

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., April 21, 2020
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

1. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held April 7, 2020;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held April 7, 2020; and*
3. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held April 14, 2020.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the Agenda with the following addition:

J6. Donation Request from Eveleth-Gilbert Class of 2020 Senior Grad Project Parent Team

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

April Howe addressed the City Council and spoke in support of her husband, Sgt. Jesse Howe.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – March 16-31, 2020 in the amount of \$148,970.83

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. Appoint Louis Hippolt to the position of Operator Maintenance Worker

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to appoint Louis Hippolt to the position of Operator Maintenance Worker effective once the Mechanic position is filled. Ayes – All.

Louis Hippolt is currently a mechanic for the City of Eveleth. He has submitted a letter of interest to fill the vacant operator maintenance worker position.

2. Request from Chief Koivunen to sell forfeited vehicle

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Hadrava to sell the following forfeited vehicle via the usual and customary competitive bid process of Oberfoell Auctioneers/Do-Bid.com:

Vehicle #1: 2010 Chevrolet Impala, VIN#: 2G1WB5EK2A1233355

Ayes – All.

3. Access Agreement Amendment between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth (for 4th of July fireworks)

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Hadrava to approve Access Agreement Amendment between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth for 4th of July fireworks. Ayes – All.

4. Pre-termination hearing for Sgt. Jesse Howe

Mayor Vlasisavljevich convened the regular Council Meeting at 5:11 p.m. to go into closed session under Minn. Stat. Sec. 13D.05, Subd. 2(a) (3) to discuss data regarding Sergeant Jesse Howe that is not public information.

The closed session ended at 5:45 p.m. and Mayor Vlasisavljevich reconvened the regular Council Meeting.

5. Consider Sgt. Jesse Howe employment termination

Mayor Vlasisavljevich opened the meeting for comments regarding Sergeant Jesse Howe. No public statements were made.

Motion by Councilor Hadrava, second by Councilor Lillis to terminate employment of Sergeant Jesse Howe from the Eveleth Police Department effective May 1, 2020; keeping Howe on administrative leave until May 1, 2020. Ayes – All.

6. Donation Request from Eveleth-Gilbert Class of 2020 Senior Grad Project Parent Team

This parent group has formed to generate ideas to honor the Eveleth-Gilbert Class of 2020 as a result of the many lost opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are currently working on a project which is estimated at \$5,000 which would post individual banners for each graduating senior downtown. They would also like to post large banners with “Congratulations EG Class of 2020” at the entrance to each town (Eveleth, Gilbert, Fayal).

City Attorney Brunfelt said the request does not meet public purpose so the City would not be able to donate. Mayor Vlasisavljevich said this may be the only class not to get a graduation ceremony. He asked if the City could organize a cleanup and donate from the student services. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will contact the school to see if there is an interest to do clean up for payment of services.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Koivunen said the Golf Course made it nicely through the winter and will be opening Thursday morning. Director Rosati said the Golf Course will have some restrictions due to the Governor’s Orders such as only one person per golf cart and no sharing golf clubs. The Club House will remain closed for now and will reopen depending on the Governor’s Orders related to COVID-19.

Councilor Lillis mentioned the Fire Department Shared Services Committee held a teleconference. Lillis was unable to attend the meeting, but did get a briefing. Lillis indicated the City of Gilbert had a representative who confirmed they are not interested in merging fire departments at this time. Gilbert would like to continue with joint training. The door will remain open for merging if Gilbert is interested in the future.

The Council will hold a workshop meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020 to discuss an assistance program for helping small businesses in Eveleth affected by closures due to COVID-19.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the City is almost caught up with sweeping streets and will be planning on sweeping the alleys next. He said there has been quite a bit of landscaping to repair this spring from the winter snow removal. Rosati encouraged residents with damage to their landscaping to call City Hall.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.