going down. Mr. Miller replied they are providing the city entirely with receptacles so he wouldn't say costs are entirely going down because of the 1,300 receptacles. Mr. Smith stated if you look at career fire departments their trucks cost this much, 80% of the cost is in personnel so they are going to decrease their cost 25% by using less pickup. Mr. Miller stated he checked with other cities in the area, Shueville charges \$17.00/ month for 96 gallon carts and only once a month recycling so the rates we are hearing are in line with other cities in the area. Judy Wery stated the county is increasing their recycling fees too.

Eldy Miller stated with the new system you will be able to recycle glass, which a lot of people in Ely have asked for. He stated the bigger recycling size and ability to recycle glass are the bigger push behind this, not the larger trash size. He stated that trash cans rolling in the street are something people complain about a lot.

Jeff Moyle stated he has two little girls, so three people in the house; they have one bag of trash every other week. He said he talked with the woman who lives across the street from him and she has three older kids in high school and pays \$9.00/month; another neighbor has two Roughriders who stay with him and they have one bag a week. He says we're talking about losing \$100/month and yet if everyone's rate increases \$5.00 it sounds like we're paying for something most of us don't need and a lot of us don't want which he thinks is the problem for the whole country. Eldy Miller stated Mr. Moyle's beliefs are valid, yet there are a lot people who are pushing for this who want it but don't come to the meeting, he stated the average for one bag a week is \$11.33 for a year, the similar fee is \$14.25 so if add \$1.00 to the pickup fee there is still less than a two dollar difference and you get a larger recycle container, don't have to buy trash cans anymore and don't have to buy extra tags if you run out which is also a savings.

Lori asked what do we do with the trash cans we have now. Dave Schaab replied if you don't have a use for them, mark them to be thrown away and Waste Management will take them away; he stated many people hang onto them for yard waste or emergency needs. Lori asked if the city have a plan for all the extra money that will be generated. Eldy Miller replied most of the money will be paid to Waste Management for the service.

Eldy Miller reported that Waste Management will supply and haul away dumpsters for the fire fighters 4th of July Breakfast, Fall Fest and city clean up day at no additional cost to Ely, and right now those costs are not included in the service.

Terry Smith stated Eldy Miller spoke about the silent majority supporting this so what you're saying is that you're not listening to the people who came here to oppose it; he stated you are making the appearance that you are not listening to them because you scheduled hearing followed immediately by a reading of the ordinance so does that mean whatever we say that doesn't make a difference. Eldy Miller stated that is out of line and unfair, Mr. Smith said it is not. Mr. Miller stated he is not discounting the people here; the way this works is there are three readings a first reading, a second reading and that no final decision has to be made tonight. They discuss the ordinance this month, then can discuss it again in April, and again in May and that a final decision does not have to be made this month. Mr. Miller stated there are 2,000 people in this town, that we appreciate your concerns which is why we brought in the 35 gallon cart, we may discuss an option to allow for recycling only. Mr. Smith stated the City Council can always agree not to do the reading. Mr. Miller stated we

can vote against it and stay with the current system. General discussion that fees are likely to increase if we stay with the current tag system just to cover the cost of collection alone.

Robert Hach stated that he puts out two recycling tubs and trash can with one sticker a week. He stated two things come to mind; you mention a police report and he doubts the Linn County Sheriff's Office will show up to take a police report for a garbage can that is stolen because they will have other more important things to deal with; he doubts the Sheriff's office will send a deputy out. Mr. Hach stated for people in town who are on fixed income or their can gets stolen people are going to start putting trash wherever they can, they did this in Cedar Rapids by putting it in commercial dumpsters and fire stations and will dump it at Odie's or down the street in someone else's yard. A lot of people don't even know what's going on because they didn't read the notice. Dave Schaab replied it is not that unusual to have to report a stolen trash can; Waste Management is in the area and committed to providing good service and will get the replacement to you in 24 hours, you can check with City Hall about quality of service in Ely.

Ken Jans stated part of your problem here this evening is this particular flyer, when I first read this I saw no justification as to why this was being proposed, there was nothing in here that said here is why we are doing this, or that this is an increase of x-number of dollars. He stated this particular flyer is misleading and recommends that before the final reading you send out a flyer that explains exactly what is the increase and why you need an increase. He stated that information is not in the flyer and he believes that will alleviate some of the problem.

Rob Smith stated he came here tonight to talk about Worley Lane and did not know this was on the agenda. Mr. Smith stated he hates the blue tubs, he puts out two a week and that he will welcome the new recycle bins.

Steve Nyberg asked for confirmation that glass will be recycled; Dave Schaab stated glass can be accepted right now, but he cannot guarantee how long that will be the case. Mr. Schaab stated it costs more to have co-mingled recycling sorted it is almost as expensive as having garbage buried. Mr. Schaab stated as long as he has a way of processing the glass out he will find a way to accept it. Mr. Nyberg stated he is a very small generating family and asked that you consider offering the smaller container for recycling; the townhouses I live in have small garages and I don't generate one cart even every two weeks. Dave Schaab stated he will look into that further.

Connie Hayes stated on your picture you show the cans along a parkway; Dave Schaab the pictures shows them along the curb line, we know there is not curb everywhere in Ely and we just ask it to be within 3-feet of the road edge. Ms Hayes stated there have been times in the winter that it has to be either back in my driveway or in the street because when the city plows I have 2 or 3 feet of snow there. Eldy Miller asked where Ms Hayes puts it now; Ms Hayes replied she puts it on the parkway because she uses a bag that she can throw on the snow. She stated she doubts she can maneuver one of these carts that high so it is close enough to the street. Mr. Schaab stated that if you are bringing a can to the curb the carts work easier than a can because it is on wheels. Ms Hayes stated she doesn't bring a can to the curb she brings a bag. Mr. Schaab stated that if you can get it close to where it is easily visible and there is a pathway to get to it they will collect it, he will confirm with operations. Ms Hayes stated she has a single car garage and she doubts she can get the 64 gallon cart in her garage, and she has heard other people with two car garages concerned that they won't

fit. Mr. Schaab stated we will have another mailing go out that includes the dimensions of all three cart sizes.

Steve Richardson stated the flyer came out and basically it was a fait accompli, and didn't tell us why. He stated it didn't explain if the costs are going up, that you are losing \$180 some a month, that rates haven't gone up in over twenty years; if you are going to propose something to people you have to do a much better job of explaining why we have to do it. I was all hot about the price increase and after hearing about no price increase in twenty years I'm not as bothered by it. Eldy Miller stated that part of the higher rates is the additional capacity in the 96 gallon carts. Mr. Richardson stated that what it comes back to is we are getting a whole lot more capacity but the question is do we need it. Eldy Miller stated it is an option. Mr. Richardson stated at the same time for a lot of us even the 35 gallon can is too big; the three levels may be too big. He asked if we are losing money because the capacity is more than we contracted for, we don't know because you guys don't tell us that, or are we losing it because we aren't charging enough; I don't know anything except I have one price here and three prices here.

Teri Billick stated that the actual billing we pay for is the service plus the tipping fees; the tipping fees are passed on to us within the billing fee, and asked how the tipping fee will be handled with this new system. Aaron Anderson stated that if we move to the new system the city's cost is based entirely on the number of 35, 64 and 96 gallon carts in service. Ms Billick stated that if as a resident I get two 64 gallon carts, the payment goes straight to Waste Management and Ely doesn't pay any tipping fees. Mr. Anderson stated that is correct. Ms Billick asked that if rates go up at Linn County as they are expected to Ely will not experience that. Mr. Anderson stated he does not want to guarantee that if the tipping fee at Linn County goes up that Waste Management won't come back and ask to raise rates. Ms Billick she is just saying that part of the picture is being missed that it is not just for the service, that the tipping fee the landfill charges is included in the bill. We need to clarify what the landfill charges.

A gentleman stated that what I'm hearing is that you get charged by those containers, right now we are getting charged by weight in the new system we are getting charged for what is in the container plus the remaining air if it had any weight. Ms Billick stated everyone is paying for the tipping fees whether you are a single or ten person family because our taxes are paying for that, but everyone is paying that bill collectively because we are paying for the tipping fee, we don't know who generated what and what house it came from. A gentleman stated so a 33-gallon doesn't cost a dollar. Aaron Anderson stated it costs more like \$1.17. Tom Rohner stated this will be more fair because people who throw away more trash will pay a higher bill because they are using a bigger trash can. Ms Billick stated right now most people pay for a sticker to get rid of your trash. A gentleman stated he does not pay for a sticker, he pays \$7.00 for recycling and you want to jump me up to \$14. Ms Billick stated that is for the recycling, the gentleman replied that it is for the number of bins. They have not given me the option to just have a recycling bin for \$7.00. Ms Billick stated the way things are paid right now is not explained right now. Terry Smith stated the tipping fee is on a per ton basis now. Dave Schaab stated the way the system works now Waste Management is charging a fixed fee to the City, the city is selling garbage stickers for \$1.00/sticker, Waste Management generates that fee for the \$7.00 or whatever per home, plus the cost for the amount of tons we deposited at the landfill specifically from the route in Ely, and pass that cost along to the city because that is a separate self standing charge. A

gentleman stated that you get the money from that \$1 sticker though, Mr. Schaab stated the city gets that money. Eldy Miller stated we use that money toward paying the bill.

Terry Smith stated if you sign a five-year contract from what I see there is an automatic increase already built into this, so your bill is automatically going to go up in two years. 1.5% after two years and 3% in fifth year. Eldy Miller stated he is not a fan of what the city is doing right now, holding price down as long as they can and then hitting customers with a larger price jump at one time. He stated he does not know if there is even an option for recycling only and opting out of trash collection. Mr. Miller stated he has heard two people in town ask for it, it is not a major demand from the people he has heard from and it is something we can investigate. Terry Smith asked if you can delay this and send out a flyer like that gentleman suggested. Mr. Miller stated all we are doing this month is the first reading, we will discuss this more next month, this is not final. This is just a reading of the ordinance.

A lady said she talked with fourteen people and two just hate it.

A gentleman stated like Terry said we need to get more information out to the people. Eldy Miller stated questions are generated that we don't expect and that is why we have the public hearing.

Stephanie Mehmen stated we can have the reading, we are not making a final decision tonight. She stated the City Council is listening to the people here, and can guarantee that the people who got the flyer and thought 'Oh this is great' aren't here, there has been a lot of feedback with people who have struggled with the cans, bags and recycling. There are some good things that will come out of this, not might not appeal to everyone that does not mean we aren't listening to everyone's concerns and trying to make modifications like if someone only wants recycling can we do that. Ms Mehmen stated we are trying to figure out ways to make it work for the majority, and that if we hit the city with a giant increase all at once it hasn't been raised for how many years, they are going to be raised so if that is going to happen maybe find a way to make things better for people in town and make it all work together. If having the reading we are not making a final decision, we will discuss it more at the next meeting. Eldy Miller stated we have to have three readings.

Mr. Smith asked if the reading is on their proposal; Ms Mehmen stated we can choose to waive the second and third reading but that is not what we are doing. Aaron Anderson stated the reading is actually on an ordinance to make it possible for the new service to work within our billing system and how we define our law. He stated there is no point in the City Council approving the ordinance if the proposal does not get approved. He stated the ordinance establishes the fees, there is no point in adopting the fees unless the city accepts the contract, however there is no point in approving the contract if the city does not adopt the fees; and if the city does not accept the contract there is no point in adopting the ordinance. Mr. Smith asked will you have to go back to the beginning if you do this reading and go back to Waste Management for lower fees for a one or two person household. Mr. Anderson stated we can modify as long as it only lowers the cost, the modification cannot increase the cost.

Randy Zbanek asked how long Waste Management has been providing service in Ely, Dave Schaab stated he can document 17 years. Mr. Zbanek stated Waste Management has provided great service except for one thing at the Fire Station. He asked if we have ever had another bid from another company in that 17 years. Kay Hale stated we have. Mr. Zbanek asked if we've had another bid for this system; Ms Hale stated we have not. Mr. Zbanek

stated we should get one. A gentleman asked if we have gotten bids to retain the service we have now, were costs going to go up. Aaron Anderson stated he went out for proposals about two years ago and the proposals were the same or more than we are paying now.

Stephanie Mehmen asked how many complaints we have received in regard to current service. Aaron Anderson stated usually none, the two forms of complaint are either they missed a pickup or can and 95% of the time they are there to pick it up by the end of the day. Most of the time the biggest problem is when they have a new or temporary driver who does not know the route in Ely and miss stuff. The other item is inevitably windy days when someone has a light plastic item like a Gatorade bottle fly out of the top of the recycling tub and ends up in the middle of the street and someone just goes and picks up a bottle from the middle of the street. Tom Rohner stated we get a lot of trash in our yard from that happening. A lady asked if there is any way you can put a survey out to all the households in Ely and ask what kind of service they want. She stated we would like yard waste removal because we came from Cedar Rapids and it is automatic in Cedar Rapids, you pay for it whether you use it or not. She stated send the survey out with the water bills and ask people to respond because she would love to see these carts because we are used to using them and she can understand for people who don't want the larger carts. She stated it more than 50% of the city wants it.

Casey Grover stated he is new to the community and came from Solon who has a similar system to what you have here and that he is not a fan of having to buy stickers. I was not aware of not having an increase in 20 years, my question is whether to allow to opt out of the garbage because that seems to be the hot issue. He stated his mom and dad generate almost no garbage; an opt-out option would be welcome and maybe a step-up option to give people a taste of what it will cost for an increase and then continue to increase the rate over five years. Maybe do an 8% increase this year and then 10% the next so people can realign their income; I don't know if that it is an option.

Eldy Miller stated the questions he hears most from people who come here from Cedar Rapids or other places that have the proposed system is: "Why do I have to get tags? Why do I have to run to Casey's on a Sunday night for stickers?", and "why do I have to provide my own trash can". Mr. Miller stated the biggest complaint he hears is the tiny size of the recycle bin; and he has been through probably 20 recycle lids over the years. The biggest complaint he hears about the current system is the tiny recycle tubs.

Jim Miller stated he has to pay for two, he doesn't think there is any reason he should. He stated his sister lives on his property and he pays for hers as a Christmas present, and she doesn't have anything at all and he never uses any garbage he only uses the small recycle box. Mr. Miller stated there is no way he's hauling one of those suckers down his driveway that's 500 yards, and his neighbor across the road has a quarter of a mile to pull his down and he's not interested either. He stated he does not see getting one of those things when he does not use them. Eldy Miller stated we will definitely look into whether it is an option to opt out of the trash portion. He stated there is a service that Waste Management will come up to the house to pick it up for people who are handicapped or can't get carts to the curb. Dave Schaab stated if we are notified of that with the property owner's permission we will come up to where it is stored right now and collect it.

Connie Hayes stated if the cart does not fit in my garage it will be sitting in the front of my house and will look like crap. Eldy Miller stated there are more people than you

realize who have trash cans outside on the side of their house. He stated we need to send another flyer out with more information and that we will be talking about this next month.

Hale moved to close the public hearing at 8:32 p.m., second by Rohner. Motion carried – 5 to 0. Mayor Miller declared the hearing closed and meeting in regular session at 8:32 p.m.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 248, Amending Provisions Regarding Residential Waste and Recyclables Collection and Disposal. Hale moved to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance No. 248, Amending Provisions Regarding Residential Waste and Recyclables Collection and Disposal; second by Wery.

Aye: Rohner, Wery, Hale, Mehmen
Nay: Billick
Absent: None

Mayor Miller declared the motion passed and Ordinance No. 248 introduced and first reading approved – 4 to 1.

Resolution No. 16-0314-06, Approving Contract with Waste Management. No action taken on this item.

Buresh Estates Third Addition

Approve Revised Construction Plans. Glenn Buresh presented revised construction plans for Buresh Estates Third Addition. Mr. Buresh reported the plans were revised to reflect changes requested by city staff including location of fire hydrants. Mr. Anderson reported the City Engineer reviewed the revised plans and finds them acceptable. Rohner moved to approve revised construction plans for Buresh Estates Third Addition, dated March 7, 2016, second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 4 to 0; Hale abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Approve Construction Plans to Install Water Main from Water Tower to Buresh Estates Property Line. Mehmen moved to approve construction plans to install an 8” diameter water main along Jappa Road from the Water Tower to the shared property line with Buresh Estates, second by Rohner. Motion carried – 4 to 0; Hale abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Resolution No. 16-0314-07, Designating Names of Ball Fields at Ely City Park to Recognize Generous Support for the Ely Community. Mayor Miller reported the Parks & Recreation Commission designated the two baseball/softball fields at Ely City Park as Stastny Field and Norman Field to recognize the Leamon Norman family for their generosity and support. He reported Resolution No. 16-0314-07 states the Mayor and City Council concur with the Parks Commission action, and states the City’s appreciation for the Norman family’s generosity. Mehmen moved to approve Resolution No. 16-0314-07, Designating Names of Ball Fields at Ely City Park to Recognize Generous Support for the Ely Community, second by Hale.

Aye: Rohner, Wery, Hale, Mehmen, Billick
Nay: None

Absent: None

Mayor Miller declared the motion passed and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

City Council Goals and Goal Setting

Public Input re: 2016 City of Ely, Iowa Goal Setting Report. Mayor Miller opened a public input session re: the 2016 City of Ely, Iowa Goal Setting Report at 8:40 p.m., and asked for comments or input from the public regarding the matter. Mr. Anderson briefly summarized the process and major goals stated in the report. Mayor Miller asked for other comments, none were offered. Mayor Miller closed the public input session at 8:40 p.m.

Resolution No. 16-0314-08, Accepting 2016 Goal Setting Report. Hale moved to approve Resolution No. 16-0314-08, Accepting 2016 Goal Setting Report, second by Wery.

Aye: Rohner, Wery, Hale, Mehmen, Billick

Nay: None

Absent: None

Mayor Miller declared the motion passed and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

Budget & Finance

Public Hearing re: FY 16-17 Budget and Proposed Property Tax Levy. Hale moved to open a public hearing re: the proposed budget and property tax levy for FY 16-17 at 8:44 p.m., second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0, Mayor Miller declared the public hearing open at 8:44 p.m. Mayor Miller reported the property tax rate is going down somewhat. The main highlights are we are hiring two new employees, one to help with recreational activities and the new website and social media aspects, and another public works employee.

Dan Whittaker asked what the requirements are for the positions; Eldy Miller stated we are still working on that information and will not be able to fill them until after July 1st and that Aaron is still working on fleshing out the different roles. The recreational role will not just be recreational it will include maintenance of the new website. Judy Wery asked when we can expect to have a job description for that position, Mr. Anderson stated ideally he has one ready for City Council in April. He stated it would be ideal for that person to start in at the beginning of July, will take them a month to get their feet under them and then they have Fall Fest. Kay Hale asked if this person will be writing grants for us too; Mr. Anderson stated he hopes so, and will include it in the job description.

Judy Wery stated he needs to decide on a title we have seen this as recreation director and recreation coordinator. Mr. Anderson stated most likely it will be coordinator because director implies they have subordinates and that director is usually a higher paid position. Teri Billick asked if this will include public relations, Mr. Anderson stated it is exceptionally important to note that public relations will be essential for the parks/recreation component of the job. Ms Billick stated to include it in the title so it is clear they don't have to stick with just parks; Mr. Anderson stated the working title right now is Recreation Coordinator/Social Media Tech and public relations fits under that umbrella. Mr. Miller stated the person in that position will need to be very outgoing, reach out to a lot of kids, adults and organizations. Stephanie Mehmen asked if this position will raise funds, there should be a structured goal to raise a certain amount of money. Mr. Miller stated this is where Parks & Rec can help with what they want and need out of this position, Mr. Anderson stated he reached out to them about two weeks ago to start that process. Mr. Miller stated the main goal for this position is

to help out Parks and Rec and that commission needs to make sure this meets their needs and involved in the position.

Dan Whitaker asked if you intend for this person to be a degreed individual, Aaron Anderson stated ideally yes, at a bachelor of recreational science or similar; that would be ideal but whether it happens depends on market, who is hiring and who is available at the time. Stephanie Mehmen asked if we are looking for experience, Mr. Anderson stated experience would be ideal, Ms Mehmen and Mr. Anderson both stated for what we are offering we might not get people with previous experience or a degree. He stated we expect to offer at \$15 per hour.

Dan Whitaker pointed out the Library is now paying a librarian who has two degrees less money than that, and had the Library Board known that if this position was being created we likely would have asked for the money to be commensurate with that level of experience and background. Mr. Miller stated we have been discussing this position since January, Kay Hale stated the wages may not have been mentioned. Mr. Whitaker stated the Library Board was not at meetings where it was discussed. Mr. Anderson stated as a reminder that the Library Board has the authority to establish pay levels for Library employees without City Council approval, so if you feel that position warrants \$15/hour there is nothing stopping the Library Board from setting the wage at that level, they may have to adjust elsewhere within their budget but there is nothing stopping the Library Board from doing so.

Eldy Miller stated the other position is a public works position to bring on an entry level public works position. Mr. Miller noted there is a discussion about the \$250,000 capital projects and that Aaron included information about extending Northgate Drive into City Park is in the City Council packet for review. He noted one issue that has come up is lack of parking at City Park for any event and he wanted to get information on this.

Rohner moved to close the public hearing at 9:00 p.m., second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0. Mayor Miller declared the public hearing closed and meeting in regular session at 9:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 16-0314-09, Adopting Levy for Property Taxes Payable FY 2016-17 and Financial Budget for FY 2016-17. Hale moved to approve Resolution No. 16-0314-09, Adopting Levy for Property Taxes Payable FY 2016-17 and Financial Budget for FY 2016-17 as presented; second by Wery.

Aye: Rohner, Wery, Hale, Mehmen, Billick

Nay: None

Absent: None

Mayor Miller declared the motion passed and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

Hoover Trail from Community Center to Linn/Johnson County Line

Schedule Public Meeting re: Status of Project and Next Steps. Mayor Miller reported he seeks to hold a community meeting regarding the Hoover Trail from the Community Center to the Linn/Johnson County line to update the City Council and residents on status of the project, and asked City Council members to help schedule the meeting. Billick moved to hold a public meeting regarding the status of the Hoover Trail from the Community Center to Linn/Johnson County line at 6:00 p.m. Thursday March 31, 2016, second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Update of Ely Website

Proposal from BDH Technologies to Update and Upgrade Website. Mayor and City Council reviewed a proposal from BDH Technologies to update the City of Ely website, including converting to WordPress, addition of community calendar and site search capacities. City Council directed Mr. Anderson to present a detailed invoice from BDH regarding previous services rendered.

Accept Proposal from BDH Technologies to Update and Upgrade Website. Mehmen moved to accept proposal from BDH Technologies to update upgrade the Ely website as presented per their proposal dated February 16, 2016, second by Wery. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Website Update Committee. Mayor Miller reported he is forming a committee to guide the website update and generate content; that Council member Mehmen is willing to join and he seeks a Parks Commission member, and others from the community.

Hoover Trail to Community Center Project

Resolution No. 16-0314-10, Approving Change Order #6. City Engineer Scott Pottorff reported Change Order #6 for the contract with PCI to construct the Hoover Nature Trail to the Ely Community Center reflects various differences in quantities used, and decreases the total amount of the contract by \$4,235.96. Hale moved to approve Resolution No. 16-0314-10, Approving Change Order #6, second by Mehmen.

Aye: Rohner, Wery, Hale, Mehmen, Billick

Nay: None

Absent: None

Mayor Miller declared the motion passed and resolution approved – 5 to 0.

Project Completion and Acceptance of Work. City Engineer Pottorff reported Peterson Contractors Inc (PCI) has completed all work for the Hoover Trail to Community Center project set out in the contract and that the work meets contract conditions and specifications. Hale moved to approve completion of the Hoover Trail to Community Center project and the city's final acceptance of work under the contract with Peterson Contractors, Inc. (PCI); second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Payment Request #4 – Final Payment and Release of Retainage. Hale moved to approve Payment Request #4 and Final Payment to Peterson Contractors, Inc. for the Hoover Trail to Community Center Project in the amount of \$11,296.21, second by Rohner. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Drainage & Storm Water Management

Proposed Agreement to Accept Dedication and Maintenance of Storm Water Management Facility at North End of Wrigley St. Mayor and City Council reviewed a proposal from Schulte Development for the city to take over responsibility for operation and maintenance of the storm water detention cell at the north end of Wrigley Street from the homeowners association. Mr. Anderson noted the request includes that all property served

by the detention cell will be included in Ely's stormwater utility if approved, which requires action by ordinance.

Schedule Public Hearing re: Ordinance to Include Territory in Storm Water Management Utility. Hale moved to schedule a public hearing re: an ordinance to include new territory in the Ely Storm Water Management Utility for 7:00 p.m. April 11, 2016, second by Mehmen. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Administrative, Personnel and Staffing

Committee for Veterans Memorial. Mayor Miller reported he seeks to form a committee to work toward building a memorial for Ely area veterans, and asked Council members and others who may be interested to participate.

Policy Statement that City Will Cease Paying a Portion of Employee Health Insurance Deductible. Mehmen moved to approve a policy statement that the City of Ely will cease paying a portion of employee health insurance deductible beginning June 1, 2016 which is the upcoming renewal date, second by Hale. Motion carried – 5 to 0.

Hale moved to adjourn, second by Mehmen; motion carried – 5 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Eldrew Miller, Mayor

Attest:

Aaron Anderson, Clerk/Administrator