

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., January 18, 2011
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Beth Peterson, Present
Councilor Bradley Hadrava, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Councilor Brian Hoag, Present
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the following:

1. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held December 21, 2010;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held December 21, 2010;*
3. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held January 4, 2011; and*
4. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 4, 2011.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Agenda with following additions:

- J8. *Approve Pay Equity Report*
- J9. *Request to Hire Full-Time Temporary Police Officer*

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – December 16-21, 2010 in the amount of \$113,154.00**
- 2. Approval for City Council and City Clerk/Administrator to attend Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Action Day, February 9, 2011, St. Paul, MN**
- 3. Lawful Gambling Application for Knights of Columbus at Resurrection Church, 301 Adams Ave., Eveleth, MN**
- 4. Iron Range Resources Grant Agreement B43-2352 Time Extension, Eveleth Health Services Park Assisted Living Conversion**

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek explained the grant extension. The grant was originally awarded for the City to begin work on a housing development on Station Road 44. The grant has been moved over to the Eveleth Health Services Park for development of an assisted living facility.

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 2011 Capital Improvement Projects

Mayor Vlaisavljevich opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2011 Capital Improvement Projects.

Public Works Director Mike Wiskow gave an overview of the street reconstruction/utility replacement on North Court and West 5th Street. The affected areas would include the 500-700 blocks of North Court and the 1500 and 1600 blocks of West 5th Street. Wiskow said the City Assessor reviewed and determined the maximum allowable assessed amounts. He highlighted the different options for each project as follows:

Reconstruction of 500-700 blocks of North Court

Project Option 1a: Replace existing street pavement (to match existing surface), curb and sidewalk. Proposed assessments for this option range from \$2,277.90 to \$3,595.79 per property.

Project Option 1b: Replace existing street pavement (new street width to be four feet wider than existing street surface), curb and sidewalk. Proposed assessment for this option range from \$2,412.47 to \$3,595.70 per property.

Reconstruction of 1500 & 1600 blocks of West 5th Street

Project Option 2a: Construct 24 foot wide bituminous roadway, no curb or sidewalk, install storm sewer piping to eliminate ditch on north side of 1600 block. Proposed assessments for this option range from \$3,882.36 to \$4,284.32 per property.

Project Option 2b: Construct 24 foot wide bituminous roadway, no curb or sidewalk, no storm sewer piping (existing ditches to remain). Proposed assessments for this option range from \$2,865.82 to \$3,162.53 per property.

Project Option 2c: Construct 28 foot wide bituminous roadway with curb on both sides, no sidewalk, install catch basins and storm sewer piping to eliminate ditches. Proposed assessments for this option range from \$5,253.64 to \$5,628.04 per property.

Wiskow explained adjusted front footages for corner and irregular shaped lots. Pursuant to the City's Special Assessment Policy, the City would pay for 60% of assessable project costs with the property owner paying 40% of assessable project costs.

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek clarified the assessment process. Once the project is complete, property owners will receive an invoice for the assessment. The property owners will have 30 days to pay off the assessment. Any remaining balances will be certified to the owner's property taxes over a specified number of years.

Mary Ann Tuskan, 723 North Court, asked for clarification on her lot footage. Wiskow said that her front footage as been adjusted from 151.19 to 65.24 since Tuskan has an irregular shaped lot. Tuskan also questioned whether or not she has permission to install a new driveway as the existing driveway belongs to the City. Wiskow encouraged Tuskan to stop by the Public Works Department.

Ed Hyppa, 701 North Court, questioned why the City wants to widen the North Court street. Eric Fallstrom, Benchmark Engineering, said the Council in office at the time in December, had asked City staff to look into the option. Fallstrom explained that it is almost impossible for two meeting cars to pass side by side when vehicles are parked on the street. Director Wiskow reiterated that widening the street by four feet is only an option at this point.

Luann Wudinich spoke on behalf of Debbie Kivela, resident at 1504 West 5th Street, indicating Kivela would be in favor of option 2B for 5th Street. Wudinich said that Ms. Kivela would like to know how much of her driveway would be removed. She also indicated that Ms. Kivela is disabled and questioned if the City had a plan to maintain access to her property. Director Wiskow said the City has, in the past for special circumstances where residents needed wheelchair access, written in plans for the

contractor to maintain an entrance to certain homes. Eric Fallstrom estimated the underground utility work would take approximately one to two weeks.

Ron Tedrick, 410 North Avenue West, said he was in favor of widening 5th Street, which is currently 15 to 20 feet wide. Fallstrom said the proposed project would widen the street to 24 feet. Tedrick said he prefers "Option 2B" for West Eveleth, and expressed his concern regarding a large culvert in the ditch near his home. He is afraid a child will drown if a screen is not put over the culvert.

Renee Lindseth, 515 North Court, asked about the replacement of the retaining walls and if a light pole will be changed as there was a pink band placed on the post. Fallstrom said band was more than likely positioned by the surveyors and does not mean it will be removed. Director Wiskow said the project includes an estimate to replace the retaining wall. Wiskow said all companies including gas, utilities, etc. are contacted by the City prior to the project. The City tries to have the companies coordinate their work with the City's street reconstruction work.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich thanked the residents for attending the meeting and expressing their opinions. The Mayor adjourned the public hearing and reconvened the regular City Council Meeting.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council Board & Liaison Appointments

The committee liaisons will be posted online and at City Hall.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for 2011 Capital Improvements Projection

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Hadrava to adopt Resolution No. 2011-03, "Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for 2011 Capital Improvements Projection." Ayes – All.

The Council is supporting preparation of plans by Benchmark for Project Option 1a of 500-700 blocks of North Court and Project Option 2b for 1500 & 1600 blocks of West 5th Street.

2. Letter from Matt Hiti, 1406 W. 2nd St, Eveleth to purchase Lots 19 and 20, Block 4, Volcansek Addition to Eveleth

Matt Hiti requested the City sell him Lots 19 and 20, Block 4 of Volcansek Addition. The lots are between his home address, 1406 W. 2nd Street, and an apartment complex on

the other side of his alley. The lots are assessed at \$1,600 each; totaling \$3,200. Hiti intends to construct a garage on the lots.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Peterson to sell Lots 19 and 20 of Block 4, Volcansek Addition to Eveleth to Matt Hiti at \$1,600 per each lot. Ayes – all.

3. Letter from Eveleth Health Services Park Requesting Financial Assistance

Paul Fischer, Eveleth Health Services Park Nursing Home Administrator, submitted a letter to the Council dated January 7, 2011. Fischer requested the City provide financial assistance in the amount of \$1,500 to continue with an audit being performed by EideBailly.

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Peterson to financially assist the Eveleth Health Services Park in the amount of \$1,500 to continue with an audit by EideBailly. Ayes – All.

4. Funding for Rehabilitation of 206 Monroe St. – Olde Town Eveleth Neighborhood Revitalization

Barb Ackerson, AEOA Housing Developer, addressed the Council regarding the funding request in the amount of \$5,000 for rehabilitation of 206 Monroe Street. In 2010, the City agreed to donate \$15,000 to help Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc. (AEOA) cover the costs of acquiring and rehabbing homes in Eveleth. To date, AEOA has requested \$10,000 of these funds. The City of Eveleth has partnered with AEOA and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) in this project.

The home would be purchased, rehabilitated and sold to a qualifying first time home buyer with dependant children. The following estimated project costs were supplied by AEOA:

Purchase Price	\$11,000
Rehabilitation Costs	\$97,000
Development	\$ 8,000
Holding	\$ 2,500
Total Development Costs	\$116,500
Anticipated Sales Price	\$ 70,000
Estimated Value Gap	\$48,500 (\$30,000 by GMHF; \$5,000 by City of Eveleth; \$13,500 by AEOA)

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Koivunen to give \$5,000 towards the 206 Monroe rehabilitation project. Ayes – All.

5. Consider Authorizing Benchmark Engineering to Prepare Plans and Specifications for 2011 Capital Improvement Plan Sanitary Sewer Replacement/Rehabilitation in the Following Areas: 100 block alley between Carrie & Lincoln Avenues; 400 & 500 blocks of Douglas Avenues; 900 & 1000 blocks of Adams Avenue; East ½ of 600 block of Harrison Street

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Peterson to authorize Benchmark Engineering to prepare plans and specification for the 2011 Capital Improvement Plan Sanitary Sewer Replacement/Rehabilitation in the Following Areas: 100 block alley between Carrie & Lincoln Avenues; 400 & 500 blocks of Douglas Avenues; 900 & 1000 blocks of Adams Avenue; East ½ of 600 block of Harrison Street. Ayes – All.

6. Consider Accepting Proposal from Benchmark Engineering, Inc. for Water Tank Inspections

Director Wiskow said the American Waterworks Association recommends all potable water tanks and reservoirs be inspected and cleaned every three to five years. The 750,000 gallon elevated water tower at Harrison Street and Elba Avenue was last inspected in 2006.

The Fayal Pond 2,000,000 gallon ground storage reservoir underwent a complete interior and exterior reconditioning in 2009. The bidding documents for this project required the contractor to provide a two year warranty and correct any defects of the structural and coating improvements made in 2009.

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Hadrava to accept proposal from Benchmark Engineering, Inc. for inspection of Harrison Street Water Tower and Fayal Pond Storage Reservoir in the amount of \$6,100. Ayes – All.

7. Donations Request from Partners/IRYA

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Peterson to approve donations request from Partners/Iron Range Youth in Action in an amount of \$100.00 for the 16th Annual Young Leaders Convention: Make Difference 2011. Ayes – All.

8. Approve Pay Equity Report

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek said the pay equity report is submitted every three years on January 31st.

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hoag to authorize the Mayor to review and approve the Pay Equity Report. Ayes – All.

9. Request to Hire Full-Time Temporary Police Officer

Chief of Police Lillis reminded the Council that the Police Department is currently down one officer as the Council opted not to replace the position of the retiring officer in February 2010. Lillis pointed out that another officer is on extended sick leave and proposed the Council hire a full-time temporary officer to fill in during the sick leave. City Attorney Brunfelt advised that this temporary position should not exceed 67 working days in order to comply with union standards.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Peterson to authorize hiring of a full-time temporary officer at entry level pay not to exceed 67 working days. Aye s- All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Hoag said the Cable Commission has some openings.

Councilor Peterson recapped her recent training with the League of Minnesota Cities for newly elected City Officials.

Councilor Hadrava gave an update after attending the Airport Authority Board Meeting last Wednesday. The Airport continues to work with the FAA to purchase property.

Councilor Hadrava said he has received complaints from citizens about increasing Mediacom rates. Monahan-Junek said Mediacom has a franchise with the City, but Mediacom sets the prices.

Councilor Hadrava asked Monahan-Junek why the Accounting Clerk position has been cut to part time. Monahan-Junek referred to the two Council Members who agreed to the decision in 2010. Councilor Koivunen said the decision was made to cut costs as the City did not know how much LGA would be lost. The Accounting Clerk position was reduced to 30 hours in 2010. The part-time filing clerk position (20 hours) has not been filled, but remains budgeted for 2011. Councilor Hadrava requested this item be added to the next workshop agenda for further discussion.

Councilor Hadrava said that residents are complaining about neighbors dumping snow in the alleys. Director Wiskow said it is against City Ordinance to dump snow in the alleys. Wiskow said the City is working to clear snow from the alleys. Due to safety reasons, priorities are typically the downtown areas and then snow piles.

Councilor Peterson asked if residents with large snow banks could contact the Public Works Department. Wiskow said they keep track and work to clear those areas when possible.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief: Chief Lillis thanked the Council for their support of a temporary staff member. Lillis also encouraged any resident that has a problem with a neighbor dumping snow in the alleys to contact the Police Department. The Police Department can be a conduit for complaints.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Attest:

Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Jackie Monahan-Junek
City Clerk/Administrator

Approved: February 1, 2011
Published: February 9, 2011