

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., April 21, 2015**  
**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**

Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present  
Councilor Brian Hoag, Present  
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Present  
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present  
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Bonnie Thayer; Deputy Chief of Police Jesse Linde; Director of Public Works Mike Wiskow; Rodney Flannigan, Benchmark Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve the following minutes:*

1. *Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held March 25, 2015;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held March 31, 2015;*
3. *Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held March 31, 2015;*
4. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held April 7, 2015;*
5. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held April 7, 2015;*
6. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held April 15, 2015; and*
7. *Minutes of City Council Special Meeting April 15, 2015.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve agenda with the following addition:*

*J7. Letter from Mark Klemencic regarding 706 Adams Avenue*

*Ayes – All.*

## **E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Shelly Holmes, Katherine's House**

Shelly Holmes, owner of 426 and 428 Monroe Street, addressed the Council regarding her intent to operate Katherine's House, a boarding and lodging facility. Holmes indicated there would be a contract with St. Louis County for housing up to 33 women. This would be staffed full-time 24 hours per day. She likened the facility to Hill Crest, Lakeview and the Third Avenue Hotel; however, Katherine's House would be for women only.

Katherine's House would offer special services at 426 Monroe. Some of those services include: providing three meals per day; assisting residents with laundry; teaching life skills such as cooking, grocery shopping, sewing, financial management, etc. The center would provide housing for women with mental health conditions, chemical dependency, homelessness or those who "just don't do well in society on their own." Holmes specified the first priority is to provide safe housing. In order to stay at Katherine's House, the women must abide by strict rules of the house which will be enforced. They will also be required to volunteer in the home and community. The housing may be short term, long term, or transitional.

Holmes described the property from the original purchase. She said it was set up for 10 apartments, which housed a horrible drug problem. Local law enforcement had to remove one of the tenants who refused to leave and was dealing heroin. Holmes said that from what it was, the atmosphere she hopes to create will be nothing in resemblance. She wants to support local businesses as they teach the women what it is to be part of the community.

The second phase of the project is to renovate the property at 428 Monroe. This would be set up for apartments in which a case worker would help women who have lost custody of their children. The children could stay at the apartment overnight as the case worker observes the mother using the skills she has learned (such as cooking a meal). The goal is to provide supportive services so that the women can be trained on how to care for their children.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said he has heard a lot of rumors such as the facility is not for local people. Vlaisavljevich said, "None of the Council had the same information. It has gotten to the point where you need to show us around."

Holmes said she wants the neighbors to feel comfortable. She indicated she had intended to meet with the Council, but that things got out of hand. She would "love to show

anyone around.” She would also like to meet with local merchants. Holmes said they will be hiring 24 full time jobs the first year with an additional eight positions the second year. The lowest paying job will begin at \$12 per hour, going up into the 30s per hour.

Councilor Hoag voiced his concerns on potential parking issues.

The Council will hold a workshop on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at which time they will tour the facility with Shelly Holmes.

## **2. Wayne Paige, 414 Monroe Street**

Wayne Paige, resident at 414 Monroe Street, commended the efforts made at 426 Monroe Street. Paige said he has issues with properties near his home. He said that when Councilor Lillis was Chief of Police, Lillis had helped him to address a neighbor’s home with a tree growing right out of the front porch. Paige has traveled through many cities and seen slums; these properties look like slums. Paige has invested in his property for over 30 years, but the effort is naught because the value will not be there due to the surrounding properties. Paige would like the City to look at these properties and do something about it. He has reviewed the blight ordinance, but it does not have teeth. He said the ordinance needs to be updated and enforced. Paige said he has been an Eveleth resident for over 35, and this is pathetic.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said a simple blight complaint can take over a year. Paige asked, “What can we do in the interim?” He referred to another structure near him that was partially burned down. Pigeons had occupied the site and were flying over his house leaving a mess for him to clean.

Councilor Hoag suggested the Council substantially increase the second and third blight offenses. Paige agreed stating, “Unless you make it a little tough, they aren’t going to respond.”

Councilor Hadrava reminded the public that the City offers alley clean up, and refuse drop off at the City Garage. The City will also allow residents to fill up a dump truck with trash for \$25.00.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Memorandum of Understanding Between St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office and City of Eveleth Police Department**

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

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consider approving bid for Cleaning, Repairing, and Painting the 200,000 gallon West Eveleth Water Tower**

Bids for reconditioning the West Eveleth water tower were received on April 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. as follows:

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| The Osseo Construction Company, LLC | \$311,800.00 |
| Odland Protective Coatings, Inc.    | \$414,875.00 |
| Classic Protective Coatings         | \$636,750.00 |
| TMI Coatings                        | \$818,000.00 |

The low bidder did not submit the complete bid package. The recommendation is to accept the low responsible bid from Odland Protective Coatings, Inc.

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to approve the low responsible bid from Odland Protective Coatings, Inc. to perform the reconditioning and painting of the 200,000 gallon West Eveleth Water Tower in the amount of \$414,875.00. Ayes – All.*

Director Wiskow said they will start anywhere from June to September, and are looking at a six week construction time.

**2. Resignation of Brian Ness, EMT**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve resignation of Brian Ness, EMT, effective April 3, 2015 and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.*

**3. Resignation of Lana Brown, EMT**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to approve resignation of Lana Brown, EMT, and to send a letter of thanks for her service. Ayes – All.*

**4. Resolution for Loan Application to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for West Eveleth Water Tower Renovation Project**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2015-10, "Resolution for Loan Application to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for West Eveleth Water Tower Renovation Project." Ayes – All.*

**5. Resolution Accepting Donation for RRCC Warming Shack**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to adopt Resolution No. 2015-11, "Resolution Accepting Donation for RRCC Warming Shack." Ayes – All.*

Rodney and Donna Flannigan donated \$500.00.

**6. Resolution Accepting Donation for City Wide Rummage Sale**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-12, "Resolution Accepting Donation for City Wide Rummage Sale." Ayes – All.*

Fayal Township contributed \$100.00 towards the City Wide Rummage Sale.

**7. Letter from Mark Klemencic regarding 706 Adams Avenue**

Mayor Vlaisavljevich will turn the letter over to the Police Department. Councilor Lillis commented that he dealt with this property for over 20 years while serving on the Police Department. Councilor Koivunen asked how people generally respond when receiving a blight citation. Deputy Chief of Police Jesse Linde reported that most residents are compliant. However there are numerous complaints on this particular property, and the Police Department does have an open case.

Discussion took place on other properties that need to be addressed such as 612 Grant and 609 Garfield.

**K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Hoag reported that the financial information for the HRA is available for review.

Councilor Lillis reported on the meeting with the fire and ambulance staff. Councilor Koivunen and City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek were also in attendance. Lillis said the Public Safety Committee plans to have future meetings with the fire and ambulance departments.

The Iron Range Resources Residential Redevelopment Grant Program is available to Eveleth property owners who want a residential structure (house, garage, and accessory structures) demolished. The deadline to apply is May 29, 2015.

Councilor Hadrava reported on the Joint Trail Board. Hadrava indicated the Board continues to work at expanding the trail to Station Road 44. Hadrava highlighted Veterans Lake Park

as a great setting to hold a graduation party. He also commended Shelly Holmes on her efforts with Katherine's House.

**L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Director Wiskow informed the public that May 1<sup>st</sup> is the opening date for Veterans Park. The Golf Course opened last Wednesday. The Public Works Department will be working on the 200 block of Hayes Street tomorrow. Traffic will be blocked in that area tomorrow and possibly Thursday. Wiskow reminded the public of the schedule for Spring Clean Up at the City Garage.

Councilor Hadrava asked about progress at the City Auditorium. Director Wiskow said there are a few items remaining on the punch list for Phase II of the project.

**M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:

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Jackie Monahan-Junek  
City Clerk Administrator

Approved: May 5, 2015  
Published: May 15, 2015