

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., April 20, 2021
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; Police Chief Jesse Linde, Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

1. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held March 24, 2021;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held March 29, 2021; and*
3. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held April 6, 2021.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- J11. *Discuss Janitorial Services for City Buildings*
- J12. *Discuss Re-opening City Buildings to the Public*

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – March 16-31, 2021 in the amount of \$138,678.64
2. Approval of Payroll – April 1-15, 2021 in the amount of \$108,905.53

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommendation to hire Deputy Police Chief

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to appoint Sergeant Brian Ness to the position of Deputy Chief of Police effective May 24, 2021. Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis said it was a privilege to interview all four candidates and a tough decision for the Public Safety Committee to make. He said all four candidates did an outstanding job.

2. Recommendation for Deputy Chief Ness Compensation/Benefit Package

Deputy Chief Brian Ness will be moving from the LELS Union to the USWA Local 6860-05 Supervisor/Confidential Union.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the following compensation and benefit package for Deputy Chief Brian Ness:

1. *All entitlements covered in the USWA Local 6860-05 (The City of Eveleth, Minnesota Supervisor/Confidential Unit) 2019-2021 collective bargaining agreement;*
2. *Starting salary at Step 4 of the above agreement;*

3. All post-retirement benefits.

Ayes – All.

3. Recommendation to hire Patrol Officer

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to hire Dustin Adam Huhta (upon successful completion of all necessary physical, psychological, and background examinations) as a full-time patrol officer for the Eveleth Police Department. Ayes – All.

4. Authorize promotion of Patrol Officer to Sergeant

The Eveleth Police Department will now have a vacancy for the sergeant position with the promotion of Brian Ness to Deputy Chief. The Police Department also has a second sergeant position from 2020 that needs to be filled.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize proceeding with the promotional process to appoint two (2) sergeants within the Eveleth Police Department. Ayes – All.

5. Access Agreement Amendment between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth regarding 4th of July fireworks display

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Access Agreement Amendment between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth regarding 4th of July fireworks display. Ayes – All.

6. Consider accepting quotations for 2021 concrete curb, sidewalk, and pavement

The following quotations for the 2021 concrete curb, sidewalk and pavement were received:

Quote Item	C & C Winger Embarrass, MN	3D Concrete & Construction Eveleth, MN
Placement of Curb (Design B612)	\$35.00/lineal foot	\$23.00/lineal foot
Placement of Curb (Design B618)	\$35.00/lineal foot	\$25.00/lineal foot
Placement of Curb (Design B624)	\$38.00/lineal foot	\$28.00/lineal foot
Placement of Sidewalk	\$8.00/square foot	\$5.50/square foot
Placement of Pavement	\$12.00/square foot	\$7.60/square foot

Quote Item	C & C Winger Embarrass, MN	3D Concrete & Construction Eveleth, MN
Placement of Monolithic Curb	\$20.00/lineal foot	\$20.00/lineal foot
F & I Truncated Dome System	\$480.00 each	\$375.00 each

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to accept quotation from 3D Concrete & Construction for 2021 concrete curb, sidewalk, and pavement replacement. Ayes – All.

7. Resignation of Sammy Spurlin, EMT

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to accept resignation of Sammy Spurlin, EMT, and to send her a letter of thanks for her service. Ayes – All.

8. Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Station 44 Rd. & Hwy. 37 property)

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek explained that this agreement is an extension of the existing agreement.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Station 44 Rd. & Hwy. 37 property). Ayes – All.

9. Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Industrial Park Drive property/former Fingerhut)

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Industrial Park Drive property/former Fingerhut). Ayes – All.

10. Request from Kraus Anderson to use City parking lot on Industrial Park Drive

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reported that Kraus Anderson has not been using the parking lot on a continual basis, but would like to utilize the space as needed. This request is an update as the first request was for 30 days. Kraus Anderson has provided a certificate of insurance.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize Kraus Anderson to use City parking lot on Industrial Park Drive for another 90 days. Ayes – All.

11. Discuss Janitorial Services for City Buildings

Councilor Lillis reported that the City's last hired janitorial service is no longer available. As a result, the City does not have any janitorial services rendered at the moment and has been trying to make due with help from the public works department. Lillis said as we get into the summer season, the availability of staff and the public works to help with cleaning will be limited. They will be busy with grass mowing and work at the golf course, etc. Lillis said the Council has been discussing the creation of a City AFSCME janitor position for some time. He suggested they make a determination on how to proceed with the potential position. Lillis also suggested the City hire another professional janitorial service in the interim.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said the City has a lot of buildings such as the City Hall, Auditorium, Library, etc., and it would be helpful to have someone to maintain these facilities.

Councilor Koivunen asked if the City could hire some casual labors. Director Rosati indicated that it has been difficult to find both adult and student casual labors to work for the City. Councilor Lillis wondered if the City might be better served with professional services as they would be able to provide insurance. Councilor Lillis requested the Personnel Committee meet with Monahan-Junek and Rosati soon to make plans.

12. Discuss Re-opening City Buildings to the Public

Councilor Lillis said he has received a number of inquiries from people wondering when the City buildings will start reopening. He asked for the Council's thoughts on whether to open or not reopen. He said that City Hall may be a little safer as the staff are mostly working in enclosed areas.

Councilor Perpich said a lot of people have been asking about the reopening of the Library. Perpich said the Gilbert Library is now open.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said he has been receiving emails regarding the reopening of City Hall. He suggested the City Hall start reopening half day and be open for four hours. Councilor Koivunen concurred that City Hall does not need to be open all day, but the lunch hour from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. is the time that many people would come to City Hall to conduct business.

Councilor Lillis said he would like to give the department heads the Council's blessing to move forward with exploring a plan to reopen City buildings as soon as possible.

Councilor Perpich asked how everyone else is operating. Monahan-Junek said the County buildings are closed until fall, and the State is not calling anyone back until after September.

Police Chief Linde reported that the Police Department has never been closed. The door is locked, but the officers will open the door if called. The City Hall has also been operating under the same guidelines of responding to customers at the front door as needed.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested the Council hold another workshop meeting to establish a plan.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi reported on the recent Fire Consolidation Meeting. Rauzi felt they are making progress. They discussed the Joint Powers information and are hoping to have some information available to the public in the next couple of months.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reported on a recent airport meeting. He said it was not the Airport Board's intention to close the sea plane base, but they would like a group of interested individuals to step forward to help the base become self-supportive. He said with the right operator the base could turn some revenue.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director – Director Rosati reminded the public that Spring Clean-up will be starting on Monday. The City Garage will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the next two weeks.

He also reported that Minnesota Energy is starting to put some lines in before the Garfield improvement project begins. Veit Construction is eager to begin the Garfield Street Improvement Project and has already starting cutting down some hindering trees.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, said that Veit will be notifying residents of the start date and that activity will be picking up in the coming weeks.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.