

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
September 6, 2016
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
6:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Doug Gregor; Chief of Police Tim Koivunen; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Rodney Flannigan, Benchmark Engineering

Absent: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek

1. Discuss proposed water and sanitary sewer rate revisions

Director Rosati distributed information to the Council regarding recommendation for increases to the water and sanitary sewer rates. The last rate increases were in January of 2013. Rosati presented nine different variations of rate increases. Councilor Lillis said he was leaning towards the example which would give a nominal increase to services, and gallon increase would be based on usage. Councilor Koivunen and Lillis both agreed that keeping the service increase low, and raising the gallon rate based on usage would be most fair for residents.

The Council would like this item added to the next agenda. The Council will seek input from the public.

2. Discuss the need for storage space for public works

Director Rosati said the City is currently renting a storage facility to house Christmas decorations. The Public Works Department needs additional space for equipment. The Council discussed financing for a storage building.

Councilor Koivunen said the City has obtained ownership of the old Amoco building. The Council discussed using the building until this spring as storage for public works. Director Rosati said it would be a good building for temporary storage. The City intends to clean up the building to sell in the future.

3. Discuss West Eveleth vacant lots – Councilor Hoag

Councilor Hoag said he was questioned by a West Eveleth resident as to whether or not the City would be willing to sell a lot for a garage only. Councilor Koivunen said he remembered denying a past request to sell a lot for a garage. Bill Aho, EDA Board member, stated the City is looking for

tax base. Aho said a home brings tax base; not a garage. Councilor Hadrava said he would be willing to look at each individual situation.

Aho mentioned that he had volunteered to mark the trees so that potential buyers could properly visualize the land for sale. He said the area is thick with popple trees, and he had a hard time finding the pins.

Councilor Hadrava suggested Benchmark go out and mark the lots, and the Public Works Department used the brush hog to clear the lots.

4. Discuss 413 Douglas Ave. – Councilor Hadrava

Councilor Hadrava said he talked with Peter Bertucci, the owner of the building at 413 Douglas Avenue. Bertucci suggested a trade of land or an asking price of \$160,000. Per Bertucci, Minnesota Power has also expressed interest in his building. The Council asked Director Rosati if the building would work for storing public works equipment. Rosati said the building is large, but said it would need a lot of clean up.