

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., May 17, 2022
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; City Attorney Karl Sundquist; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 3, 2022. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the agenda with the following addition:

I.6. Consider authorizing City Engineer to perform a Feasibility Study on the AMI water meter upgrade & communications upgrade improvements at the WTP & WWTP

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Gordon Ramsay: Candidate for St. Louis County Sherriff, introduced himself to the Mayor and Council. Ramsay grew up in Duluth, has been married for 25 years, and has two children ages 14 and 12. Ramsay started as a police officer at the age of 20. He was the former Duluth Police Chief. Ramsay said he has three issues that he will be focusing on: 1) Reducing crime (which is often drug related); 2) Establishing relationships to include training and collaboration opportunities; 2) Taking care of law enforcement

personnel. Ramsay said that law enforcement is a noble profession and it is disturbing to see how it has been politicized. Ramsay said that they are not seeing people entering the force. He said that officer wellness both physically and mentally is important.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said there has been a disrespect for all first responders. He would like a safe community especially for the kids. Vlasisavljevich said that the number one priority is public safety. The criminals are not the heroes.

Councilor Lillis thanked Ramsay for his time.

2. Tom Coombe: Fayal resident, thanked the Eveleth Police Department for their help during a recent rain storm on Thursday night. Coombe said that before 10:00 p.m. the power went out during the storm. Coombe was unable to start his generator. For over an hour, Coombe and his wife were bailing water out of his basement as the sump pump was not working. He ended up calling 911 asking for help as they were unable to continue. Around midnight, Eveleth Police officer Dustin Huhta arrived on the scene. Huhta started helping to bail water and continued for over 45 minutes. Officer Chris Melin then arrived at the scene. He was able to start the generator. Coombe praised the police officers. He thanked the officers personally and spoke with Police Chief Linde. Coombe wanted to publicly thank the officers on behalf of himself and his wife. He thanked the City Council for authorizing a contract with the Eveleth Police Department which covers the Fayal Township area.
3. Michele Woods: Owner of Johnny D's bar would like to either purchase or lease the land between Johnny D's and Eveleth Chiropractic for outdoor seating and activities. Woods understands the area would need to be fenced. Councilor Lillis suggested Woods check with Alcohol and Gambling to find out if they have specific requirements. The Council would like City Attorney Sundquist and City Clerk Administrator Monahan Junek to work with Woods on an agreement.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of Payroll – April 16-30, 2022 in the amount of \$147,111.42**

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Councilor Lillis said he appreciates the report received from Northco Real Estate as to what they have been doing for the City.

2. **Second Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Industrial Park Drive property near daycare facility)**

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Second Amendment to Exclusive Listing Agreement with SVN Northco Real Estate Services, LLC (Industrial Park Drive property near daycare facility). Ayes – All.

3. **Removal of Police Officer Huhta from probationary status**

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to remove Police Officer Dustin Huhta from probationary status effective May 25, 2022. Ayes – All.

4. **Letter of Support for US Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program: Rock Ridge School and US 53 Transportation Improvements; Eveleth, Minnesota**

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Letter of Support for US Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program: Rock Ridge School and US 53 Transportation Improvements; Eveleth, Minnesota. Ayes – All.

Councilor Perpich commented on a recent article in the Minneapolis newspaper which indicated Perpich was the only one opposed to a roundabout. Perpich clarified that he supports what will be safe. He hopes the Council will be kept apprised of the design information of the new intersection.

5. **Letter from Michele Woods requesting to lease or purchase City owned land**

No formal action was taken on this matter. The Council would like City Attorney Sundquist and City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek to work with Ms. Woods on an agreement. The agreement will then be placed on the agenda for Council consideration.

6. Consider authorizing City Engineer to perform a Feasibility Study on the AMI water meter upgrade & communications upgrade improvements at the WTP & WWTP

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize City Engineer to perform a Feasibility Study on the AMI water meter upgrade & communications upgrade improvements at the WTP & WWTP. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi reported that the HRA has not been able to hire an administrative assistant. The current staff member will be retiring on May 27th. The job is approximately 20 hours per week.

Councilor Koivunen reported that the Airport Authority did not have a quorum at the last meeting, and the meeting has been rescheduled for May 24th. The Golf Course Commission will also be meeting on the 24th.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director – Public Works Director Rosati reported that the street crew has been out sweeping. They are almost caught up with a few alleys remaining.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, reported that the Roosevelt project will be starting next week and going into July. After completion of Roosevelt, Douglas Avenue will begin.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.