

Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m., March 17, 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; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Fire Chief Guy Spurlin; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of City Council Meeting March 3, 2025

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Minutes of City Council Meeting held March 3, 2025. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Agenda, including removing I.6. Proposal of Services – Junior High Parcel from Bolton & Menk. Ayes – All.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Molly Cooper, Eveleth resident, stated she has a passion for flags and thinks it is important that the city follow the Governor's orders to place flags at half-staff as the city is a municipality of the State. It is an honor to our veterans and the flag, the flag is important to her, and it should be lowered if it is the Governor's rule.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment of Timothy Nybo to the Joint Cable Television Access Board

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to appoint Timothy Nybo to the Joint Cable Television Access Board for the term 3/17/2025 to 3/1/2028. Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis and Mayor Roen thanked Mr. Nybo for his volunteerism.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – February 16-28, 2025

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the payroll for February 16-28, 2025 in the amount of \$197,791.88. Ayes – All.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Town Hall meeting dates for 2025

The City Council set the next Town Hall meeting. Subsequent meetings will be determined.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to set the next Town Hall meeting for April 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium. Ayes – All.

2. 2025 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Mayor Proclamation

Mayor Roen received the Proclamation from the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to proclaim the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ayes – All.

3. Landowner Permission Form and Addendum to Landowner Permission Form for a snowmobile trail on City of Eveleth property

The Trailhawks snowmobile club is requesting permission to build a snowmobile trail on city property located on the east side of Highway 53 and north of Highway 37. A permanent trail will eventually run alongside the new Progress Parkway from Highway 37 to the Wolverine Way roundabout when the new Progress Parkway road is constructed by St. Louis County.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second Councilor Rauzi to approve the Landowner Permission Form and Addendum to Landowner Permission Form for a snowmobile trail on City of Eveleth property. Ayes – All.

4. Request from Brain Zadnikar, Big Stick Meatz LLC, to work with the City to acquire and develop City property

The property Mr. Zadnikar wants to acquire is located at 408 Fayal Road, Eveleth. Zadnikar would like to engage again with the city to develop a meat market/store at this location.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to work with Brian Zadnikar, Big Stick Meatz LLC to acquire and construct a meat market/store at 408 Fayal Road, Eveleth. Ayes – All.

Councilor Perpich stated he is glad the city is moving forward with getting the property redeveloped and realizes there are a lot of hoops to jump through.

Mayor Roen stated it will take some time to go through the steps and it is a priority to work with Zadnikar.

5. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Submit a Proposal for Funding to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources in Response to the 2025 Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund Request for Proposal

Mayor Roen stated this item is related to trail development on the former school property, and is in addition to the grant already approved by the IRRRB.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Resolution No. 2025-08, “Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Submit a Proposal for Funding to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources in Response to the 2025 Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund Request for Proposal.” Ayes – All.

6. Proposal of Services – Junior High Parcel from Bolton & Menk

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. Request to purchase Lots 1 & 2, Carter Circle

David and Vickie Olson have submitted an offer to purchase Lots 1 & 2, Carter Circle for the City’s asking price of \$4,000 for both lots.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to accept David and Vickie Olson’s offer to purchase Lots 1 & 2, Carter Circle for \$4,000. Ayes – All.

A purchase agreement will be drafted and presented to the City Council for approval at a future City Council meeting.

8. State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Eveleth Detour Agreement (Old Highway 53 to be used as a Temporary Trunk Highway detour)

Director Rosati explained this agreement is for the detour as the State of Minnesota works on Highway 53 this summer. Access to the city will be via Fayal Avenue and Fayal Road/101 to the west.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Eveleth Detour Agreement and the Resolution contained within. Ayes – All.

9. Authorize the Director of Public Works to call for quotes for 2025 curb & sidewalk replacement

Director Rosati is requesting authorization to call for quotations for curb and sidewalk replacement this year. The city has \$30,000 budgeted for this, plus a \$15,000 from St. Louis County to be used on County State Aid Highway routes.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the Director of Public Works to call for quotes for 2025 curb & sidewalk replacement. Ayes – All.

10. Change Order No. 1 from DSG Company in the amount of \$5,165.00 for AMI Metering Improvements

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Change Order No. 1 from DSG Company in the amount of \$5,165.00 for AMI Metering Improvements. Ayes – All.

The change order increase is due to the need for some additional grounding straps on several meters installed.

11. Change Order No. 2 from DSG Company in the amount of -\$84,797.31 for AMI Metering Improvements

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Change Order No. 2 from DSG Company in the amount of -\$84,797.31 for AMI Metering Improvements. Ayes – All.

The change order decrease reflects the amount of actual work completed (meters installed) was less than the contracted amount. The city installed some meters.

12. Pay Request No. 4/Final from DSG Company in the amount of \$137,498.01 for AMI Metering Improvements

Director Rosati reported that 92% of the meters have been installed and approximately 100 meters still need to be installed. In December 2024, the City Council passed an ordinance establishing fines for properties that do not get a new meter installed. Rosati will be sending the ordinance in early summer 2025 to the properties that are non-compliant. Rosati explained that automatic meters are handy for all; the city may notice excessive usage and call the customer to inform them of the excessive usage and advise they check for leaks on their property.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Pay Request No. 4/Final from DSG Company in the amount of \$137,498.01 for AMI Metering Improvements. Ayes – All.

13. Resolution Accepting Donation for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Spurlin reported that the former Relief Association has moved their retirement to PERA and had to spend their funds since the Relief Association was/is disbanded. Lockers were purchased to replace the old wooden lockers to eliminate cross contamination. Hand tools were also purchased. All the money for these purchases came from fundraising. Some Fire Department spouses are planning to start a fire auxiliary non-profit so they can continue to fundraise.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen, to approve Resolution No. 2025-09, “Resolution Accepting Donation for the Fire Department” and to send a letter of thanks. Ayes – All.

14. Request from Roller Underground to rent the Hippodrome

The city has been renting the Hippodrome to Roller Underground for 5/6 years, from March/April through July. The rental fee has stayed the same and the Roller Underground is very accommodating if another event comes up. They put up their merchandise tables and tape the track.

Roller Underground is requesting: rental for practices and scrimmages for \$50/practice/scrimmage (practices are usually Monday and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.); use the small closet for storage of league supplies; rental for bouts at \$250/bout (May 31 & July 26; Director Rosati can approve additional dates).

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the request from Roller Underground to rent the Hippodrome. Ayes – All.

15. Approve Spring 2025 Refuse Collection & Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

The city will accept items from citizens of Eveleth for disposal at the City Garage from May 5 to May 16, 2025, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The city will begin picking up yard waste in the alleys on May 27, 2025.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the Spring 2025 Refuse Collection & Yard Waste Pickup Schedule. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen asked if the city gets this information to people who live in the apartment complexes. Director Rosati replied that the flyer will be sent out with city utility bills, apartment managers can post on the flyer on their bulletin boards within the apartment complex, and that most larger apartment complex managers call ahead of time and ask when the pickup will happen.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Koivunen said the Airport Manager gave notice to quit April 30, 2025 and the Airport Authority needs to do something. The Authority cannot talk about anything because it is not the agenda.

Councilor Lillis said the HRA is scheduled to meet on March 19, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Clay Court.

Councilor Rauzi said the EDA meeting is later this month.

Mayor Roen said he has attended RAMS events and also attended the recent legislative meeting to bring community members of different communities, and administrative and elected officials together. He also said he testified on a \$800,000 bonding request for the city's wastewater treatment plant to address mercury and phosphates, met with Senator Farnsworth and Representative Warwas. Mayor Roen and Councilor Koivunen met with the IRRRB today and will share more information at the March 25, 2025 workshop to be held at 2:00 p.m.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director Rosati said the compressors at the Hippodrome were turned off last Wednesday, and that the city is getting ready for golf season.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.