

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., September 3, 2013
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 Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Councilor Bradley Hadrava, 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; Assistant Director of Public Works Jerry Rosati; Benchmark Engineering, Eric Fallstrom

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Minutes of City Council Workshop held August 6, 2013 and Minutes of City Council Meeting held August 6, 2013. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – July 16-31, 2013 in the amount of \$119,271.58

2. Approval of Payroll – August 1-15, 2013 in the amount of \$107,825.74
3. Approval of Claims – August 2013 in the amount of \$478,895.08
4. Request for Sergeant Ness to attend 2013 MN Toward Zero Deaths Conference, November 14-15, 2013, St. Cloud, MN
5. Request for Dan Nitz, Water/Wastewater Operator, to attend Land Application of Biosolids Basic seminar, September 17-19, 2013, Alexandria, MN

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Iron Range Paranormal Research to use Eveleth Cemetery

Michael John Gams, Iron Range Paranormal Research, requested permission to use the Eveleth Cemetery for a paranormal study. Gams said they are currently waiting to hear back from two cemetery boards as to whether they can gain access in those cities to conduct paranormal research. Gams said they respect the cemetery, do not touch the stones, and stay on the trails. Gams said he was informed by Deputy Sheriff Kick that in order to avoid trespassing charges, they should gain access to the cemetery through the permission of the cemetery owners.

Gams explained their equipment which includes full spectrum cameras and laser grid systems. Gams said they would not be flashing vehicles with the lights. He has talked with Police Chief Koivunen who had said he did not have a problem with their group in the cemetery as long as the Police Department was informed ahead of time. Gams said they are asking to work in the cemetery from 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. about three or four times each summer. Most of their research has been done at the Lakeview Cemetery. However, due to recent vandalism, the City of Buhl will not allow anyone in the cemetery after hours.

Councilor Lillis asked about the purpose of their research. Gams explained they study life after death. They try to capture full body apparitions, ectoplasms, and spirit orbs. They perform audio recordings and EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomena). They use equipment that can hear as low as five decibels which is way beyond the human ear. They ask questions of the spirits; recording and playing back the answers.

Councilor Lillis asked if this information is published. Gams said that some information is public, but they do this research on their own without pay. If the City does not want any pictures or information posted, they would abide by that request.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the cemetery is a very emotional place. Gams said they just want to investigate several cemeteries because each cemetery does have spirit orbs. Gams reiterated that most of their research has been in the Lakeview Cemetery which will now take place during the daytime hours due to Buhl's no after hour policy.

Councilor Peterson asked if the group has a website. Gams said the website is in progress. Their organization started a few months ago. They have been going to each City to seek permission for access to their cemetery.

Councilor Peterson asked Chief Koivunen if he had any concerns. Chief Koivunen said the cemetery is open at all hours, but the Police Department does have extra patrol at night. Koivunen said he spoke with Mr. Gams, but explained to Gams that his request would have to come before the Council.

Councilor Koivunen said as long as they are staying on the paths and not messing with anyone's grave he did not see a problem with their request. Gams said he has seven loved ones buried at the Eveleth Cemetery. They would be taking a few snapshots and will not walk on any graves or touch any stones. They treat the cemetery with respect. They do not provoke or anger the spirits by forcing them to do things. Gams said they are a very legitimate paranormal investigation group.

Councilor Koivunen asked the City Attorney if there would be any legal concerns. Attorney Brunfelt said he did not see any legal issues as long as law enforcement and the City Council approve the request.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said he is more concerned with upsetting "the ones on this side of the sod." Councilor Lillis said he agreed that there is a sanctity to the cemetery. Lillis said he was concerned with a precedence the City might be setting with allowing activity in the cemetery after hours. Vlasisavljevich suggested waiting to hear back from the public before making a decision.

Councilor Koivunen asked if the group could come back to the next Council Meeting. Gams said they would be available. Councilor Peterson said she appreciated that the group has volunteered to clean up the trash at the cemetery. Gams said that they have seen vandalism increase. Their group has had death threats by kids yelling at them in the cemetery. Gams said that everything they do is audio logged and recorded. They would be happy to provide any criminal activity or trespassing recordings to law enforcement.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said he is not saying a flat out "No," and that he appreciates the group coming forward to the meeting. Vlasisavljevich said that some people spend a lot

of time at the cemetery. They might have lost their only loved one. He wants to make sure the City does not upset anyone.

Councilor Koivunen said the public would have an opportunity to come to the next meeting and ask questions. Councilor Peterson said, "Maybe they will want to join you?"

Gams said they have had several offers from people wanting to join their organization; however, they have found it better to keep to a five man team. They are just trying to do this the legal and legitimate way to avoid trespassing charges. They do not want people to drive by, "thinking they are a bunch of weirdoes hanging out in the graveyard in the middle of the night." Gams said he wants the public to know what they do and who they are.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested the group give the Council some more time to for public input.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will be in contact with Gams to inform him of the meeting date and time.

2. Letter of Resignation from Garrison Hale from Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to accept the resignation from Garrison Hale from the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.

3. Resignation from Mike Hogan from Iron Range Tourism Board

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to accept resignation of Mike Hogan from the Iron Range Tourism Board. Ayes – All.

4. Resolution Establishing Proposed Tax for Year 2014

Motion by Councilor Peterson second by Councilor Hadrava to adopt Resolution No. 2013-21, "Resolution Establishing Proposed Tax for Year 2014." Ayes – All.

5. Set date for Public Hearing to present proposed budget and levy for 2014

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Koivunen to schedule a public hearing to present the proposed budget and levy for 2014 to be held at the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Ayes – All.

6. Request from The Heart of the Continent

The Heart of the Continent Partnership will be working with the National Geographic Society to create and maintain a National Geographic Geotourism website for the Heart

of the Continent region. The city of Eveleth has been invited to participate in this effort which would promote tourism and help local residents learn about their resources. Councilor Peterson and City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek are a part of the Heart of the Continent Partnership and have travelled to attend some of their meetings.

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize City Clerk Administrator to support the National Geographic Society Geotourism project in the amount of \$2,000 from the City's marketing fund. Ayes – All.

7. Consider accepting quotation for purchase of bulk de-icing salt

The following quotations were received for bulk de-icing salt on August 21, 2013:

Morton Salt Co. \$9,831.00
North American Salt Co. \$9,966.00 plus fuel surcharge

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to accept quotation from Morton Salt Co. in the amount of \$9,831.00 for furnishing and delivering of bulk de-icing salt. Ayes – All.

8. Donation Request from Eveleth-Gilbert Leadership Group for contribution to Eveleth-Gilbert High School Athletic Club

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to deny the donation request from the Eveleth-Gilbert Leadership Group for a contribution to the Eveleth-Gilbert High School Athletic Club as it does not meet public purpose. Ayes – All.

Councilor Peterson and Councilor Hadrava both encouraged the group to refine their request so that the City could donate within the public purpose guidelines.

9. Resolution Accepting Donation for Movies in the Park

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2013-22, "Resolution Accepting Donation for Movies in the Park." Ayes – All.

Minnesota Power donated \$300 towards Movies in the Park.

10. Approve Payment from 3D Construction & Concrete in the amount of \$9,732.03 for Curb and Sidewalk Replacement

Motion by Councilor Peterson, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve payment request from 3D Construction & Concrete in the amount of \$9,732.03 for Curb and Sidewalk Replacement. Ayes – All.

11. Approve Payment from 3D Concrete & Construction in the amount of \$10,600.00 for Library Gazebo Sidewalk, Foundation, and Landscaping

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Peterson to approve payment request from 3D Concrete & Construction in the amount of \$10,600.00 for the Library Gazebo Sidewalk, Foundation, and Landscaping. Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Peterson announced a public hearing to be held tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. with Minnesota Power regarding their reroute of the high voltage lines.

Councilor Koivunen said the Annual Corn Feed and Car Show was successful this year. It seems to be growing larger every year.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief – Chief Koivunen thanked those who helped with the robbery at the 400 Block of Grant Avenue on August 16th. Koivunen said quick action was taken by Eveleth citizens who witnessed the robbery and called 911. Other citizens apprehended the suspect until law enforcement could respond to the call. Koivunen said all the property was given back to the business, and he hopes to honor those citizens with a recognition award in the near future.

Chief Koivunen also reminded the public to drive carefully as school is in session. Chief Koivunen will be attending a meeting in Virginia regarding the possibility of a smoke shop ordinance. He will report back with information.

Councilor Peterson asked if the D.A.R.E. program addresses synthetics. Chief Koivunen will find out from the D.A.R.E. officer, and report back to Councilor Peterson.

Public Works Director – Assistant Public Works Director Jerry Rosati advised the public that the City will be flushing hydrants starting September 9th. Residents should not be alarmed if they experience some discolored water at the start of the hydrant flushing.

City Engineer – Eric Fallstrom, Benchmark Engineering, gave an update on the Jones Street Improvement Project. The project is expected to continue through the middle of October.

Councilor Koivunen asked the public for continued patience as the project wraps up. He said the end result will be well worth it.

City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt said the LELS arbitration has been completed. The arbitrator will give his award and will be writing the contract language.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked if the Public Works Department could have a map of the street overlays for public viewing at the December 10th meeting. Councilor Koivunen said there

are a lot of bad streets in town, and asked the public to bear with the City as it works to fix some of them.

M. ADJOURN

The Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Monahan-Junek
City Clerk Administrator

Approved: September 17, 2013