

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., February 4, 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, 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 Joel Lewicki; Police Chief Tim Koivunen, Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 7, 2020; and*
- 2. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting held January 14, 2020.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the agenda. Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to reappoint the following:

- 1. Reappointment of Thomas Schmucker to the Library Board for term effective 2/4/2020 to 1/31/2023; and*
- 2. Reappointment of Lois Ferguson to the Library Board for term effective 2/4/2020 to 1/31/2023.*

Ayes – All.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dale Zamlen, Eveleth resident, asked, “When are we going to stop giving stuff to Virginia?” Zamlen questioned whether or not the City of Eveleth would be giving Virginia the utilities for the new school buildings. Mayor Vlasisavljevich indicated that the new school building is an issue that should be addressed with the school board. Vlasisavljevich said we are in different times, and things will have to change. The town was once twice the population it is now.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – January 1-15, 2020 in the amount of \$118,743.47
2. Approval of Claims – January 2020 in the amount of \$676,703.55
3. Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo, EG Bears PTA, April 19, 2020 at the Range Recreation Civic Center
4. Approve participating in State of Minnesota Expanded Ambulance Supplemental Payment program

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request from North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity for reduced rates at Veterans Park on Ely Lake for Care-a-vanners, July 12-25, 2020**

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the request from North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity for reduced rates at the Veterans Park on Ely Lake for Care-a-vanners, July 12-25, 2020. Ayes – All.

- 2. Revised Change Order No. 2 from Jola & Sopp Excavating in the amount of \$3,413 for 2019 Jackson Street 300 Block Improvements**

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve revised Change Order No. 2 from Jola & Sopp Excavating in the amount of \$3,413.00 for 2019 Jackson Street 300 Block Improvements. Ayes – All.

3. Pay Request No. 2/final from Jola & Sopp Excavating in the amount of \$127,759.35 for 2019 Jackson Street 300 Block Improvements

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Pay Request No. 2/final from Jola & Sopp Excavating in the amount of \$127,759.35 for 2019 Jackson Street 300 Block Improvements. Ayes – All.

4. Request for new Police squad car

Chief Koivunen informed the Council that the Police Department has not yet received the new 2020 Ford Explorer which was purchased last May 2019. There has been an ongoing delay on behalf of Ford. To add to the delay, the 2016 squad was recently sideswiped while parked for a domestic disturbance while assisting the Gilbert Police Department. The insurance company has totaled the vehicle and will be issuing the City a check for \$12,885.00. Chief Koivunen discussed the possibility of looking for a different type of vehicle such as a SUV or truck, and the possibility of switching to model other than Ford.

Councilor Koivunen suggested a truck might be the most beneficial for the City as it could be used at the City Garage after being retired as a police squad. Councilor Rauzi said it is important to remember the vehicle must primarily serve the people for protection. Chief Koivunen agreed with Rauzi stating, “If we can’t get to the people, we are not any good.”

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize Police Chief Koivunen to explore other types of vehicles to be used for a new squad. Ayes – All.

5. Resolution Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering 2020 Garfield Street & Utility Improvements Project & Preparation of Plans and Specifications by Benchmark Engineering

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2020-02, “Resolution Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering 2020 Garfield Street & Utility Improvements Project & Preparation of Plans and Specifications by Benchmark Engineering.” Ayes – All.

6. Pay Request No. 1 from Max Gray Construction Inc. in the amount of \$28,866.98 for City Hall Reception Counter

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Pay Request No. 1 from Max Gray Construction Inc. in the amount of \$28,866.98 for City Hall Reception Counter. Ayes – All.

7. Revised City Council Board & Liaison Appointments

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the following revised 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 Councilor Rauzi
Joint Cable Commission Mayor Vlaisavljevich
Joint Recreation Board Councilor Hadrava
Library Board Councilor Rauzi
*Parks Commission Councilor Hadrava
Personnel Sub-Committee Mayor Vlaisavljevich & Councilor Hadrava
(Councilor Koivunen, alternate)
Planning Commission Councilor Rauzi
Public Safety Councilor Lillis & Councilor Koivunen
Public Utilities Councilor Lillis & Mayor Vlaisavljevich
*Quad Cities Joint Recreation Authority Board Councilor Koivunen
Streets and Alleys Councilor Koivunen & Councilor Hadrava
*VEEDA Board Mayor Vlaisavljevich
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*

Ayes – All.

8. Request for firefighters to attend training

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the following firefighters training:

*4 firefighters to attend the Mankato Fire School, March 7-8, 2020
6 firefighters to attend the Duluth Fire Conference, March 13-15, 2020*

Ayes – All.

9. Resignation of Susan Gilpin from the Park Commission

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the resignation of Susan Gilpin from the Park Commission and to send her a letter of thanks for her service.
Ayes – All.*

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Lillis gave an update on the Fire Department Shared Services Committee. Lillis said there will be a meeting next Monday at 6:00 p.m. in Fayal. All entities involved (Eveleth, Gilbert, Fayal) have accepted the concept of a partial merge. The grant for some funding to assist the committee was submitted, and an award was received. Lillis was uncertain of the amount. The Fire Departments have undergone some joint training and there is more scheduled for the future. The mutual aid agreements are still being honored and everyone is working together as in the past. Lillis said he is very optimistic that we can make it work for the best interest of all communities involved. He said we are in changing times and have to look forward.

Councilor Koivunen said he was excited by looking forward and hopes to continue the progression.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich commended the fire departments and community for coming together during a recent house fire in Eveleth in which an elderly woman tragically died.

Councilor Rauzi praised the Library Board. He referred to the Library as a jewel, and said, “The people running the place are not afraid to think out of the box.” He said there are many interesting programs and the building is being kept up beautifully. The questions right now are a security issue and the book sale proceeds. Rauzi also acknowledged the volunteers at the Library who spend time putting books away.

Councilor Lillis said he attended an HRA meeting. Lillis is quite pleased with the HRA management, and said things are going smooth.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering asked if the City would be assessing the Garfield project. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek indicated the Council would need to further discuss the assessments.

M. ADJOURN

The regular Council Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m. and the Workshop Meeting continued.