

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., May 17, 2011
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 Joseph Koivunen, Present
Councilor Brian Hoag, Present
Councilor Bradley Hadrava, Present
Mayor Robert Vlaisavljevich, Present

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve the Minutes of City Council Workshop held May 3, 2011 and Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 3, 2011. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority
2. Appointment to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to appoint Garrison Hale to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority for the term 5/17/2011 to 12/31/2013 and Patti Chopp to the EDA for the term 5/17/2011 to 5/3/2013. Ayes – All.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – April 16-30, 2011 in the amount of \$107,788.21

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hoag to approve payroll for April 16-30, 2011 in the amount of \$107,788.21. Ayes – All.

2. Resolution Accepting Donation from Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. for Movies in the Park

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Peterson to adopt Resolution No. 2011-07, “Resolution Accepting Donation for Movies in the Park.” Ayes – All.

3. Request to transfer 2010 Golf Course Fundraiser proceeds to Golf Course Fundraiser Fund

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to authorize transfer of 2010 Golf Course Fundraiser proceeds to the Golf Course Fundraiser Fund. Ayes – All.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Application of Mesabi Range Community and Technical College for a Conditional Use Permit to install, maintain, and operate a wind-turbine type, electrical generator upon a 100 foot tower

Mayor Vlaisavljevich called the Public Hearing to order at 7:07 p.m.

Tony Jeffries, Eveleth Planning Commission, explained the application from the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College. The College is seeking a Conditional Use Permit to install a 100 foot wind-turbine tower. Jeffries said the Planning Commission recommends the Council approve the Conditional Use Permit, but should consider setting operational conditions and require the school to carry additional insurance.

City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt said the City would have minimal liability and certain governmental immunities regarding the property. Brunfelt said that the indemnification language might be more than what is needed, but it would not hurt anything to add the language.

Dan Janisch, Mesabi College Department Head and Instructor for the Wind Energy Technology Program, said he does not believe the tower will have a negative affect on the City or disturb the Super 8 Hotel. He said the goal of the tower is to make their Wind Program more competitive.

Jeffries said the structural design of the tower has been reviewed by Labor and Industry. The College has been issued approval if the construction is done in compliance.

Bill Aho, owner of Super 8 Hotel, said he is excited about the project as it gives the College an opportunity to offer this program to our community. Aho said he is fine with the tower as long as it does not disturb his patrons at night.

Bob Stevens, Electrical and Industrial Instructor for the College, said faculty from Mesabi Range visited the Lakes College in Iowa to learn about their alternative energy program. Stevens said they came back wanting to develop a top notch program at Mesabi Range. He contributed Representative Tom Rukavina's efforts to getting more money allocated to Northern Minnesota. Stevens said that Rukavina's plan is to draw more industrial jobs and diverse training from the current primary focus on the mining industry.

Dave Leveille, General Manager for Minnesota Power, said he is advocating for the tower on behalf of Minnesota Power. Installation of the tower will enhance the College's program and attract a broad range of students to train in the use of clean energy. Leveille commended the College for their efforts as all of the equipment and labor to build the program have been donated to the College.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich thanked Jeffries and the Planning Commission for their work and closed the Public Hearing.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Application of Mesabi Range Community and Technical College for a Conditional Use Permit to install, maintain, and operate a wind-turbine type, electrical generator upon a 100 foot tower

Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Application of Mesabi Range Community and Technical College for a Conditional Use Permit to install, maintain, and operate a wind-turbine type, electrical generator upon a 100 foot tower upon the Eveleth campus described as That part of the NW ½ of the NE ½ of Section 32, T58N, R17W lying Easterly of the R.O.W. of U.S. Highway #53 with following conditions:

- 1. Mesabi Range Community and Technical College will address any post construction issues or the facility would be out of service until such issues could be addressed; and*
- 2. Mesabi Range Community and Technical College will provide a written hold harmless indemnification to the City of Eveleth.*

Ayes – All.

2. Consider requiring foundation/roof drain ordinance compliance in area between Grant Avenue and Adams Avenue from Fayal Road to Hayes Street

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava requiring compliance of Eveleth City Code Section 3.30, subd. 5A for areas of Grant Avenue to Adams Avenue from Fayal Road to Hayes Street. Ayes – All.

As part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Stipulation Agreement, the City will be implementing a schedule for inspections of foundation/roof drains in the area from Grant Avenue and Adams Avenue, and the area from Fayal Road to Hayes Street. Director Wiskow said there will be approximately 64 properties which will need to be inspected. Those properties not in compliance will have 90 days to conform. Wiskow is working to obtain information on possible loan or grant programs available to assist residential and commercial customers needing to make modifications.

3. Consider accepting proposal from Benchmark Engineering for foundation/roof drain inspection

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to accept proposal from Benchmark Engineering for foundation/roof drain inspection in the amount of \$8,240.00 for properties located between Grant and Adams Avenue, from Fayal Road to Hayes Street. Ayes – All.

4. Letter from Cruise Eveleth Car Show regarding August 26, 2011 event

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to approve request to block off Grant Avenue (from Jackson Street to Monroe Street) and Jones Street (from Adams Avenue to Douglas Avenue) during the afternoon and evening of Friday, August 26, 2011 for the Cruise Eveleth Car Show. Ayes – All.

5. EDA Storefront and Community Development Loan Guidelines Package

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hoag to support the EDA Storefront and Community Development Loan Guidelines Package. Ayes – All.

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek said the opportunity would be available to any business in town, and is not exclusive to the downtown area.

6. Appointment of John Rauzi as Ambulance Director

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hoag to appoint John Rauzi to the position of Ambulance Director for the term May 19, 2011 to January 31, 2013. Ayes – All.

7. Lot Purchase Request from Lindsay & Steven Hambly (Lot 2, Block 81, Dorr Addition to Eveleth)

Monahan-Junek informed the Council that the pending purchase agreement for the house next to the vacant lot has fallen through. No action was taken by the Council.

8. Request from United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum to hold golf tournament August 20, 2011 at the Eveleth Golf Course

Doug Palazzari, United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum, requested permission by his memorandum dated May 13, 2011, to hold the Hall of Fame's annual golf tournament at the Eveleth Golf Course. The Eveleth Golf Commission has voted to support a request to waive the green fees for the event.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve request from the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum to hold a golf tournament on August 20, 2011 at the Eveleth Golf Course and to waive the green fees for the event. Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director: Director Wiskow said he just received plans on routing for the 43 million dollar fiber optic project which will be handled through the Northeast Service Coop. Wiskow has not yet heard the timetable associated with the project, but believed the job should begin sometime this year.

City Engineer: Eric Fallstrom said a preconstruction meeting will be held this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall with the contractor for the 2011 Capital Improvement Project. Fallstrom also noted that the contractor from last year's Grant/Park Avenue improvement will be in town to start on a punch list and prepare for the final paving right after Memorial Day.

Councilor Peterson said she will not be at the next Council Meeting due to medical leave. Peterson said she appreciated all of the residents who participated in the May 10th Community Meeting. She also mentioned that Congressman Chip Cravaack will be holding a meeting open to the public at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Iron this evening until 10:00 p.m.

Councilor Hoag said the Fire Commission just hired three new firefighters. The Eveleth Fire Department will be continue advertising as they are looking to add a few more members.

Councilor Hadrava reported on the last Airport Authority Meeting in which discussion took place on tree trimming of properties close to the vicinity of the Airport.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said now that the grass is growing, the blight concerns will be on the rise. Chief Lillis said that each blight complaint is taken on a case by case basis. Lillis said that some situations are more challenging to deal with due to absentee property owners.

There are occasions when the bank is notified to deal with properties. Other more urgent, hazardous situations may involve the City crew cleaning up the mess and billing the property owner.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Attest:

Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Jackie Monahan-Junek
City Clerk/Administrator

Approved: June 7, 2011
Published: June 15, 2011