

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
December 7, 2010
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
6:00 p.m.

The HRA met at 6:00 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Matos, Councilor Kuoppala, Councilor Koivunen, Councilor Hoag, Councilor Kallevig

Mayor Matos pointed out some questions regarding the Clerk/Administrator's contract which is on the agenda for renewal. Discussion took place as follows:

Length of the Agreement

The proposed contract would run from 2010 to 2015. Councilor Koivunen said he would not be able to commit to a five year term. Councilor Hoag said a five year contract would be longer than any of the Council Member terms. Councilor Koivunen said he felt comfortable with issuing a two year contract, as the City has yet to learn of future LGA cuts. Councilor Kallevig said the other unions are signing two year contracts.

Councilor Kuoppala said she did not understand a shorter contract based on LGA cuts as the agreement did not specify any wage increases.

The Clerk/Administrator agreement has a "Me-Too" provision which entitles the position to any contractual changes agreed to by the United Steelworkers Union 6860-05 that would enhance wages or other benefits.

It was the general consensus of the Council to offer a two-year contract.

Severance Package

(Voluntary Leave)

Under the proposed agreement, if the Clerk/Administrator voluntarily leaves her position and gives 4 to 6 weeks of notice, she shall receive five (5) months severance pay and two (2) months of City paid health insurance.

The Council agreed to reduce the voluntary leave severance package in half. Upon voluntary leave with 4 to 6 weeks of notice, the City Clerk/Administrator would receive two and a half (2.5) months of severance pay and one (1) month of City paid health insurance.

(Termination)

If the City Clerk/Administrator is terminated, or deemed “terminated,” prior to expiration of the terms of the agreement the Clerk/Administrator would receive a lump sum cash payment equal to six months’ aggregate salary.

No changes were suggested to the “Term of Agreement and Termination” section of the agreement.

After discussing the City Clerk/Administrator’s contract, the Council continued with the regularly scheduled workshop agenda.

1. Discuss proposed plan to eliminate unauthorized releases of wastewater for submittal to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as required by the stipulation agreement dated August 18, 2010

Director Mike Wiskow explained the stipulations per the agreement required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The City entered into a stipulation agreement with the MPCA as a result of eight raw sewage and partially treated sewage releases at the wastewater plant. The violations occurred over a three year period. Wiskow reviewed the stipulations with the Council. Most have been completed and approved by the MPCA. Wiskow outlined the remaining items needed to reduce inflow and infiltration. The City would need to implement a roof drain inspection and require compliance by City ordinance. The City would need to complete televising and rate pipe conditions of all sanitary sewer mains within five years.

Councilor Kuoppala suggested the City request a 10 year plan as opposed to the five year stipulation. Discussion took place on potential grants or loans for business owners who would be affected by the ordinance change.

2. Iron Range Resources Public Works Grant Applications

Director Wiskow outlined the proposed projects for which the City will seek grants from Iron Range Resources:

1. Street reconstruction and replacement of water valves and fire hydrants, sanitary sewer mains and manholes, and storm sewer lines and catch basins on Hat Trick Avenue (between Five Seasons Sports Center and the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum); estimated amount \$487,133, and
2. Replacement of sanitary sewers in four areas of the City (500-700 blocks of North Court; 1500 and 1600 blocks of West 5th Street); estimated amount \$940,788.

Request to transfer Hotel Infrastructure Grants

In 2008, the City was awarded a grant from Iron Range Rehab Resources in the amount of \$500,000 for infrastructure and site work for a 110-unit hotel located near Highway 53

North. In order to release the funds, Iron Range Resources required a development agreement and business plan with financial commitment for the project. The prospective developer was unable to secure the funds and the grant is set to expire December 31, 2010.

On November 30, 2010, Councilor Kuoppala and Clerk/Administrator attended a meeting with Senator Tomassoni, Representative Rukavina and representatives from Range Mental Health, Eveleth Nursing Home, Iron Range Resources, St. Louis County Mental Health Services and MN Department of Human Services.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the vacant space at the Eveleth Health Services Park. Range Mental Health is interested in the space vacated by the State of Minnesota Mental Health Services. The Nursing Home is hoping to expand their services to include assisted living.

The legislators suggested the City request a transfer of the hotel infrastructure grant to the renovation of the Eveleth Health Services Park and request an extension to the grant deadline of December 31, 2011.

3. Pigeon complaints

Monahan-Junek has been receiving complaints from citizens regarding pigeons. In years past, Gornick Nuisance Wildlife Control was hired to trap the pigeons. The cost was about \$2,000. Director Wiskow will investigate the situation. If needed the pigeons will be relocated.

4. Chicagami Daycare Update

Monahan-Junek reported that Nancy Larsen was hired by Chicagami as a consultant for grants and to research other options for a new location for the Chicagami Day Care in Eveleth. Lori Maki, Chicagami, met with Dick Harvey and toured his building. She also toured the Fayal and Grant building adjacent to OSI. Chicagami has potential interest in building at the City owned site behind the Range Recreation Center. Chicagami had expressed interest in using the vacant portion of the Eveleth Health Services Park building. However, they would be able to double their daycare capacity with a different location.

5. Memorandum from Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

The Council was made aware of the memorandum from Tim Flaherty of Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. Flaherty encouraged City elected officials to schedule a time to meet with legislators to discuss LGA.

6. Review of land licenses

Monahan-Junek reported on the land licenses. Myron Cook has indicated a 1.5 million dollar coverage policy, as required by the City, is cost prohibitive and will not be signing a license.

Polly Sorcan has not yet decided whether or not an insurance policy would be cost prohibitive. Sorcan has inquired as to whether the City would consider selling the property.

Councilor Hoag would like the City Assessor to determine a value for the land. Attorney Brunfelt said the City should require fair market value for the land.

Eveleth Health Services Park

Monahan-Junek distributed a memo from Paul Fischer, Fitzgerald Nursing Home Administrator, requesting financial assistance to begin an audit of the Nursing Home, "J14. Request from Eveleth Health Services Park Board."