

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., January 3, 2024
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering; City Attorney Joel Lewicki

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve agenda with the following revision:

(Remove)

I.11. Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Anthony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – December 1-15, 2023 in the amount of \$195,478.99**
- 2. Approval of Claims – December 2023 in the amount of \$951,905.71**

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Consent Agenda Items F.1. and F.2. Ayes – All.

3. Vacation carryover request for Jim Wudinich

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Consent Agenda Item F.3. Ayes – All.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Acting Mayor

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to appoint Councilor Joseph Koivunen as the Acting Mayor in the absence of Mayor Vlasisavljevich. Ayes – All.

2. Designate Official Newspaper

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to designate the Hometown Focus as the City’s Official Newspaper for the year 2024. Ayes – All.

3. Designate Depository

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to designate Miners National Bank of Eveleth, MN as the depository for the City of Eveleth for 2024. Ayes – All.

4. Appointments to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize the following appointments to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority for 2024: Mayor Vlasisavljevich, Councilor Koivunen, Police Chief Jesse Linde. Ayes – All.

5. City Council Board & Liaison Appointments

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the following City Council Board & Liaison appointments:

Building and GroundsMayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Koivunen

City Owned Land Committee	Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Lillis
Donations Committee	Councilor Lillis & Councilor Koivunen
Eveleth Cemetery Committee	Councilor Koivunen & Councilor Rauzi
*Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority	Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Koivunen (Councilor Perpich – alternate)
Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Zoning Board	Councilor Koivunen
*Economic Development Authority	Councilor Rauzi & Councilor Lillis
*Golf Course Commission	Councilor Koivunen
*Joint ATV/OHM/Snowmobile Trail Board	Councilor Rauzi
Joint Cable Commission	Mayor Vlasisavljevich
*Parks Commission	Councilor Perpich
Personnel Sub-Committee	Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Koivunen
Planning Commission	Councilor Rauzi
Public Safety	Councilor Lillis & Councilor Koivunen
Public Utilities	Councilor Lillis & Mayor Vlasisavljevich
*Quad Cities Joint Recreation Authority Board	Councilor Koivunen
Streets and Alleys	Councilor Koivunen & Councilor Perpich
*VEEDA Board	Mayor Vlasisavljevich
Marketing Committee	Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Rauzi
*HRA	Councilor Rauzi & Councilor Lillis
Administrative Hearing Officers.....	Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Perpich

6. Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01, “Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties.” Ayes – All.

7. Third Amendment to Agreement Regarding School District Property

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Third Amendment to Agreement Regarding Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Schools. Ayes – All.

8. Purchase Agreement for Eveleth School Campus Properties

City Clerk Administrator said the ball field may be conveyed first to the City of Eveleth after demolition of those facilities.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Purchase Agreement with Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools, for the Eveleth School Campus Properties. Ayes – All.

9. Proposed roadway East of Slumberland

As part of the reconstruction of the Progress Parkway intersection at Highway 53, St. Louis County is planning to construct a new access road east of Slumberland that will

intersect with Progress Parkway. St. Louis County has requested the City of Eveleth determine whether this will be a private road or a City road.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to deem the new access road to be constructed to the east of Slumberland a City of Eveleth owned road. Ayes – All.

10. Resolution Approving Water & Sewer Rate Changes, and Restating Water, Sewer & Refuse Utility Rates

The new billing cycle for the rate increase will begin in February. Public Works Director Rosati will be sending out an informational letter to utility customers explaining the reasons for the rate increases. The increases have been generated in order to become compliant to the requirements stipulated by the MPCA.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Resolution No. 2024-02, “Resolution Approving Water & Sewer Rate Changes, and Restating Water, Sewer & Refuse Utility Rates.” Ayes – All.

11. Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Anthony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services

This item was removed from the agenda.

12. Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Therese Elverum for EMS Operations Supervisor Services

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Therese Elverum for EMS Operations Supervisor Services. Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

13. License Agreement with TrailHawks Snowmobile Club, Inc., for a winter snowmobile trail

City Engineer Alan Johnson described the proposed trail. The projected alignment would reconnect the portion of the snowmobile trail that was lost when the new school was constructed. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said this would be a temporary trail agreement as the trail runs right in the middle of the new proposed City development in Progress Parkway. City Attorney Lewicki concurred that the City would have the ability to terminate the agreement. Councilor Lillis questioned whether or not the TrailHawks were aware of the one-year license term. Monahan-Junek confirmed that they are aware of the terms of the agreement.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve License Agreement with TrailHawks Snowmobile Club, Inc. for a winter snowmobile trail. Ayes – All.

14. Alice Location Land Licenses – Altobelli & Peterson Construction, Sleeves Sportsmans Bar Inc., OSI Environmental, Inc.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Alice Location Land Licenses with Altobelli & Peterson Construction, Sleeves Sportsmans Bar Inc., and OSI Environmental, Inc. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Koivunen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

15. Application for Exempt Permit for Curl Mesabi at Range Recreation Civic Center, 901 Hat Trick Avenue, Eveleth, March 21, 2024

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Application for Exempt Permit for Curl Mesabi at Range Recreation Civic Center, 901 Hat Trick Avenue, Eveleth, March 21, 2024. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi wished everyone a Merry Serbian Christmas coming up on January 7th. Rauzi thanked the City for leaving the decorations up to honor the heritage of this group.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.