

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., January 7, 2020
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, 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; City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Tim Koivunen; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held December 11, 2019;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held December 17, 2019; and*
- 3. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting held December 30, 2019.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve agenda with the following revisions:

Remove:

- J9. Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and the Joint Powers Board of Independent School District No. 706, Virginia Public Schools and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools*
- J10. Agreement Regarding School District Property between City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools*

- J11. *Right of First Refusal between City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools*
- J12. *Utilities Agreement Regarding School District Properties between City of Eveleth and Virginia Public Utilities*

Add:

- J17. *Remove Public Works Mechanic Louis Hippolt from Probationary Status*
- J18. *Revise Resolution No. 2019-41, “Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Tax Forfeit Properties”*
- J19. *Miners Bank of Eveleth Safety Deposit Box*

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Christopher and Daniel Horoshak addressed the Council regarding a dispute over their utility bill for 801 and 801 ½ Summit Street. They said the final meter reading was incorrect and they were charged an inaccurate amount. They indicated they had tried to go into the main office and switch over the utility account into their names on three separate occasions, but the utility clerk would not change the billing or accept the meter reading. They had also requested an itemized letter for their account, and did not receive the letter. They are asking that the account be changed to their address and the utility bill be modified using the correct closing date, meter read and occupancy dates.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will call Christopher and Daniel Horoshak after she has a chance to review the utility bill.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – December 1-15, 2019 in the amount of \$126,682.94
2. Approval of Payroll – December 16-31, 2019 in the amount of \$143,304.59
3. Approval of Claims – December 2019 in the amount of \$539,907.21
4. Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 2583
5. Approve hiring Andrew Carlson, EMT

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

Councilor Lillis welcomed Andrew Carlson and said it is nice to see the spirit of service.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Acting Mayor

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Hadrava to appoint Councilor Koivunen as the Acting Mayor. Ayes – All.

2. City Council Board & Liaison Appointments

Councilor Hadrava expressed his desire to discontinue serving on the Joint ATV Trail Board.

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

- Building and Grounds Councilor Hadrava & Councilor Koivunen*
- Donations Committee Councilor Lillis & Councilor Koivunen*
- Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority 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 Vacant*
- 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)*

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 Vlasisavljevich & Councilor Hadrava*

**HRA (1 permanent; 1 temporary)*..... *Councilor Rauzi & Councilor Lillis (temp)*

RAMS *Councilor Hadrava*

** Councilors are voting members*

Ayes – All.

3. Designate Official Newspaper

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to designate Hometown Focus as the City’s official newspaper for the year 2020. Ayes – All.

4. Designate Depository

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to designate Miners National Bank of Eveleth, MN as depository for the City of Eveleth for the year 2020. Ayes – All.

5. Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01, “Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties. Ayes – All.

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

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Independent Contract Between the City of Eveleth and Anthony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services. Ayes – All.

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

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Independent Contract Between the City of Eveleth and Therese Elverum for EMS Operations Supervisor Services. Ayes – All.

8. 2020 Animal Control Contract with Contented Critters

Police Chief Koivunen said he has been very pleased with the level of service from Contented Critters.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve 2020 Animal Control Contract with Contented Critters. Ayes – All.

9. Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and the Joint Powers Board of Independent School District No. 706, Virginia Public Schools and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools

This item was removed from the agenda.

10. Agreement Regarding School District Property between City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Right of First Refusal between City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert Public Schools

This item was removed from the agenda.

12. Utilities Agreement Regarding School District Properties between City of Eveleth and Virginia Public Utilities

This item was removed from the agenda.

13. Agreement for Professional Services for Quad Cities Water System Interconnectivity Analysis

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Agreement for Professional Services for Quad Cities Water System Interconnectivity Analysis. Ayes – All.

Mike Larsen, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH), said the original proposal was based on the thought that the study could be done a little cheaper if all the communities would

commit to the phases. The second proposal reflects about a 10 percent lower production. Larsen said he had worked with City Clerk Monahan-Junek to obtain funds from the IRRRB in the amount of \$16,000. They are hoping to start the analysis as soon as weather permits.

14. Recommendation to increase public works on-call pay rate

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to increase public works on-call pay rate from \$175.00 per week to \$250.00 per week. Ayes – All.

15. Pay Request No. 3/Final from Bougalis, Inc. in the amount of the \$3,980 for Fayal Pond Lift Station Reconstruction

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Pay Request No. 3/Final from Bougalis, Inc. in the amount of \$3,980 for Fayal Pond Lift Station Reconstruction. Ayes – All.

16. Approve Eveleth Paid-On-Call Firefighters' Relief Association Bylaws Amendment regarding annual pension

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Eveleth Paid-On-Call Firefighters' Relief Association Bylaws Amendment regarding annual pension. Ayes – All.

The Eveleth Paid-On-Call Firefighters' Relief Association pension is raised to \$2,200/year effective January 1, 2020.

17. Remove Public Works Mechanic Louis Hippolt from Probationary Status

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Koivunen to remove Public Works Mechanic Louis Hippolt from probationary status and change to regular employee effective December 10, 2019 and that his salary be increased to 100% of the classification wage in accordance with the AFSCME contract. Ayes – All.

18. Revise Resolution No. 2019-41, "Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Tax Forfeit Properties"

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Rauzi to revise Resolution No. 2019-41, "Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Tax Forfeit Properties." Ayes – All.

The following property was added to the original resolution:
040-0030-00130, Eveleth Addition, Block 22, Lot 0020.

19. Miners Bank of Eveleth Safety Deposit Box

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve removing Kris Maki from the list of authorized personnel and adding Michelle Harju to list of persons authorized to access the City's safety deposit box at Miners Bank of Eveleth. Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Fire Consolidation meeting will be held next Monday to discuss a partial merge which would include training and guidelines. Councilor Lillis hopes to target the initial steps of getting the training together within the next year.

Councilor Rauzi will be attending the CDBG Advisory Board Meeting on January 8, 2020.

Councilor Koivunen commended the Public Works Department for a great job dealing with the snow.

Councilor Hadrava reminded the public that school is in session. He cautioned the public to be careful as driving around the corners as snow banks are high.

Councilor Rauzi wished everyone a Merry Serbian Christmas.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich expressed his frustration with those habitual offenders not complying with calendar parking. He said it bothers him that these vehicles are not moving, especially around the school—the streets are narrow. He said, “Get the hook and drag them.”

Councilor Rauzi spoke on the safety side referring to the “tight driving” space for the ambulance when responding to a call.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the bulk of residents are abiding, but for those who do not it is, “Time to get the hook and yank ‘em!”

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief – Chief Koivunen said on behalf of the City of Eveleth his thoughts and prayers are with Officer Mattson, 32 years old, from Waseca, Minnesota who was shot in the head while responding to a call of a suspicious male. Mattson is in critical condition.

Public Works Director – Director Rosati reported that the Public Works Department is working on lowering the corners of snow so people can see around them. He thanked the public for their patience. He said the crew will get into the alleys—it might be a while, but they will get into the alleys.

City Engineer - Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, said they are continuing on Garfield Street and hoped to get the feasibility report wrapped up either this week or early next week.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.