

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., November 17, 2015**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop held November 3, 2015; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held November 3, 2015.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

1. Steve Giorgi, RAMS Executive Director at 7:45 p.m.

Steve Giorgi addressed the Council. Giorgi is the newly appointed RAMS Executive Director. RAMS currently has 44 members made up of 15 school districts, 20 cities, and 9 townships. He described RAMS role as the “Watchdog at the Legislature.” RAMS has updated their bylaws, and now has a website.

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

None.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Payroll – October 16-31, 2015 in the amount of \$123,167.43
2. Minnesota Historical Society Contract 4609315 for United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum pass through funding

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

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **1. Final Assessment Hearing for 2014 Street & Alley Improvements Project**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich convened the public hearings at 6:57 p.m.

Polly Sorcan, resident, questioned the letter received from the City which indicates she will be assessed \$2,010.65. Director Wiskow explained that pursuant to the City's Special Assessment Policy, 60 percent of the alley improvement costs are billed to the property owners and 20 percent is paid by the City. Sorcan questioned costs for concrete and whether or not the City received any grants for this project. Wiskow explained that all of these costs are part of the total improvement costs. He did not recall if any grants were received for this project.

Martin Ryll, 902 Central Court, asked if the City was able to make any adjustments to his assessment amount (Project No. A-3, No. 16). Director Wiskow explained that the Adjusted Front Footage method from the Special Assessment Policy was used, but still is not equitable for this very unique shaped property. Even under the odd shaped lot adjustment to 220.25 feet, the assessment is \$4,901.56. The suggestion from Wiskow is to reduce the width of the property where the depth is 50 feet or greater, or to 92.97 feet which will make the final assessment \$3,738.60.

Ryll asked about a speed limit in the alley. He said the City put up a sign, but it was in the wrong alley. Wiskow said the speed limit in alleys is 10 miles per hour. He will work with Police Chief Koivunen to see if there is a solution. Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested a speed bump be placed in the alley. Wiskow confirmed with Ryll that speed is a problem in the Central Court alley.

### **2. Proposed Application to the St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant Program**

Public Director Jerry Rosati explained the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project segment located in the 700 and 800 blocks of Pierce Street. The proposed project is estimated at \$140,369.15. The City is requesting \$75,000 from the CDBG Grant Program.

### **3. Proposed Mesabi Trail™, Snowmobile Trail and OHV Trail route connections between Eveleth, Gilbert and Virginia**

Bob Manzoline, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, discussed the new proposed Mesabi Trail and Snowmobile Trail connection between Eveleth and Virginia due to the Highway 53 relocation. Manzoline said there is funding for about 19.5 million, most of which will go towards utility work. At this time, there are no plans for an OHV Trail route or connection.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek questioned how the trail would be screened. Manzoline indicated the plan was to use trees, bushes or fencing so that oncoming traffic will not be faced with lights from the snowmobilers. Monahan-Junek wondered if the screening would block business from being seen from the highway.

Bill Aho, owner of Super 8 Hotel, said the elevation is lower at points. Manzoline said there are two spots where that occurs. The trail will be relocated, but stay in the same general area. They are trying to get out of the swamp area and will be looking at another route farther back.

EJay Dawson, Eveleth business owner, said it was a big mistake not to add an ATV trail. He predicted problems with ATVs using the Mesabi Trail. He said that no one has been addressing ATVs and they bring in a lot of money. Manzoline said they have not had much luck finding where to put the trail. Manzoline said there had to battle to get the new bridge to be made wide enough to allow for bikes to travel across. It will be used for snowmobiles during the winter.

Another audience member voice concerns stating, “People staying at the Super 8 are going to need a trail. What’s going to stop them from using the (Mesabi) Trail?”

Manzoline asked the audience to please let him know of any suggested routes for an ATV trail.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked if MnDOT has any suggestions. Manzoline said only within the highway right of way. Manzoline said that no one wants the ATVs in Midway; that was a City of Virginia decision.

EJay Dawson asked if anyone has approached the landowner of the property off of Bourgin Road. Councilor Hadrava said the Joint ATV/OHV Trail Board had to provide a \$5 million dollar insurance certificate to RGGGS in order to use their land.

The original proposal for the new snowmobile trail was to utilize land owned by VEEDA. It was suggested to move the route to swampier areas or to follow up with the potential Bourgin Road option. Manzoline will meet with VEEDA again.

An audience member said the ATVs are ripping up the snowmobile trails. He said, "I don't see how you can stop the ATVs."

An audience member said he had served on the Eveleth-Gilbert Joint Trail Board and worked with wetland mitigation. He said there is money available for wetland mitigation.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said there are a lot of factors involved:

- What is feasible through VEEDA?
- What will the barrier or screens look like?
- Can we work with RGGGS to work out a deal for a combination trail?

Vlasisavljevich would like to hold another public meeting with Manzoline. Manzoline will have the map posted on the Mesabi Trail's website and give a copy to Monahan-Junek for the public's review.

The public meeting was closed, and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

## **I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Resolution Adopting Assessments for 2014 Street & Alley Improvements Project**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-28, "Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2014 Street & Alley Improvements Project." Ayes – All.*

### **2. Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Grant Application to the Fiscal Year 2016 St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant Program**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-29, "Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Grant Application to the Fiscal Year 2016 St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant Program." Ayes – All.*

### **3. Proposed Mesabi Trail™, Snowmobile Trail and OHV Trail route connections between Eveleth, Gilbert and Virginia**

This item was discussed at the public hearing portion of tonight's meeting. Bob Manzoline, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, will present again at a future public meeting.

### **4. Introduction and First Reading of an ordinance Amending Eveleth City Code, Chapter 11 Land Use Regulation (Zoning)**

Zoning Administrator Tony Jeffries explained the changes to Chapter 11 of the Land Use Regulation Zoning Code as follows:

- Expanded flexibility to have a detached property in a residential area;
- Expanded flexibility for home occupations; and
- Expanded flexibility for decks on properties.

Jeffries reported that no concerns were brought up at the Planning Commission Public Hearing.

*Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Introduction and First Reading of an ordinance Amending Eveleth City Code, Chapter 11 Land Use Regulation (Zoning). Ayes – All.*

**5. Second reading of an ordinance Amending the Eveleth City Charter, Adding Section 7.13 Improvement Bonds**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to approve adoption of Ordinance No. 66, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, “An Ordinance Amending the Eveleth City Charter, Adding Section 7.13 Improvement Bonds.” Ayes – All.*

**6. Letter of Intent between City of Eveleth and Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (to lease 1250 Industrial Park Drive, Eveleth, MN)**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Letter of Intent between City of Eveleth and Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to lease 1250 Industrial Park Drive, Eveleth, MN. Ayes – All.*

**7. Consider approving Change Order No. 2 for Eveleth City Auditorium Main Level Restrooms Renovation: Electrical Construction**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Change Order No. 2 from Hometown Electric, Virginia, MN in the amount of \$737.33 for the Eveleth City Auditorium Main Level Restrooms Renovation (Electrical Construction). Ayes – All.*

**8. Consider approving Pay Request No. 1-Final for Eveleth Auditorium Main Level Restrooms Renovation: Electrical Construction**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Pay Request No. 1-Final to Hometown Electric, Virginia, MN in the amount of \$5,737.33 for Eveleth Auditorium Main Level Restrooms Renovation: Electrical Construction. Ayes – All.*

**9. Consider adopting Stop Sign Retroreflectivity policy**

*Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt the Expected Sign Life Method for maintaining sign retroreflectivity standards imposed by the Federal Highway Administration. Ayes – All.*

**10. Resolution Supporting Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-30, “Resolution Supporting Central Iron Range Initiative Brownfield Redevelopment Program Coalition U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application.” Ayes – All.*

**11. Request to contribute to the cost of preparing U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application**

*Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Lillis to approve request to contribute \$400.00 towards the cost of preparing U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. Ayes – All.*

**12. Resolution Making Levy and Assessment Against Taxable Properties for Delinquent Assessments, Water, Refuse, and Sewer Collection Accounts**

*Motion by Councilor Hoag, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2015-31, “Resolution Making Levy and Assessment Against Taxable Properties for Delinquent Assessments, Water, Refuse, and Sewer Collection Accounts.” Ayes – All.*

**13. Resolution Accepting Donation for Library (Joyce Chapman in memory of Julia Jerome)**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-32, “Resolution Accepting Donation for Library (Joyce Chapman in Memory of Julia Jerome).” Ayes – All.*

The City accepted a \$10.00 donation from Joyce Chapman.

**14. Resolution Accepting Donation for Library (Tracy Bentley and Family)**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-33, “Resolution Accepting Donation for Library (Tracy Bentley and Family). Ayes – All.*

The City accepted a donation of Legos valued at \$500.00.

**15. Resolution Accepting Donation for K-9 Unit (St. Louis County Attorney’s Office)**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-34, “Resolution Accepting Donation for K-9 Unit (St. Louis County Attorney’s Office).” Ayes – All.*

Police Chief Koivunen has been in contact with the canine trainer. Officer Rick High has been chosen as the canine officer. The City expects to receive the dog in March.

**16. Request from Representative Metsa for City Council to consider Resolution Opposing Extension of Disastrous Trade Policies**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to adopt Resolution No. 2015-35, “Resolution Opposing Extension of Disastrous Trade Policies.” Ayes – All.*

**17. Approve purchase of Circle Assembly for 1983 Caterpillar 120G Motor Grader**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve purchase of Circle Assembly for 1983 Caterpillar 120G Motor Grader from Northland Tractor Repair, Inc. at a cost of \$5,000.00 plus freight estimated at \$750.00. Ayes – All.*

**18. Consider approving Renewal Application for Optional Liquor 2AM License for Snicker’s Lounge, 212 Grant Avenue, Eveleth, MN**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Renewal Application for Optional Liquor 2AM License for Snicker’s Lounge, 212 Grant Avenue, Eveleth, MN. Ayes – All.*

**19. Consider approving Renewal Application for Optional Liquor 2AM License for Red Garter Lounge, 214 Grant Avenue, Eveleth, MN**

*Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Hoag to approve Renewal Application for Optional Liquor 2AM License for Red Garter Lounge, 214 Grant Avenue, Eveleth, MN. Ayes – All.*

**K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Hadrava said the Eveleth-Gilbert High School swim team did well at regions.

It is Director Mike Wiskow’s last Council Meeting tonight. Wiskow will be retiring on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Wiskow said the Mayor and Council, former Mayors and Councilors, Commissioners and co-workers have been exceptional to work with. The Mayor, Council and staff members reflected on working with Wiskow and wished him good luck on his upcoming retirement. A retirement party open to the public on Monday, November 30, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Eveleth City Hall.

Attorney Bonnie Thayer announce the upcoming Curling Night in America to be held at Curl Mesabi on December 3 to 5, 2015. Some of the best curling teams in the world will compete. She extended an invitation for the public to attend and watch the event.

**L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Robert Vlasisavljevich, Mayor

Attest:

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Jackie Monahan-Junek  
City Clerk Administrator

Approved: December 1, 2015  
Published: December 11, 2015