

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., March 15, 2022
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; City Attorney Karl Sundquist; 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 Minutes of City Council Meeting held March 3, 2022 and the City Council Agenda. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – February 16-28, 2022 in the amount of \$147,315.14

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Quote for three new DS200 ballot scanner and vote tabulators

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to accept quotation from Election Systems & Software, LLC for the purchase of three new DS200 ballot scanner and vote tabulators in the amount of \$15,990.00 (to include trade in of three old M100s) plus \$682.50 for annual hardware maintenance and software license fee. Ayes – All.

The City was awarded a matching VEGA-3 grant in the amount of 3,864.47 which will be applied towards the purchase of the new DS200 machines.

2. Proposed new EMT hourly wages

Councilor Lillis reported on the recent meeting held between the Public Safety Committee and the Eveleth Ambulance Service. They discussed issues with employee retention and recruitment of new staff. The last pay increase was three years ago. In order for the City of Eveleth to remain competitive, the Public Safety is recommending the Council increase wages. The hourly wage would also step up after 11+ shifts have been worked per month. After staff have reached the 11+ shifts per month, the increase in hourly pay would be retroactive; going back to the first shift worked that month.

Lillis hopes the increase will encourage staff to work more shifts in order to receive premium pay for the month. He said the goal is to provide quality service for residents. The City is not seeking to make money, but would like to break even. The annual amount for the wage increases would cost the City approximately \$92,000.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the following wage increases as recommend by the Public Safety Committee to be effective March 20, 2022 at 11:00 p.m.:

	<i>Current Pay</i>	<i>Increased Pay: 1-10 Shifts Worked per month hourly pay</i>	<i>Increased Pay: 11+ Shifts Worked per month hourly pay</i>
<i>EMT</i>	<i>\$10.50</i>	<i>\$12.50</i>	<i>\$14.00</i>
<i>EMT Lead</i>	<i>\$12.50</i>	<i>\$14.50</i>	<i>\$16.00</i>

Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich. Abstained – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

3. Proposed new ALS intercept rate

Councilors Lillis and Koivunen recently met with City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek and EMS Supervisor Therese Elverum regarding the ALS (Advanced Life Support) intercept rate with the City of Virginia. The City of Virginia increased their intercept rate (when a Virginia paramedic provides ALS care on board and Eveleth Ambulance) from \$400 to \$600. The Eveleth Ambulance Service provides BLS (Basic Life Support) care.

Councilor Lillis indicated the change was made by Virginia without prior knowledge which created a bit of an issue when the City of Eveleth received billing from Virginia. Councilor Lillis said he was left with a sour taste in his mouth on how the increase was handled. The City of Virginia should have notified Eveleth 30 days in advance per the agreement. Lillis wondered if the Council would consider sending a letter to Virginia informing them of Eveleth's displeasure of not being notified of the rate increase prior to receiving the billing. Councilor Koivunen agreed that the cities need to be working with each other and not against each other.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve increasing the City of Eveleth's intercept rate from \$400 to \$600 for Basic Life Support (BLS), when Eveleth's BLS patient is transferred to Virginia ambulance, to be effective upon 30 days written notice; and to send a letter to the City of Virginia which expresses Eveleth's displeasure of not being notified of Virginia's increase in intercept rate 30 days before billing (as indicated in The Letter of Intercept Agreement between Eveleth Ambulance Service and Virginia Fire Department Services). Ayes – All.

4. Call for quotes for 2022 curb & sidewalk replacement

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize Public Works Director to call for quotes for 2022 curb and sidewalk replacement. Ayes – All.

The City has budgeted \$30,000 for 2022 with an additional \$15,000 to be funded by St. Louis County for CSAH routes.

5. Purchase regular road salt for 2022-23 season from Cooperative Purchasing Venture (State bid) or open market program

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize Public Works Director to either purchase regular road salt for 2022-23 season from Cooperative Purchasing Venture (State bid) or open market program. Ayes – All.

6. Purchase Agreement for former Eveleth Junior High property

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve purchase agreement for the former Eveleth Junior High School property in the amount of \$58,500.00. Ayes – All.

The Council will need to determine whether or not to put an alley through the property.

7. Proposal from JK Mechanical for Hippodrome boilers

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize proposal from JK Mechanical to install two new boilers at the Hippodrome in the amount of \$71,950.00. Ayes – All.

8. Request from David Marcaccini regarding Kurtfest 2022

Police Chief Jesse Linde expressed his concern as to the potential magnitude of this event and the possibility that this street dance would turn into an event comparable to the July 4th street dance. Councilor Lillis suggested tabling this issue for one meeting as the letter does not provide details to answer some questions as to what type of event the organizers are proposing.

Would the City declare this a community festival (which would allow on-sale liquor license establishments to distribute liquor outside)? Would the Police Department need to provide extra security? How big of an event will this be? Is there a police and EMS plan in place? Would the City crew be involved with cleanup? Will public sanitation be provided? Would the event organizer be required to carry liability insurance?

Lillis said he is not opposed to the event, but would like some more information. Councilor Rauzi said it must be managed properly to keep everyone safe. In the past Kurtfest has been held within local bars; not in the street.

City Attorney Sundquist said it appears the Kurtfest organizers are asking to build on what they have done in the past. The group would need to present a business plan to the City Council in order to know what can be done to help them, and make sure they are abiding by City ordinances.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to table “Item No. 1.8. Request from David Marcaccini regarding Kurtfest 2022” until the next regular City Council Meeting. Ayes – All.

9. Spring 2022 Refuse Collection/Yard Waste pickup schedule

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Spring 2022 Refuse Collection/Yard Waste Pickup Schedule. Ayes – All.

The City will accept trash and rubbish for disposal at the City Garage from April 25 to May 6, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Yard waste pickup in the alleys will start on May 16, 2022.

10. Consider Proposal from Veolia Water Technologies for Pilot Testing at Wastewater Plant

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve proposal from Veolia Water Technologies for Pilot Testing at Wastewater Plant at a rate of \$22,500.00. Ayes – All.

Public Works Director Rosati explained that this cost is part of the amount for obtaining a new permit from the MPCA. This is the first step to see if changing the filters will help with meeting the standards set by the MPCA. The City has five years to meet the standards and will be working over the next couple of years to try various methods.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi is planning to attend the HRA meeting tomorrow.

Councilor Koivunen reported on a recent RRCC Board Meeting which he attended last week. He reported that everything is running smoothly. The Golf Course Commission will be meeting tomorrow.

Councilor Perpich gave an update on the Joint Rec Board. The City received notice from Fayal Township that they would prefer to let Rock Ridge School District take over activities. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said we should not consider Fayal off the Joint Rec Board at this point. The uncertainty comes with waiting to see what the school is planning to do. Councilor Perpich said the City of Eveleth needs an interim Joint Rec Board Director. Director Rosati clarified that the employee would fall under the supervision of the Joint Rec Board and would not be a City of Eveleth employee.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich reported on the most recent Eveleth-Virginia Airport Board Meeting. The airport has a new interim manager, Brian Zadnikar.

Councilor Lillis reported that the Public Safety Committee will be meeting with Police Chief Linde on Thursday to discuss body and squad car cameras. They are hoping to make a policy recommendation to the Council in the near future.

Councilor Rauzi has received several pigeon complaints. The City may have to address this issue if it becomes a problem.

Tim Grahek was the winner of two Minnesota Wild Hockey tickets sponsored by the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Bill Aho, Chair of the Eveleth Historical Society, distributed information to the Council. Aho spoke regarding the EAW and comments on the Eveleth Manual Arts Building. Aho mentioned Tucker Nelson has been instrumental in taking extensive photos from the former Junior High School and the Manual Arts Building. Aho would like to see historical pieces be removed and preserved from the Manual Arts Building prior to demolition. Aho suggested setting some of the pieces out in the pocket park downtown Eveleth upon its completion.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reiterated the EDA has been working on a pocket park concept for downtown Eveleth. Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested the EDA continue working on the project. Aho said the EDA and Historical Society should work together with preserving these pieces for public display as it will be an investment into the community.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.