

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**2:00 p.m., February 20, 2024**  
**City Auditorium, 421 Jackson St., 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: Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop held January 31, 2024; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held February 6, 2024.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the agenda with revision to I.4. changing the resolution from Phases 1-4 to Phase 1 only. Ayes – All.*

**E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Trailhawks Snowmobile Club**

Tom Cossalter and John Masters, Trailhawks Snowmobile Club, addressed the Council regarding their snowmobile trail. Cossalter said that the connection of their original trail was abandoned to accommodate for the relocation of Highway 53 and the new bridge. In 2017, the replacement trail was relocated behind the business area and tied in near Bourgin Road on Highway 135. In 2020, the new Rock Ridge School was constructed and the Trailhawks were again forced to abandon this new trail.

The Trailhawks have been in discussion with St. Louis County regarding a new trail through Progress Parkway which would run along the prospective road to be developed in the near future. The County has agreed to run the trail alongside the road in order to save the City property which has potential for future development. The trail would be along one side of the treadway and would be utilized by snowmobiles and other motorized off-road vehicles.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said the intent has always been to have a trail. Vlaisavljevich said there is some confusion on whether or not the snowmobile trail and motorized trail would run next to each other. Councilor Perpich asked if the Trailhawks would be opposed to the snowmobile trail and an ATV trail running side by side.

Cossalter said that the two trails running together would be for only a stretch as the snowmobile club already has access in another area. Rock Ridge School District has given the Trailhawks permission to cut back into the woods behind the new high school for a potential new trail.

Councilor Lillis said the City has come to the conclusion, along with the County, that the trail would be built as previously planned by the County.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich clarified that it was never the City's intent to not allow trails through Progress Parkway. He said that people live up on the Range for these kinds of activities.

The Trailhawks would also like to work with the City to bring snowmobiles safely into the downtown area to support the Eveleth businesses.

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Payroll – January 16-31, 2024**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve payroll for January 16-31, 2024 in the amount of \$175,148.98. Ayes – All.*

### **2. Request for Police Chief Linde to attend 2024 MN Chiefs of Police Association Executive Training, April 15-18, 2024, St. Cloud, MN**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve request for Police Chief Linde to attend 2024 MN Chiefs of Police Association Executive Training, April 15-18, 2024, St. Cloud, MN. Ayes – All.*

## **G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## I. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Emergency Interim Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on the Consideration of New Wireless Telecommunication Towers, Facilities, and Antennas in the City

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Ordinance No. 81, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, “Emergency Interim Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on the Consideration of New Wireless Telecommunication Towers, Facilities, and Antennas in the City.” Ayes – All.*

### 2. Authorize Benchmark Engineering to call for bids for the West Eveleth sanitary force main project

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize Benchmark Engineering to call for bids for the West Eveleth sanitary force main project. Ayes – All.*

### 3. Request to hire additional EMTs

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize EMS Operations Supervisor and City Clerk-Administrator to hire five (5) additional EMTs. Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich. Abstain – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

### 4. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources for Jack Pine Business Park Phase 1

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2024-05, “Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources for Jack Pine Business Park Phase I.” Ayes – All.*

### 5. Acknowledge Mark Muhich’s service on the Planning Commission

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to accept resignation from Mark Muhich from the Planning Commission and to send him a letter of thanks for his many years of service. Ayes – All.*

Councilor Lillis thanked Mr. Muhich for his service on the Planning Commission.

**J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reported that the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority is doing a little restructuring with the management of the airport.

**K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**L. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.