

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., May 6, 2014**  
**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 Brad Hadrava, Present  
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present  
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present  
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, 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 Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve the following minutes:*

1. *Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held April 15, 2014; and*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held April 15, 2014.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Agenda with the following addition: J13. Donation Request from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. Ayes – All.*

**E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Appointment of Richard High to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve appointment of Richard High to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority for the term 5/6/2014 to 12/31/2017. Ayes – All.*

## F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Larry Bol, West Eveleth resident, presented the Council with photos of the Eveleth Recycling Center. Mr. Bol indicated he is 54 years old, and started receiving blight warnings back in 1996. Since receiving the letters from the City, Bol said he has had a lousy feeling about himself. He referred to the City's recycling center calling the area a hazardous waste site minus the toxins, dangers, and explosives. He said it is a dump. Bol admitted to taking photos over the last few years. He also has video graphic evidence of garbage blowing through traffic and into the Simonson and Bontems property (located adjacent to the recycling center).

Bol said he realizes right now that his property "looks like a dump," but that no one in town gets more excited about the recycling time than he does. He has stuff staged and ready to go down to the dumpsters, as there is good money in it. He said, "In a bad economy when they don't want to hire a 54 year old veteran or cowboy, you do what you can to pay your taxes."

Mr. Bol went on to refer to a past conversation with Councilor Lillis (former Police Chief). Bol said he realized at that time, "If it's good enough for you, but too good for me; that's discrimination. When I try to live by your standards, and I don't make it, and you holler at me; that's harassment. For the eighteen years, I've put up with it, and people laugh at me, and call me 'Blight Man'; that's defamation of character."

Bol said he has all of the proof in the photos which have been duplicated and sent to a law firm "far out of this area where the Iron Range Buddy-Buddy system won't apply." Bol said he spoke with the law firm two years ago, and was instructed that if this happens again to give them the green light to begin action. Bol said eighteen years is one third of his natural, healthy, life of putting up with this. He said, "If it's good enough for you, it's good enough for me. Chiseled above the Supreme Court it says 'Equal Justice Under Law.'"

Bol also referred to the owner of the Days Inn, Steve Carlson. Bol said speaking about Mr. Carlson, "from one nut to another," is defamatory. He said that Carlson had more spirit, more dream, and more courage than almost any man in the room. He defended Carlson pointing out that he has been through bad circumstances including an angry ex-wife, and floods that wiped out his income property in Duluth. In spite of his circumstances, Carlson stayed at the property this winter and worked as "a one man band," and has done well. Bol has keys and is watching the place, as there have been 13 incidents of break-ins and vandalism. Bol said that Carlson is in Texas talking to someone about the property, and encouraged any member of the Council to come and see what Carlson has done by himself, without money. He said that he wished when the Council talked about him that they would realize the shoes he has walked in are not a good fit. Bol said he does not want to start anymore fires, and wants to handle his own issues tonight.

Bol brought up the blight notice which states he has two weeks to clean up his mess. He said it would have been taken care of it, but he has walked into a very hard and exciting job. Bol

said, he “has been busier than a one-legged man at a butt kicking contest.” Everything in his yard is staged and ready to go to the recycling, but he is working hard from 8:00 a.m. to until 5:30 p.m. business hours, and the recycling center closes. Bol asked the Council, “Do you or don’t you think I have a case against you for discrimination, harassment and defamation of character?”

He reiterated that he has 151 photos and five video episodes of garbage in action. He said, “That’s your responsibility. Those well paid union employees drive by it daily, hoping it’s not their turn to pick up garbage.” He said, “A one-legged, one-eyed dog could get through that fence. There is garbage and broken glass; everything is lofted by the northwest winds and down range into other people’s private property.”

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said Bol brings up a good point regarding defamation of character. Vlasisavljevich asked Bol how long he has been receiving blight complaints. Bol said he has been cited for blight every two years for eighteen years, and it seems to coincide with the tax audit of his property. Vlasisavljevich said, “You know, people are worried about hurting people’s feelings, now you just say all the City employees don’t do anything.”

Bol denied stating City employees don’t do anything. He said, “There’s a big pot of gold at the end of that black and blue rainbow that’s been strapped to my back.” Mayor Vlasisavljevich began to speak, but was interrupted by Bol. Bol continued, “I have been hurting. I am one of the best, nicest guys, and I promise you in a bad situation you want me on your back. I’m a combat medic, a tenure honorably discharged veteran, and I don’t ask favors, but I want compassion and common sense from this Council when things are being said about people. I want you to look at your mess, and then look at my mess. Ask yourself, if it’s good enough for us, is it too good for him?” Bol went on to say he wanted to know how the Council was going to deal with him. He said, “I’m trying, but, somebody’s not trying.” Bol indicated he wants resolution, but if he gets more grief than he can handle, he’s going to call that law firm and ask for help, and something in return. Bol said he knows black from white now, and that what the City is doing is the same that he is doing. Bol said the City wrote the standards, and is not living up to them. That is where the discrimination comes in. Bol said he was going to “shut up” for a minute and let his blood pressure settle down.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said it’s a free country, you can do what you want. Bol responded, “No, it’s not free. I am a veteran. There are 13 million of us that fought for those freedoms. Somebody is paying for it. I don’t want thank you’s. I don’t want parades. I just want somebody with compassion and common sense to understand I’m trying.”

Vlasisavljevich said that the City has tried to work with Mr. Carlson of the Days Inn. He has talked with him personally, and was led astray many times. Vlasisavljevich pointed out the significant amount of back taxes owed on the property. Bol said Carlson lost 13 sources of income in Duluth. Vlasisavljevich said the pictures online of the Days Inn property are misleading to public. Bol told the Mayor, “If you would sign a waiver that you are a big boy, and aren’t going to get hurt, I would put you in gloves; if you want a hard hat, and a lamp. I

will walk you through that and let you see for yourselves what he has done.” Bol said that Carlson was bullied when he was younger, and now feels threatened by the Council. Mayor asked Bol if he thinks it is fair to the community for Carlson not to pay his taxes.

Bol said, “Wait a minute.” Vlasisavljevich responded, “No, you wait a minute. I am going to talk.” Vlasisavljevich pointed out that Carlson owns one of the biggest buildings in town and has made no attempt to reconcile. Carlson has made every effort to make sure the City cannot acquire the property. Bol and Vlasisavljevich continued dialogue regarding the former Days Inn. Bol continued to explain Carlson’s efforts in trying to reopen the site.

After much dialogue, Bol said, “I don’t want to talk about that anymore. I want to talk about Larry Bol and his little funny farm in West Eveleth, my little one third of an acre.” Bol commented on several of the items mentioned in the blight citation. Bol again compared his property to the City’s recycling center. Bol asked, “Where do we stand in the next 14 days.”

City Attorney Brunfelt said, “Where we stand in the next 14 days is what’s in that directive. Clean it up pursuant to that directive. If you don’t, then the procedures of the ordinance will be followed by the police department, and we will go to the next step. So, that’s the directive that has been given to you by our blight enforcement officer. You comply with that directive, and get it cleaned up. If you don’t, we will go to the next step in the enforcement process. If you want, you will have your opportunity in Court, if this ends up with a citation. You will have your opportunity to state your case to the judge at that point and time.” Bol said he would not be alone when he does that, and asked Brunfelt to describe equal rights. Attorney Brunfelt said the City is done with the conversation, and reiterated that his five minute time limit had been exceeded, and the Mayor is the chair of the meeting.

Bol said, “You are trying to explain to an army sergeant the chain of command? I understand what insubordination is.” Brunfelt asked Mayor Vlasisavljevich for the floor. He told Bol that he would be considered out of order if he does not comply with the rules of quorum in a public meeting. If Bol is out of order he would be cited for disorderly conduct. Brunfelt explained to Bol that he has the directive from law enforcement. If the directive is not followed, the next step of the ordinance will be followed. Brunfelt said the discussion was over.

Bol thanked the Council for their time.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Payroll – April 1-15, 2014 in the amount of \$97,280.23
2. Approval of Claims – April 2014 in the amount of \$753,856.62
3. Probationary Employee, Michelle Harju, Status Changed to Regular Employee
4. Temporary Lease Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Dr. E.W. Draper, LLC

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

## H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

## I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## J. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Resolution Accepting Donation for National Night Out

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2014-12, “Resolution Accepting Donation for National Night Out.” Ayes – All.*

Councilor Peterson clarified that these dollars were given by the Eveleth Horizons to the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce for PUCK Days. With PUCK Days no longer an event, the Chamber disbursed the funds for National Night Out and the Fourth of July.

### 2. Consider accepting bid for Hayes Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement project

Bids were received for the Hayes Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements project at 10:00 a.m. on April 30, 2014 as follows:

Bidder	Amount of Bid
Jola & Sopp Eveleth, MN	\$135,146.00
Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN	\$158,745.00
Casper Construction Grand Rapids, MN	\$170,799.55
Ulland Bros. Cloquet, MN	\$172,650.00
Hibbing Excavating Hibbing, MN	\$188,616.601

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to accept bid for Hayes Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project from Jola & Sopp in the amount of \$135,146.00. Ayes – All.*

### 3. Consider accepting bid for 2014 Street & Alley Improvements project

Bids were received for the 2014 Street & Alley Improvements project at 10:00 a.m. on April 30, 2014 as follows:

Bidder	Amount of Base Bid + Add Alternate 1
Mesabi Bituminous Gilbert, MN	\$417,500.50
Hibbing Excavating Hibbing, MN	\$438,471.40
Ulland Bros. Cloquet, MN	\$465,922.30
Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN	\$482,253.95

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to accept bid from Mesabi Bituminous, Gilbert, MN for the 2014 Street & Alley Improvements Project and Add Alternate 1 in the amount of \$417,500.50 Ayes – All.*

**4. Consider accepting quotation for 2014 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning & Televising Project**

Quote packages were sent out and opened on April 30, 20134 for sanitary sewer cleaning & televising as follows:

Bidder	Amount of Bid
Midwest Trenchless	\$18,587.10
Westco Environmental	\$18,704.00
Great Lakes Pipe Service	\$19,288.50
American Environmental	\$26,302.50
Veit Disposal	\$26,887.00
Infratech	\$28,406.70

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to accept quotation for 2014 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning & Televising Project from Midwest Trenchless in the amount of \$18,587.10. Ayes –All.*

**5. Consider approving Pay Request No. 1 for Eveleth City Auditorium Renovation, Phase II Project**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$59,090.00 to Lenci Enterprises, Inc. for the Eveleth City Auditorium Renovation Phase II Project. Ayes – All.*

**6. Consider approving Final Pay Request to St. Louis County for SAP 69-742-002 Grant Avenue/Park Avenue Storm Sewer and Utility Improvements**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Final Pay Request to St. Louis County for SAP 69-742-002 Grant Avenue/Park Avenue Storm Sewer and Utility Improvements in the amount of \$29,968.52. Ayes – All.*

**7. Consider accepting quotation for purchase of twenty 300-gallon refuse dumpsters**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve purchase of twenty 300-gallon refuse dumpsters. Ayes – All.*

**8. Consider approving payments for thawing two frozen water services and one frozen sanitary sewer service**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to approve payments for thawing two frozen water services (1102 and 1103 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) and one frozen sanitary sewer service (809 Pierce Street). Ayes – All.*

**9. Consider authorizing construction of an addition to Golf Cart Shack #3**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to authorize construction of addition to Golf Cart Shack #3. Ayes – Koivunen, Hadrava, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Peterson (due to conflict of interest).*

Councilor Koivunen, Golf Course Commission Councilor Liaison, said the idea was brought up about a year ago, but the cost was too expensive. The new addition will be adding 23 spots. The Golf Course already has 19 people on a waiting list for golf cart storage.

**10. Consider authorizing the purchase of a new riding mower for the Golf Course**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize purchase of a new riding mower at the Eveleth Golf Course in the amount of \$8,505.00, and to add the bagger option at \$1,600 if needed. Ayes – All.*

**11. Consider approving 2014 Golf Course Rates**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve 2014 Golf Course Rates with language change offered by Councilor Peterson to Public Works Director. Ayes – All.*

**12. Consider increasing adult casual hourly rate**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to increase the adult casual pay rate to \$11.00 per hour, and the student casual pay rate to \$9.00 per hour. Ayes – All.*

### **13. Donation Request from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee**

*Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to approve donation request from the Fourth of July Committee in the amount of \$2,500. Ayes – All.*

Councilor Koivunen said the original street dance budget was at \$900 about 20 years ago. Today, the expense account is \$45,000. The City donates \$2,500 with the rest being donated by private contributors. Koivunen encouraged the public to make donations, stating any amount is not too small.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich announced the Louie Muhich as this year's Grand Marshall.

## **K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Hadrava thanked Larry Bol for coming to the Council Meeting and speaking his mind.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said that Mr. Bol has lived in town for a long time, and that he appreciates him taking the time to come to the Council Meeting.

Councilor Peterson announced meetings to be held regarding the City establishing a rental housing code. Legal Aid will provide resources at the meetings which will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the following times:

May 27, 2014 (all residents)  
May 28, 2014 (landlords and others interested)  
May 29, 2014 (tenants)

Councilor Peterson thanked the police and fire crew for their assistance during a recent fire at her home.

## **L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Police Chief – Chief Koivunen reminded citizens that blight season is upon us. The Police Department has been receiving complaints and are working diligently. Residents are asked to try and keep their properties updated and clean. Blight questions and complaints should be directed to the Police Department.

Public Works Director - Director Wiskow said the City is looking for students at least 16 years of age for the 2 week summer work program. Interested students should come in to City Hall to sign up. Wiskow says the spring clean-up refuse schedule continues, and yard

waste will be picked up on May 12. Wiskow instructed residents that they should be able to discontinue running water on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If the time is extended, residents are encouraged to check the media sites of City Hall.

Clerk-Administrator – Monahan-Junek indicated a link for property tax refund information will be listed on the City’s website.

**M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned 7:56 p.m.

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Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:

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Jackie Monahan-Junek  
City Clerk

Approved: May 20, 2014

Published: May 30, 2014