

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Special Emergency Meeting**  
**9:30 a.m., March 20, 2020**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.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, Deputy Police Chief Jesse Linde; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. COVID-19 Emergency**

Updates from Emergency Management Director Police Chief Koivunen, EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum, and Department Heads

Police Chief Koivunen said that a lot has been changing since the Council met on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The decision was made to close City Hall to the public. The public will be able to pay for utility bills via the drop box at the front door. Chief Koivunen said we also have an obligation to our community to keep services intact. He said we have an obligation to keep our employees and their families safe—or we can't provide any services. Koivunen said the virus is moving north, and predicted it would get worse. He said the City needs to take extra steps and if we overreact--we did what we had to do. He said he hopes all the experts are wrong and that nothing happens.

Both Mayor Vlasisavljevich and Police Chief Koivunen have had conversations with Congressman Pete Stauber. Discussion took place on the possibility of declaring an emergency. If federal funding is coming later, the City would be eligible based on the declaration.

EMS Operational Supervisor Therese Elverum said she does not believe we are overacting at all. She said it is our duty as City leaders to protect our community and

ourselves as much as possible. She said we need to be a united force and on the same page. If the City declares a state of emergency, it allows for possible federal reimbursements for both ambulance and police services. Elverum has been in discussions with the Dr. Houle, the City's Medical Director. So far, the City of Eveleth is ahead of the game compared to other communities. Personal Protective Equipment is in short supply right now. Elverum spoke with VRMC infection control and they are currently not testing the public for COVID-19 as the tests are being reserved for emergency personnel and the critically ill. The symptoms of COVID usually begin with a low fever around 100.4, dry cough and shortness of breath.

Elverum urged the Council as City leadership to keep themselves quarantined. She said the City cannot operate without their leadership. She clarified that this virus is not a hoax or an overreaction and is dangerous. Elverum reiterated that the purpose of a declaration of emergency is to open funds and allow for the amending of policies and procedures if needed.

The Council will plan to meet to discuss COVID-19 again next week on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

#### **D. ADJOURN**

The Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.