

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., January 16, 2024
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 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

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held December 19, 2023; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 3, 2024.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

(Remove)

Item No. I.6. ISD 2909 Facility Use Agreement for the years 2024-2025

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – December 16-31, 2023 in the amount of \$178,215.42

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Earned Safe & Sick Time Leave Benefit Policies

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek explained that the new proposed policy is required by all employers in the State of Minnesota.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Employee Earned Sick & Safe Time Leave Benefit (for regular full or part-time City employees subject to a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract) and the Employee Earned Sick & Safe Leave Benefit (for Fire Department, Ambulance Service, casual and temporary employees). Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

2. Alternate Appointments to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to appoint Councilor Perpich (Council Alternate) and Public Works Director Jerry Rosati (Staff Alternate) as alternates to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority. Ayes – All.

3. City of Eveleth Animal Control Contract

Police Chief Linde indicated he has been pleased the service received from Contented Critters. The contract fee will be increased from \$7,200 to \$9,000 annually. The increase will cover the partnership that Contented Critters has formed with Pup North Pet Lodge on Clyde Road. Pup North will act as a 24-hour holding facility. After 24-hours the animal will be taken to Contented Critters in Ely, MN.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, Second by Councilor Perpich to approve the 2024 Animal Control Contract with Contented Critters. Ayes – All.

4. Consultant Agreement with Costin Group Inc.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Consultant Agreement with Costin Group Inc. Ayes – All.

Jeff Anderson and Gary Cerkenik will serve as consultants to the City of Eveleth and lobby at the State for Eveleth's bonding request for development of Progress Parkway.

5. Quote for cemetery columbarium

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve quotation from Laurentian Monument Granite & Stone, Virginia, MN, for construction of a cemetery columbarium in the amount of \$41,632.00. Ayes – All.

6. ISD 2909 Facility Use Agreement for the years 2024-2025

This item removed from the agenda.

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

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

8. Request from Roller Underground to rent the Hippodrome for practice and to host bouts in 2024

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the following request from Roller Underground to rent the Hippodrome for practice and to host bouts in 2024:

- *Hippodrome rental for practices at \$50.00 per practice.*
- *Use of small closet at Hippodrome for storage of league supplies.*
- *Hippodrome rental for closed scrimmages at \$50.00 per scrimmage.*
- *Hippodrome rental for bouts open to the public at \$250.00 per bout.*

Ayes – All.

9. Request from Jeff Torrel to rent the Hippodrome for the 11th annual senior no-check tournament on March 1-3, 2024

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve request from Jeff Torrel to rent the Hippodrome for the 11th Annual Senior No-Check Tournament to be held March 1-3, 2024. Ayes – All.

10. Discuss changing City Council meeting start time

Mayor Vlasisavljevich proposed changing the Council Meeting start time from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. He said it may be more convenient to meet with contractors, county staff, etc. during working hours. Vlasisavljevich said the County Board meetings are also held during the day.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to change the City Council Meeting start time from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. beginning February 6, 2024. Ayes – All.

11. Discuss possibly moving the location of City Council Meetings, February through March, due to City Hall construction

Construction will be starting at City Hall on the ventilation system. The Council Chambers will not be available during this time.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to move the location of the City Council Meetings, due to City Hall Construction, to the Eveleth Auditorium for February to March 2024. Ayes – All.

12. Change March 5 City Council meeting due to Presidential Primary

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to move the March 5, 2024 City Council Meeting to March 12, 2024 due to the Presidential Primary Election. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reminded the public of the St. Louis County meeting at the Eveleth Auditorium on January 23, 2024 to discuss the Progress Parkway Project.

Councilor Perpich reminded the public to keep sidewalks shoveled so that first responders have access in case of an emergency.

Councilor Perpich also warned the public about potential scams. He said a family member of his received a text today asking them to participate in a two-minute survey from the City of Eveleth. Perpich said there is no survey authorized to be conducted by the City of Eveleth.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich commented on the Franklin School skating rink. He said the rink gets a lot of use, but some of the boards surrounding the rink are in poor shape. There are some

volunteers who would be able to help with replacing the damaged boards if the materials are supplied.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.