

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., February 5, 2013
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Beth Peterson, Present
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Robert Vlaisavljevich, Present

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Agenda and Minutes of City Council Workshop held January 15, 2013 and Minutes of City Council Meeting January 15, 2013. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment of Mike Hogan to the Iron Range Tourism Bureau Board

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve appointment of Mike Hogan to the Iron Range Tourism Bureau Board. Ayes – All.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Vlaisavljevich moved the MnDot discussion (J6) to the beginning of the meeting. Duane Hill (MnDot District Traffic Engineer) and Robert Eggy (MnDot Traffic Engineer) addressed the Council regarding the intersection at Highway 53 and Hat Trick Avenue. Hill summarized a recent meeting, on Friday, held with MnDot, Mayor Vlaisavljevich, City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek, Director of Public Works Mike Wiskow, and local legislators.

Hill said the meeting was set to discuss the bill that has been proposed which would require MnDot to install a semaphore at the intersection

Hill opined that a traffic signal is a traffic regulating device, and not a safety improvement. He said that Eggy has completed the traffic flow study, and the traffic volume does not meet the federal and MnDot warrants for a traffic signal. Hill said it would be a violation of MnDot's policy to install the traffic signal. He added that the signal would delay each user (estimated at 12,000 per day) about one minute 40 seconds at the intersection. Hill emphasized a signal would decrease safety at the intersection.

Hill revealed that MnDot Legislative Affairs and the Office of Traffic Safety & Technology would adamantly oppose legislation for a traffic light. He said MnDot is aware that the idea of a reduced conflict intersection (e.g., Cotton) would not be acceptable to this (Eveleth) community. Hill proposed that some planning take place to determine what type of improvements would be acceptable.

Hill said the City's legislative representative (Jason Metsa) has been proactive in suggesting that MnDot work towards an interim solution to include: an advisory speed sign; signage to inform the traffic of an upcoming intersection; and a "Your Speed Is" flashing radar sign. Hill said MnDot has been discussing other resolutions for the intersection and is now proposing a newer experimental solution called an Intersection Warning System.

Robert Eggy distributed handouts on the proposed Intersection Warning System and presented an audiovisual demonstration. Eggy provided national statistics on crash reduction from states using the system. If implemented, MnDot would pay for the installation and the City would pay for the electricity to run the device. Eggy said the Intersection Warning System would be an interim solution as MnDot still feels the long term resolution is a reduced conflict intersection.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said it is an interesting concept. He said everyone has spent a lot of time considering the intersection, and it is not an easy fix.

Eggy said he has ordered a yellow flashing beacon which will be installed in the next month. He is also in the process of negotiating for a "Your Speed Is" sign which would be placed for traffic heading northbound.

Hill asked for consent from the City Council for MnDot to move forward with the Intersection Warning System in lieu of a stop light.

Vlasisavljevich said the Council would like to take some time to digest the information.

Hill said community planning needs to be addressed specifically handling pedestrians and off road vehicles in the corridor. He referred to the interchange which does not connect to the frontage roads. He thought discussion with the community would be easier if they could visualize the traffic flow from that interchange. Hill offered assistance from MnDot to help

with the community planning and discussions. He said it may be possible for MnDot to help with some funding on local road improvements. He offered other funding options to include: The Governor's Budget for Transportation and Economic Development Program; and the possibility of including a project with the bonding for mine restructuring of Highway 53.

Hill said it may be a solution to work on the frontage roads. The intersection warning system may be a long term solution which could be improved upon with future technology.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich thanked Hill and Eggy for taking the time to present the Council with the new alternative.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – January 1-15, 2013 in the amount of \$90,652.88
2. Approval of Claims – January 2013 in the amount of \$618,445.60
3. Travel Request for Police Chief to attend 2013 MN Chiefs of Police Association Executive Training, Duluth, MN, April 22-25, 2013

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes- All.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Assessment Hearing for 2012 Street Improvements

Mayor Vlasisavljevich opened the public hearing for comments on the 2012 Street improvement assessments. No one addressed the Council. The Mayor closed the hearing.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2012 Capital Improvements

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to adopt Resolution No. 2013-04, "Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2012 Capital Improvements." Ayes- All

2. Consider Approving Amendment to Service Agreement for Collection of Residential and Commercial Recycling Materials with St. Louis County

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Peterson to approve Amendment to Service Agreement for Collection of Residential and Commercial Recycling Materials with St. Louis County. Ayes – All.

3. Consider Filling Vacancy for Utility Crew Leader Position

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to hire Patrick Ziegler for the vacant utility crew leader position effective March 30, 2013. Ayes – All.

Patrick Ziegler is currently employed by the City of Eveleth as a Parks & Recreational Facilities Maintenance Worker.

4. Consider Posting Externally to Fill Vacant Park & Rec Maintenance Worker Position

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to approve posting externally to fill the vacant Park & Recreational Maintenance Worker position. Ayes – All.

5. Consider Resolution Authorizing Application to be Made and to Accept Funds From the IRRRB Commissioner Grant Program for Jones Street Hazardous Waste Abatement Project

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2013-05, “Resolution Authorizing Application to be Made and to Accept Funds From the IRRRB Commissioner Grant Program for Jones Street Hazardous Waste Abatement Project.” Ayes – All.

6. MnDOT – Highway 53 and Hat Trick Avenue

This item was addressed at the start of the meeting.

7. Letter from Jeff Torrel Requesting to rent Hippodrome for 5th Annual Frank Klabecheck Senior No-Check Hockey Tournament, March 1-3, 2013

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve request from Jeff Torrel to rent the Hippodrome for the 5th Annual Frank Klabecheck Senior No-Check Hockey Tournament, March 1-3, 2013. Ayes – All.

8. Tuna’s Bar – Business Plan & Liquor License

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to send a letter to Kiki Schomberg, Tuna’s Bar, informing Ms. Schomberg that the zoning for a strip club has gone out of compliance; and to inform Ms. Schomberg that the City Council would like to meet with her regarding the conditions of the 2013 liquor license at the City Council Workshop Meeting to be held February 19, 2012. Ayes –All.

9. Ambulance Service Appointments

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve the following Eveleth Ambulance Service appointments: (Ayes – All)

*Matt Hoffmann, Training Officer
John Rauzi, Director*

10. 2013 Squad Car Purchase Request

Chief of Police Koivunen presented the Council with a request to purchase a new 2013 squad to replace the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria squad car. The new vehicle is a budgeted item for 2013. Koivunen informed the Council that the Ford Crown Victoria is no longer available, and discussed plans to purchase a Ford SUV.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked Chief Koivunen to provide a price spec list for the next meeting.

11. Request to Sell Forfeited Vehicle

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize Chief of Police to sell the following forfeited vehicle using the usual and customary competitive bid process of Oberfoell Auctioneers/Do-Bid.com: Vehicle #1: 1987 Yamaha ATV, VIN: JY42F007H00015. Ayes – All.

12. Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2012-11 that Awarded the Sale of a General Obligation Improvement Bond, Series 2012A

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek explained that after paperwork was filed for the improvement bond, the City was informed the bank had agreed to a lower interest rate than stated in the agreement. The resolution will revise Resolution No. 2012-11.

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Resolution No. 2013-06, “Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2012-11 that Awarded the Sale of a General Obligation Improvement Bond, Series 2012A.” Ayes – All.

13. Letter from American Red Cross requesting Eveleth City Hall be a part of the American Red Cross Community

Mayor Vlasisavljevich referred to a letter from Tony Guerra, Preparedness Coordinator for the American Red Cross. The Red Cross is seeking facilities to be available in the event of a large-scale disaster. Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek to contact Guerra to find out the specific needs of the Red Cross. The Council will address this item at the next meeting.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Peterson announced an upcoming meeting at the Library on February 23rd for anyone interested in serving on a committee to plan for the Library’s 100 year celebration in 2014.

Councilor Hadrava thanked MnDot for making a quick response until everything has been ironed out.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the City will be busy with many projects in town this summer to include the Library gazebo, Jones Street, etc.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

None.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Monahan-Junek
City Clerk Administrator

Approved: February 19, 2013
Published: February 27, 2013