

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., March 17, 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, 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 Mitch Brunfelt; Police Chief Tim Koivunen, Public Works Director Jerry Rosati

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop held February 18, 2020;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held February 18, 2020;*
- 3. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting held February 21, 2020;*
- 4. Minutes of City Council Workshop held February 27, 2020;*
- 5. Minutes of City Council Workshop held March 4, 2020; and*
- 6. Minutes of City Council Meeting held March 5, 2020.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- J7. Resolution for Loan Applications to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water & Clean Water Revolving Funds for Garfield Street Utility Renovation Project*

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Greg Salmi, 201 Cleveland Street, Eveleth, addressed the Council regarding an ongoing issue with his neighbor. Salmi said he was reluctant to take this measure, but he has not been getting resolution regarding the neighbor's dogs and cat in his yard. Salmi recently had guests over to his home and the neighbor's dog was so aggressive that his company was scared to go outside. The neighbor's cat has also attacked Salmi's dog.

Salmi said he has tried to be a good neighbor. A while back, he had his property surveyed so that his fence would not infringe on the neighbor's property. After Salmi moved his fence, he offered tools and building materials to his neighbor so that he could also improve his side of the fence. Salmi said that over the years the relationship has continued to deteriorate. The neighbor's pets (two big dogs and a cat) have free reign of the area. Salmi said that the neighbor picks up animal waste from his yard only once or twice a month and then shovels it back behind Salmi's home. Salmi said he is getting fed up the situation and is looking for help from the Council.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich asked if the animals are registered with the City. Police Chief Koivunen would need to check to see if the animals are licensed. Koivunen said the Police Department needs to be made aware of the situation and a complaint formally made so that the issue can be addressed in a timely manner.

Councilor Lillis advised Salmi to provide the Police Department with any evidence such as a photo or video of the dog loose. Lillis suggested Salmi make a call to the police while the dog is barking. Salmi said he did not want to report the issue, especially since his neighbor wears a uniform, but feels he had no choice. Salmi has posted signs warning people to beware of the dog.

City Attorney Brunfelt advised Salmi to put a complaint in writing. By presenting a formal complaint to the City, it will trigger City staff to look at the ordinance. City staff will review the ordinances to determine if any violations (animal control, dumping animal waste, etc.) have taken place. Brunfelt also encouraged Salmi to provide any video or pictures of the violations. Brunfelt also offered to act as a mediator to get the parties together to try to work things out.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich encouraged Salmi to go through the formal process. Councilor Lillis reminded Salmi that there a number of steps to try and alleviate the problem. Councilor Rauzi said he believes Salmi is on the right path. He said that Salmi should "not have to put up with this stuff" and "should be able to have people over without fear of the dog attacking someone."

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – February 16-29, 2020 in the amount of \$140,256.36
2. Request for Sgt. Elias and K-9 Bear to attend tracking class, May 26-29, 2020, Chisago County, MN

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request for FAA Approval of Agreement of Transfer of Entitlements (to the City of Tower)**

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve request for FAA Approval of Agreement of Transfer of Entitlements to the City of Tower. Ayes – All.

- 2. Request from Police Chief Koivunen to sell forfeited vehicles**

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve request from Police Chief Koivunen to sell the following forfeited vehicles using the customary competitive bid process of Oberfoell Auctioneers/ Do-Bid.com:

Vehicle #1: 1996 Cadillac Seville, VIN#: 1G6KY5293TU809079

Vehicle #2: 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix, VIN#: 1G2WR121XYF232887

Ayes – All.

- 3. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing for 2020 Garfield Street Reconstruction Project**

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2020-06, “Resolution Calling for Public Hearing for 2020 Garfield Street Reconstruction Project.” Ayes – All.

The public hearing will be held on April 21, 2020.

4. Consider adopting 10-year Water Emergency & Conservation Plan

Public Works Director Rosati explained that every 10 years the City has to adopt a water emergency and conservation plan. The report was finished last summer and is ready for approval and submission to the State.

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt 10-year Water Emergency & Conservation Plan. Ayes – All.

5. Call for quotations for 2020 curb & sidewalk replacement

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to authorize calling for quotations for 2020 curb & sidewalk replacement. Ayes – All.

Public Works Director Rosati revealed the County’s potential renewed two year contract which would actually increase their funding from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year towards curb and sidewalk replacement. The City of Eveleth has been budgeting and annual amount of \$30,000 towards this project.

6. Authorize purchase of regular road salt for the 2020-21 season from the Cooperative Purchasing Venture (State bid) or open marketing program

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve purchase of regular road salt for the 2020-21 season from Cooperative Purchasing Venture Program (State bid). Ayes – All.

7. Resolution for Loan Applications to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water & Clean Water Revolving Funds for Garfield Street Utility Renovation Project

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2020-07, “Resolution for Loan Applications to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water & Clean Water Revolving Funds for Garfield Street Utility Renovation Project.” Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Lillis gave an update on the most recent Fire Committee Shared Services meeting. At a past Fire Committee meeting, the Committee was informed that the City of Gilbert was no longer interested in participating in the partial merger of fire departments. However, Lillis said that City of Gilbert representatives were present at the most recent Fire Committee meeting and indicated they would like to continue shared training with the Eveleth and Fayal fire departments. The Committee has been working on a definition of operational partial merger as follows:

Operational Partial Merger: Each fire department remains legally separate but join together both administrative and operational functions, delivering services as if they were one department with jurisdictional boundaries becoming invisible. Would include training, SOGs, standardized equipment, governance model (such as joint powers agreement), unified budget (for the day-to-day activities), one command structure, personnel such as one chief. One funding mechanism and formula contributions. There would still be three buildings-one building in each community, ownership of existing equipment would be defined within a joint powers agreement and hiring also be included as part of a unified budget.

Councilor Lillis indicated Gilbert would be responding by the middle of April as to the direction they would like to proceed. He said it might have been a miscommunication between the Gilbert Fire Department and their City Council. Lillis stated that the Fire Committee would like to give Gilbert a final chance before moving forward.

Councilor Lillis commented on the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). He said changes are happening on an hourly basis and addressed the need for each one of us to do our part to stem the spread of the virus. He reported that locally the City has been taking steps to mitigate exposure. Lillis advised that these steps may result in some minor inconveniences to the public, but hoped that everyone would understand. Lillis said, "This is a pandemic as I have never experienced in my lifetime." He asked for the public to be thoughtful of the guidelines set forth and appealed to "people's sense of kindness to your neighbor" by lending a hand to help. Lillis said we will get through this as we are a "resilient sort on the Iron Range" and will do just fine. Lillis noted that his experience over the weekend was an eye opener as to see that folks are apparently panicked over some items. He reiterated to be kind and think of others. He discouraged buying a tremendous amount of items just to have a stockpile as there might be some folks that need it and really don't have anything.

Councilor Hadrava assured the public that the President, Governor, Police Chief, Water Department and City staff have it handled and to take one day at a time.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the supply chain is not broken. Freight is coming in like it should be. He encouraged a lot of commonsense things when approaching this virus. He said there are some vulnerable people, and encouraged everyone to "Be considerate to your neighbors."

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief Koivunen said there has been a lot of information pouring in from the news media and some information will be changing. The City of Eveleth Department Heads and City Attorney Brunfelt have been meeting to make every possible effort to see that the public has resources during this rapidly evolving situation. Koivunen said we are being guided locally through the County and State. The Executive Order No. 20-04 from Governor Walz will go into effect at 5:00 p.m. today which order all restaurants and bars be shut down. Chief Koivunen said it is imperative that we follow this order. All on-sale liquor sales must cease. Restaurants can remain open for curbside services only.

Koivunen said that he hopes to have a press release tomorrow. The front door of City Hall will remain open at this time, but with limited social contact. The restrooms and upper level of City Hall will be closed to the public. The Police Department front doors will be open, but only to the vestibule. No persons other than employees will be allowed access. Police Officers will not be going into resident homes unless it is a life or death situation and must be first cleared by ambulance personnel. The Police Department will not be doing public transports to the hospital or detox at this time. Officers have been supplied with personal protective equipment. The Library, Auditorium, Hippodrome, City Garage, and Fire Hall are closed to the public. Some of these things may be changing in the near future. Chief Koivunen advised anyone feeling ill or experiencing Coronavirus symptoms to please call the hospital emergency room rather than just showing up in person.

Public Works Director Rosati said the City Garage is now closed to the public. He questioned whether or not the City should continue with curbside pickup of recycling as it has been reported that the virus can live on plastics and cardboard for a quite a while. Rosati said he was concerned with employees picking up those items. Discussion took place on the possibility of temporarily eliminating the recycling services and pushing back Spring Clean Up. The Council will leave services as scheduled, but make changes if necessary.

Councilor Hadrava suggested the City do business as normal and take steps as needed. Councilor Koivunen agreed that we do not want to just lock everything down, but will keep an eye on it. Councilor Lillis said he was an advocate of having a plan to deal with the issues and respond as needed. Lillis agreed with the wait and see attitude as the guidelines might change tomorrow.

Councilor Koivunen encouraged residents to support restaurant owners and to “call and get a burger.” Many restaurants are offering curbside services. Councilor Koivunen said a lot of these places have been around for years in Eveleth and Virginia and it will be hard for them to recover from this.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested looking at some of the IRRRB funds to help out these small business owners.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said that City Hall is still open. Utility bills are coming due and can be placed in the drop box at the front door of City Hall. She said that phones are being answered and encouraged the public to call if they need assistance.

M. ADJOURN

The Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.