

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
May 21, 2013
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
5:30 p.m.

Councilor Beth Peterson, Present
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Robert Vlaisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Director of Public Works Michael Wiskow; Chief of Police Timothy Koivunen; Benchmark Engineering, Eric Fallstrom

1. Summer Meeting Schedule

The Council will meet once a month during the summer. The meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month, and the City will hold a special meeting if necessary. The first meeting in August will be a budget meeting.

2. Establish interview committee for Library Technician

The Library Technician position has been posted internally with no applicants. The position will now be posted externally. The personnel committee will interview the applicants, and hope to have the new technician start by July 1st. The position is part-time at 20 hours per week.

3. Discuss filling vacant Water/Wastewater Operator Position

Director Wiskow said they are looking for a permanent solution to fill the vacant Water/Wastewater Operator position. One of the former applicants was interviewed. At the time of the last interview, the applicant possessed a "B" license. Since that time, the applicant has obtained an "A" license. Wiskow thought the interview was promising.

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek said the position has been reviewed by way of a comparative worth study, and the point value did not change. Director Wiskow compared area Class "A" Water/Wastewater Operator pay scales and determined that Eveleth is a little under the average. Councilor Lillis said he was in favor of giving the personnel committee authority to negotiate the pay scale. It was pointed out that the increase in pay scale would be based on the position and not the individual.

Monahan-Junek said the Union was informed, and did not have any objections to the potential change in pay.

The current assistant Water/Wastewater Operator will most likely retire in the next few years. Discussion took place on educating and possibly licensing existing City employees to serve as back ups to the plant.

The Council will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 8:15 a.m. to discuss hiring a new Water/Wastewater Operator.

4. Discuss Construction of Northside Skating Shack

The general consensus of the council is that the price has been coming in too high for the structure at the Northside Park.

Councilor Koivunen suggested the City have a shell put up and continue interior work as allowed. Councilor Hadrava asked if the City could receive a donation from Eveleth Youth Hockey for the shack, and in turn make a donation to Youth Hockey. Monahan-Junek said the City can receive donations, but is not allowed to make a contribution to Eveleth Youth Hockey. She said the Joint Recreation Board falls under the same standards as the City for bidding.

Discussion took place on having one contractor pour the foundation and another build a shell building. Councilor Lillis said they are dealing with quite a bit of money, and he would like to see the project done right.

Director Wiskow will call for bids based on Option 1 of his memo to the Council dated May 17, 2013.

5. Legislative Update

Monahan-Junek distributed information on LGA. The State will be imposing future levy limits on cities. Monahan-Junek will be getting some homestead information which she will forward on to the Council. The City should be receiving about \$480,000 in Taconite Money along with the \$75,000 pass through for the Hockey Hall of Fame.

6. City Auditorium Update

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said there are a lot of anxious people wanting to progress with the Auditorium project. Director Wiskow said the City needs to remove the hazardous materials and replace the sprinkler system. Once the hazardous material is removed, volunteers can start with cleanup.

Wiskow said he is waiting for some drawings from the architect regarding exit lighting. The Council would like the architectural plans within a week or the Council will look to move on to other architectural services.

The City will plan to start with using \$250,000 of Taconite Money towards the Auditorium. Gigi Grahek, Eveleth EDA, will work on a long term plan to determine the vision for the building use.

7. Discuss City Assessing and Zoning

Tony Jeffries is currently contracted for City zoning services. The County's agreement for assessing will expire in June. Councilor Peterson and Mayor Vlasisavljevich both agreed that it would be in the City's best interest to continue with the County. Vlasisavljevich said the assessing process is complex.

It was agreed to continue the zoning contract with Jeffries for one year.

8. 2012 Year-End

Monahan-Junek said there is an increase of \$600,000 from last year's general fund budget. She outlined some potential projects to include:

Fire Hall: Update difibulators, purchase fire hall gear, repair steps, etc.

City Hall: Install transaction window at the front desk, update Council Chamber sound system

Sirens: Chief Koivunen gave an update on the warning sirens. Eveleth's sirens are activated by the City of Virginia. The price to update the sirens would probably be just under \$40,000.

9. Discuss selling city owned vacant lot on B. Avenue to Bill McKenzie and Adam Venne

William McKenzie and Adam Venne are interested in purchasing the City owned lot on B Avenue. The lot is vacant and assessed at \$1,200. McKenzie and Venne are willing to pay a total of \$750 to purchase the property. Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the property is a 25 foot unbuildable property. The paperwork will be on the next Council Agenda for approval.

10. Discuss 2012 West Eveleth Lot Sale to Sidney Mark Knutson and Pamela F. Omersa

Last year Mark Knutson and Pamela Omersa purchased a lot from the City in West Eveleth. The original price of the lot was set at \$20,000 which was reduced by the City to \$10,000. Knutson and Omersa offered \$5,000 for lot. The sale was approved

by the City Council. After purchasing the lot, it was noted that the measurements were about 27 feet shorter than portrayed; however, the legal description is correct.

Mark Knutson said he is planning to build a garage and has applied for a permit. Knutson said he would like \$1,000 to make up for the lost space. Councilor Peterson said she is not in favor of reimbursing Knutson due to the low sale price of the lot. Mayor Vlasisavljevich offered \$600 to Knutson. This item will be on the next Council Agenda for consideration.

11. Discuss Days Inn

This item was not discussed.

12. Calendar parking on Elba Ave. and Fayal Ave. one block south of Jones Street – Hadrava

Councilor Hadrava would like to see calendar parking on Elba Avenue and Fayal Avenue (one block south of Jones Street). Hadrava said it is difficult for the buses driving that route to get through the street. The calendar parking could be effective during the school year.

Councilor Lillis supports the idea, but wondered about administration. Lillis said it may require an ordinance change.

13. Agenda Q&A

The following item was added to the Agenda:

J4. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the IRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program