

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
4:30 p.m., August 3, 2010
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Matos called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Thomas Kallevig, Present
Councilor Liz Kuoppala, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Councilor Brian Hoag, Present
Mayor Bill Matos, Present

Also present: City Clerk/Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt; Director of Public Works Michael Wiskow; Chief of Police Brian Lillis; Eric Fallstrom, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Kallevig, second by Councilor Kuoppala to approve the Minutes of City Council Workshop held July 20, 2010 and Minutes of City Council Meeting held July 20, 2010. Ayes –All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Kuoppala, second by Councilor Kallevig to approve the Agenda. Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Steve Shykes, Fayal Township Fire Chief, addressed the Council regarding the bid for new fire and ambulance radios. Shykes said the low bidder, EF Johnson, did not meet the group's expectations.

Kevin Puffs, representing the Virginia Fire and Paramedic Departments, said that the low bidder does not build a console. They would need to spend thousands of dollars on top of the

grant to assemble the components to manufacture this requirement. Puffs said that Motorola, the high bidder, already has an established counsel.

Scott Omersa, Fire Chief of Gilbert, reiterated what the other entities set forth. Omersa voiced his concerns regarding safety of personnel. He said that Motorola had the best reception.

Gail Lanyk, Fire Chief of McDavitt, reported that their jurisdiction experienced some problems with reception in the McDavitt area to include the McDavitt Fire Hall. Lanyk conveyed her safety concerns related to equipping personnel with radios that have adequate reception.

Joseph Buria, Mt. Iron Fire Department, thanked Eveleth for taking on the work load of being the executor of this grant.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – July 1-15, 2010 in the amount of \$94,361.81
2. Approval of Claims - July 2010 in the amount of \$829,428.36
3. Resolution No. 2010-22, “Accepting Donations for Fire Prevention Education”
4. Resolution No. 2010-23, “Approving Property Tax Exemption for Eveleth Senior Citizens Club, Inc.”
5. Board and Commission Application Process
6. Letter of Agreement Between City of Eveleth and AFSCME Regarding Part-Time Accounting Clerk Pay
7. Mutual Aid Agreement Between Central Lakes Volunteer Fire Department and Eveleth Fire Department
8. Request for City Council & City Clerk/Administrator to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference, August 18-20, 2010, Winona, MN

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Consent Agenda.
Ayes – All.*

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Accepting Bid for Fire and Ambulance Radios

On July 6, 2010 at 4:00 p.m., bids were received from the following for new fire and ambulance radios:

Brandon Communications \$345,823.68
(EF Johnson)

DSC Communications \$425,618.00
(Motorola)

Jeff Ziegler, EF Johnson representative, addressed the Council. Councilor Kuoppala asked if Ziegler had been involved with the equipment testing. Ziegler presented his recollection of the testing. Ziegler said the voice transmissions were loud and clear for most of the testing. Some of the lower areas such as the basement of the Virginia Hospital experienced low frequencies. The equipment did not work inside the McDavitt Fire Hall with the doors closed. However, the radios did work in the McDavitt Fire Hall with the doors open. Ziegler said the console referred to (by Kevin Puffs) was outside the scope of the specification, and that EF Johnson would be able to work with another company to build a console.

Councilor Kuoppala asked Ziegler why the Motorola brand radios were able to pick up reception and the EF Johnson radios were not. Ziegler indicated it would be a radio physics issue and that radio strength can vary dramatically. Ziegler also opined that a lot of people want to wear nothing but a Motorola radio on their hip. He said that some of comments and some of the reasoning he has heard tonight were surprising unless he was being “snowed a little bit” when he was here last week with the departments. Ziegler said that some of what the Council is seeing here today is, “I don’t want to wear a radio that ain’t a Motorola.”

Joseph Buria, Mt. Iron, said he is not concerned about the label, and has been researching radios for the last 14 months.

Scott Omersa, Gilbert, said as fire chiefs, it is their job to make sure everybody comes home, and communication is ultimate. Omersa said they have nothing against EF Johnson, but as a group, feel more confident in the performance of the Motorola radios.

Steve Shykes, Fayal Township, recalled a side by side test this spring of Motorola vs. EF Johnson. Shykes said the transmission from EF Johnson was garbled. EF Johnson claimed it was a programming issue, but no one ever had the time to verify and recheck it. He said the County’s future plans are to upgrade all areas with 800 MHz radio systems. The research involved companies other than Motorola and EF Johnson. Shykes said he felt the Motorola performance was superior.

Bruce Hagerness, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, said the County has been working with the Fire Departments over the last 14 months. St. Louis County has not budgeted for new radios (in the amount of \$450,000) in these areas as it was presumed these entities would be accept the federal grant.

Kevin Puffs, Virginia, said he has some concerns with the base station. He is not sure if EF Johnson would be able to mirror the console requirements. Puff said that Motorola already has a console established.

Ziegler said the device was not included in the bid. He said they have partner companies that can create the device. He said, "If Motorola is currently saying you are going to get taken care of on that device over at Virginia Fire Department, they are either having some discussions that are outside of this process, and I don't know if they are throwing something in for free or what they are saying there because what's in this proposal for Motorola is not what he's got on his desk over there."

Kevin Puffs said that they were looking for something that would mirror their current system. Puffs does not feel that option is available through EF Johnson. He was waiting to receive some information from Ziegler. Puffs strongly clarified that "in no way, shape or form" has he ever been approached by Motorola to get something for free.

Councilor Kuoppala asked Gail Lanyk if the Motorola radios could be heard if the doors were shut. Lanyk said she was not sure since they didn't test that specifically. Motorola had a signal at all of the other points. When the doors were shut and they tested from other areas, the Motorola broke through while EF Johnson did not. Lanyk said she doesn't care if they get Motorola or EF Johnson. She just wants to know that the radios work and that everyone is going to be safe.

Kuoppala said the Council is required to accept the low bid unless there is some big reason not to.

Brian Ness, Eveleth Ambulance Director, said that Eveleth did not have any problems with EF Johnson after the programming issues were resolved.

City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt said if the City does not follow the grant guidelines, it runs the risk of not being reimbursed by the federal government. Brunfelt said that the radios have gone through a competitive bid process. He acknowledged some conflicting testimony but opined that the City would have to establish evidentiary records and tangible evidence that Brandon Communications (EF Johnson) was not a responsible bidder. Brunfelt recommended the Council accept the low bid or reject all bids and turn down the grant.

Motion by Mayor Matos, second by Councilor Kallevig to award the bid for fire and ambulance radios to Brandon Communications, EF Johnson, in the amount of \$345,823.68 contingent upon allowing participating entities (Eveleth, Gilbert, Fayal, Virginia, Mt. Iron, McDavitt) to withdraw from the grant until Friday, August 6, 2010. Roll Call Vote: Kallevig – Aye; Kuoppala – Aye; Koivunen – Aye; Hoag – Aye; Matos – Aye. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on a higher bid amount of \$356,541.50 due to some required and optional items being added. The City is required to accept the original amount of \$345,823.68.

2. Consider Accepting Proposals for Boiler Repairs at Eveleth Health Services Park.

Motion by Councilor Kuoppala, second by Councilor Kallevig to table this item until receiving more quotes. Ayes – All.

3. Consider setting a public hearing for August 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm to solicit comments on facility plan required by an MPCA Clean Water Revolving Fund for replacement of sanitary sewer lines in 2011

Motion by Councilor Kallevig, second by Councilor Koivunen to set a public hearing for August 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm to solicit comments on facility plan required by an MPCA Clean Water Revolving Fund for replacement of sanitary sewer lines in 2011. Ayes – All.

4. Consider accepting quotation for tree planting

Bids were received on July 22, 2010 for furnishing and tree planting as follows:

Range Landscape Virginia, MN	\$9,965.00
Bloomers Garden Grand Rapids, MN	\$10,830.00

Motion by Councilor Kallevig, second by Councilor Kuoppala to accept the quotation from Range Landscape, Virginia, MN, for furnishing and planting trees in the amount of \$9,965.00 contingent upon submittal of a Certificate of Insurance. Ayes – All.

5. Consider accepting quotation for Douglas Avenue street repair

Quote packages were sent to four contractors for the Douglas Avenue Bituminous Overlay Street Repair Project. C & C Winger was the only contractor that returned a quote in the amount of \$31,280.00.

Motion by Councilor Kuoppala, second by Councilor Koivunen to reject the bid from C & C Winger in the amount of \$31,280.00 for the Douglas Avenue Bituminous Overlay Street Repair Project. Ayes – All.

This project will be revisited again next year.

6. Consider accepting quotation for water service replacement to Eveleth Health Services Park Building

Quotes were received from the following bidders on August 2, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.:

C & C Winger	\$38,917.00
Hammerlund Construction	\$45,000.00
Utility Systems of America	\$42,276.00

Motion by Councilor Kuoppala, second by Councilor Koivunen to accept quotation from C & C Winger for water service replacement to Eveleth Health Services Park Building in the amount of \$38,917.00. Ayes – All.

7. Consider approving relocating gas line at Eveleth Health Services Park

Eric Fallstrom, Benchmark Engineering, said the contractor was not able to construct the parking lot per specification as the gas service line is in the way. The contractor would like the gas line moved prior to completion of the warranty work. The cost to relocate the line will be \$4,134.07.

Motion by Councilor Kuoppala, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize relocating the gas lines at the Eveleth Health Services Park. Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Kallevig said the Library has been full of activity this summer.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Chief of Police – Chief Lillis encouraged the public to participate in National Night Out scheduled to take place this evening.

City Engineer – Eric Fallstrom gave an update on the status of Grant/Park Avenue. The curb and gutter are scheduled to be installed tomorrow. The City will be publishing a revised traffic schedule as the project progresses. The north entrance of Lundgrens will be closed to all incoming traffic. The County will provide signage. The contractor is behind on their original schedule; therefore, the next phase of the project will be key to determine whether or not they can make up for their lost time.

Clerk/Administrator – Jackie Monahan-Junek announced that the City received the Governor’s Safety Award this year.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Bill Matos, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Monahan-Junek
City Clerk/Administrator

Approved: September 7, 2010
Published: September 15, 2010