

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
October 1, 2013
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
6:00 p.m.

Council present: Councilor Peterson, Councilor Koivunen, Councilor Lillis, Councilor Hadrava, Mayor Vlaisavljevich

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

1. Senate Bonding Tour Presentation

City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek and Eric Fallstrom, Benchmark Engineering, will attend the Senate Bonding Tour Presentation tomorrow in Hibbing to present the gravel pit and utility extension project.

2. Discuss possible cooperative police personnel staffing with City of Gilbert

Police Chief Koivunen said the City of Gilbert's Police Department is down by 25 percent of their workforce due to two officers with back injuries. A joint powers agreement with Gilbert would allow Eveleth's officers to cover shifts for Gilbert. The Eveleth officers would work overtime in Gilbert during their scheduled time off. The joint powers agreement would also allow Eveleth to utilize the Gilbert Police Department if needed.

The following item was added to the agenda:

J12. Approve Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Gilbert for Police Staffing

3. Discuss 2014 Street Improvement Project and IRRRB Public Works (FY14) Grant Program

Director Wiskow distributed a map of the surface condition survey to the Council. Wiskow listed streets by priority and also referred to the survey condition for alleys.

Councilor Peterson suggested the City include some alleys in the IRRRB grant application. The estimated cost for the overlaying projects is at \$250,000. Councilor Koivunen does not want to assess the cost to property owners. Koivunen said the overlay is a band aid fix for the problem. Director Wiskow suggested the Council review and revise the Assessment Policy which currently states property owners will be assessed 40% of the cost for overlay projects.

Director Wiskow mentioned the West Eveleth Tower. The project would not qualify for CDBG, and will need attention in the very near future.

4. Discuss repair of pavement settlement under Highway 53 at Progress Parkway water main crossing

While patching a pothole on Highway 53, MNDOT personnel found a void under the concrete pavement of the south bound lane just north of Five Seasons Sports Center. In this area, the City's water main crosses the highway. Director Wiskow is waiting for a quote from a contractor for repair estimates.

5. Discuss common water service problem and corrective actions

Director Wiskow discussed some areas of the City which were developed by the mining companies many years ago. In these areas, there are multiple houses served by common water and sanitary sewer services. When customers fail to pay their utility bills, the City cannot turn off the water without affecting the house next door. The City has two of these situations in the 100 block of Carrie Avenue. Wiskow said a contractor should be hired so that City staff does not cross onto private property. He said the land is leased, and the City has to obtain permission from the Fee Office to work on the property.

6. Agenda Q&A

Monahan-Junek said she received a call from Gary Cerkvenik. Cerkvenik would like to look at some City buildings for potential use by a company which has designed a 40 watt kilo solar system. The IRRRB would match with grant money, and the City would not be required to pay any out of pocket expenses. The deadline for the application is October 15th. It was the consensus of the Council that the grant deadline is too close for the Council to make a decision.