

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m., March 3, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Adam Roen, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering; Eveleth Library Director Mary Ellen Higgins

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of City Council Meeting February 18, 2025

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Minutes of City Council Meeting held February 18, 2025. Ayes – All.

2. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting February 24, 2025

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held February 24, 2025. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

St. Louis County Commissioner Mike Jugovich, Chisholm, addressed the Council regarding a recent article in the Mesabi Tribune reporting that the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum may be moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Jugovich said he feels very strongly about the Hockey Hall staying in Eveleth as “Eveleth is the birthplace of hockey in Minnesota.” Jugovich pledged

support to the City of Eveleth for keeping this “Gem of the Hall of Fame in its location.” Jugovich referred this development as an over grab by the metro and said, “At the end of the day, we will be in your corner.”

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment of Kenneth Larsen to the Joint Cable Television Access Board

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to reappoint Kenneth Larson to the Joint Cable Television Access Board for the term 3/3/2025 to 3/1/2028. Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis thanked Ken Larsen for his many years of exemplary service.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – February 1-15, 2025

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the payroll for February 1-15, 2025 in the amount of \$148,425.09. Ayes – All.

2. Approval of Claims – February 2025

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve February 2025 Claims in the amount of \$1,039,299.25. Ayes – All.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Quote for 2025 police squad car equipment

The City Council approved the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer Interceptor squad car at the February 4, 2025 Council Meeting. The squad car will need to be outfitted with equipment.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the quote from Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc. (E.A.T.I) in the amount of \$19,699.10 to outfit the 2025 Ford Explorer Interceptor with squad car equipment. Ayes – All.

2. Authorize hiring of two part-time Library Clerks

Eveleth Library Director Mary Ellen Higgins reported that the City interviewed eight candidates for the part-time Library Clerk positions.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize hiring Michelle Moschkau and Lauren Seaman as part-time Library Clerks contingent upon successful background checks. Ayes – All.

3. Resignation from Cassidy Kampsula, EMT

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve resignation of Cassidy Kampsula from the Eveleth Ambulance Service effective March 11, 2025 and to send a letter of thanks for her service. Ayes – All.

4. Lease Agreement between the City of Eveleth and the Eveleth Heritage Society

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Lease Agreement between the City of Eveleth and the Eveleth Heritage Society. Ayes – All.

The Eveleth Heritage has been using the basement of the Library for storage for the past two to three years. This lease will continue the agreement with the Eveleth Heritage Society.

5. Appointment of Fire Department officers

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the following Fire Department Officer appointments:

*Guy Spurlin, Fire Chief
Cassy Jelen, Captain Training Officer
Tony Menart, Lieutenant Safety Officer*

Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis thanked all the officers for the great job they are doing and said he really appreciates their service.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Koivunen said there is an upcoming Airport Authority meeting set for next week. Koivunen said that, in relation to the news of the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum, he is in favor of the Hall staying in Eveleth.

Councilor Perpich said that the Hockey Hall of Fame Board was asked to keep this under wraps, but this has been going on for quite a few months. Perpich said that Eveleth is a tourist area with hunters, hikers, and ATV's, and that the Hockey Hall stands as one of those places.

Councilor Lillis said that he is 100 percent for the Hockey Hall of Fame staying here in Eveleth.

Councilor Rauzi said that to lose the Hockey Hall would be a severe blow to Eveleth. Rauzi said that the City Council does not get a vote, and that “It’s not in our hands.” Rauzi said he does not want to see the Hockey Hall of Fame moved, but if it does go, he would like the City of Eveleth to get a huge cash payment.

Mayor Roen reported on a recent meeting with the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce regarding housing. Roen also met with the IRRRB regarding grant money, and would like to have further conversations with them.

Roen said the City absolutely supports the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum being in Eveleth. He said the Council will honor whatever decision is made by the Hockey Hall of Fame Board. Roen would like to keep a seat at the table, in the event the Hall is ever moved, so that the City would benefit from any potential compensation.

The Council discussed the Town Hall Meeting which was held on February 26, 2025 at the City Auditorium. The Council agreed that the next meeting should be held in two months. Mayor Roen would like to hold a total of five Town Hall Meetings this year, and then meet for quarterly Town Hall Meetings next year.

The Council will hold a Workshop on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss issues raised and hear from those in attendance at the Town Hall Meeting who would like to talk more with the City Council. The Council will also meet with Bob Pazzelli of the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Board.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.