

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m., January 5, 2021**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Councilor John Rauzi, Present  
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Absent  
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; City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt; Police Chief Tim Koivunen, Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the following minutes:*

1. *Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held November 27, 2020;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held December 8, 2020; and*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held December 15, 2020.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the agenda with removal of the following:*

- J9. *Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Anthony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services*
- J10. *Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Therese Elverum for EMS Operations Supervisor Services*

*Ayes – All.*

## **E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Reappointment of Angie Aaseng to the Park Commission**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the reappointment of Angie Aaseng to the Park Commission for the term 01/05/2021 to 01/31/2023. Ayes – All.*

Councilor Lillis thanked Ms. Aaseng for her continued service.

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

None.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Payroll – December 1-15, 2020 in the amount of \$126,826.11
2. Approval of Claims – December 2020 in the amount of \$522,359.73.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes – All.*

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Hearing on Proposed Final Assessment for 2017 Alley Improvements Projects
2. Hearing on Proposed Final Assessment for 2018 Alley Improvements Projects

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m. Leonard Belobaba, 701 Old Town Road, informed the Council that when the alley was reconstructed the contractors tilted everything and now the water runs down into his property. Belobaba said he should not be assessed for something so rotten. Public Works Director Rosati concurred that the contractors did tilt everything towards the middle right before Belobaba's garage. Rosati said that there was a strip installed into the pavement. Belobaba said the strip may have been removed by the snow plow. The Council would like Director Rosati and Alan Johnson from Benchmark Engineering to work to rectify the issue with Belobaba.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich closed the public hearing at 5:06 p.m. and reconvened the regular Council Meeting.

## **I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2017 Alley Improvements Projects**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2021-01, “Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2017 Alley Improvements Projects.” Ayes – All.*

**2. Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2018 Alley Improvements Projects**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2021-02, “Resolution Adopting Assessment for 2018 Alley Improvements Projects.” Ayes – All.*

**3. Appoint Acting Mayor**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to appoint Councilor Joseph Koivunen as the acting Mayor in the Mayor’s absence. Ayes – All.*

**4. City Council Board & Liaison Appointments**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the 2021 City Council Board & Liaison Appointments. Ayes – All.*

The following 2021 City Council Board & Liaison Appointments were approved for 2021:

- Building and Grounds ..... Councilor Hadrava & Councilor Koivunen
- Donations Committee ..... Councilor Lillis & Councilor Koivunen
- \*Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority..... Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Hadrava  
(Councilor Koivunen – alternate)
- Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Zoning Board ..... Councilor Hadrava
- \*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
- Joint Recreation Board..... Councilor Hadrava
- Library Board..... Councilor Rauzi
- \*Parks Commission..... Councilor Hadrava
- Personnel Sub-Committee..... Mayor Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Hadrava  
(Councilor Koivunen, alternate)
- Police Commission..... Mayor Vlasisavljevich
- 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 Hadrava
- \*VEEDA Board ..... Mayor Vlasisavljevich

Marketing Committee ..... Mayor Vlaisavljevich & Councilor Hadrava  
\*HRA (1 permanent; 1 temporary) ..... Councilor Rauzi & Councilor Lillis (temp)  
RAMS ..... Councilor Hadrava  
Fire Department Shared Services Committee ..... Councilor Lillis & Councilor Rauzi

\*Councilors are voting members

**5. Designate Official Newspaper**

The City received quotations from the Mesabi Tribune and the Hometown Focus to serve as the City’s official newspaper.

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to designate the Hometown Focus as the City’s official newspaper for 2021. Ayes – All.*

**6. Designate Depository**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to designate the Miners National Bank of Eveleth, Minnesota as the depository for the City of Eveleth for the year 2021. Ayes – All.*

**7. Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2021-03, “Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties.” Ayes – All.*

**8. Consider designating Benchmark Engineering, Inc. as City Engineer for 2021**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to designate Benchmark Engineering, Inc. as the City Engineer for 2021. Ayes – All.*

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

**11. Alice Location Land Licenses – Altobelli & Peterson Construction and Sleeves Sportsmans Bar Inc.**

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

**12. Resignation from Michael Gifford, EMT**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to accept resignation from Michael Gifford, EMT, and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.*

**13. Resignation from David Poderzay, Firefighter**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to accept resignation from David Poderzay, firefighter, and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.*

**K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Lillis gave an update on the recent EDA meeting in which funds were approved for businesses who applied for the forgivable loan program. The City does have additional funding available and will be calling for applications from businesses who did not apply the first time. Councilor Lillis acknowledged that many people, not just businesses, are facing trying times. He reiterated that the Council has approved a zero percent levy increase for 2021 in recognition of this difficult last year.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich agreed that the loan program, zero percent levy increase, and business license fee reimbursements add up to assist businesses in need. Councilor Koivunen said his heart goes out to these people and he hopes they can recover.

Councilor Rauzi reported that the Library has started a curbside pickup for residents. Mayor Vlasisavljevich said he did not realize how much to library is used in a small town.

Councilor Koivunen thanked the Public Works Department for a good job of clearing the snow. Councilor Rauzi thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the decorations up through Serbian Christmas. Mayor Vlasisavljevich and Councilor Rauzi commented on the nice Christmas decorations by the entrances into Eveleth. Councilor Koivunen said the Parks Commission has done a great job on the decorations.

**L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the Hippodrome has come back to life with the loosening of the Governor’s Order. There is much excitement as Youth and High School Hockey have started. Everyone has been compliant in wearing masks. Rosati said the school is working to have cameras installed for livestreaming at the Hippodrome.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked if the movie company has been in contact to begin filming again. Rosati said he has not heard from them. Vlasisavljevich said the outside rinks have been getting a lot of activity this year.

**M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.