

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., June 2, 2020
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 John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Absent
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 Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the following minutes:

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop held May 19, 2020; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 19, 2020.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

J7. Letter from 4th of July Committee

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – May 1-15, 2020 in the amount of \$108,036.18
- 2. Approval of Claims – May 2020 in the amount of \$295,181.46
- 3. Lease between State of Minnesota (DNR) and City of Eveleth for brush disposal and boulder storage
- 4. Lease between State of Minnesota (DNR) and City of Eveleth for water storage area and sewage lift station

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider bids for 2020 Garfield Street & Utility Improvements Project

The following bids were received for the 2020 Garfield Street & Utility Improvements Project on May 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.:

Mesabi Bituminous Inc.	\$1,523,603.33
Utility Systems of America, Inc.	\$1,766,244.00
Casper Construction Inc.	\$1,964,994.00
KGM	\$1,757,177.50

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the bids came in a little higher than expected and asked the Council to consider rejecting the bids and rebid the project in the fall.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to reject the bids received on May 29, 2020 for the 2020 Garfield Street & Utility Improvements Project and to consider rebidding for this project in the Fall of 2020. Ayes – All.

2. Consider quotes for West Eveleth ditch improvements

The following quotes were received for the West Eveleth ditch improvements project on May 6, 2020:

George Bougalis & Sons Co.	\$34,500.00
Jola & Sopp Excavating Inc.	\$19,380.00
Bougalis Inc.	\$19,850.00

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the quote from Jola & Sopp in the \$19,380.00 for West Eveleth ditch improvements. Ayes – All.

3. Liquor licenses for Robert J. Woods (R & M Woods Inc.) dba Johnny D’s at 301 Grant Avenue

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve liquor licenses for Robert J. Woods (R&M Woods Inc.) dba Johnny D’s at 301 Grant Avenue contingent upon completion of application process, submittal of Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance, and becoming current on any outstanding utilities or property taxes. Ayes – All.

4. Termination of Temporary Easement between City of Eveleth and St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Termination of Temporary Easement between City of Eveleth and St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority. Ayes – All.

5. COVID-19 Business Loan and Grant Guidelines

Councilor Lillis explained that the loan and grant guidelines are an expansion of and in addition to the bridge loan program which was approved by the Council on May 5, 2020. These funds would be made available for businesses within the City who have incurred expenses from the Governor’s Order to shut down due to COVID. Lillis said they wanted to make an easier application process for Eveleth businesses. Councilors Lillis and Rauzi serve on the EDA Board and would be approving the loans/grants.

Councilor Koivunen thanked all who worked on the program and hoped business owners would come in to apply. Mayor Vlaisavljevich complimented everyone working on the program stating it takes a lot of time and commitment.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the COVID-19 Business Loan and Grant Guidelines. Ayes – All.

6. Purchase Agreement and Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Karwin J. Marks and Kara K. Marks

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Purchase Agreement and Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Karwin J. Marks and Kara K. Marks. Ayes – All.

7. Letter from 4th of July Committee

The Council received a letter from the 4th of July Committee in which they regretfully cancelled participation in all street level events of the 4th of July. This will include children's games and races, the 4th of July morning parade and the 3rd of July street dance. The 4th of July Committee's liability insurance carrier will not provide defense or indemnity if a pandemic related claim was made against the committee for having an event outside of the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. The Committee is seeking permission to keep the fireworks event.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said it is kind of depressing to find out the obstacles with the insurance. Vlasisavljevich questioned how someone could prove they contracted Coronavirus from the event. He asked if it would be possible to get a letter of clarification from the underwriter.

Councilor Koivunen suggested the City block off the streets. Attorney Brunfelt advised against blocking off the streets as the City cannot do anything that would sponsor an event in violation of the Governor's Orders. If the City is not in compliance, the City's liability insurance will not provide coverage. He said it would be very risky for City government to encourage people to congregate on the street as it would create enormous liability.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked what would happen if someone is hit by a car watching the fireworks. Attorney Brunfelt indicated it is the citizens' responsibility. He said the City needs to have enforcement to regulate liquor laws which do not allow alcoholic drinks on the streets. He reiterated that the City must have law enforcement so people do not spill out into the street.

Chief Koivunen said the Police Department will be staffing as usual for 4th of July celebrations. Koivunen said, "We know people are still going to come." He will be meeting with bar owners to reiterate no glass beverage containers or drinks are allowed in the streets.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich commented that he never thought he would see a time where there is no 4th of July in Eveleth.

Attorney Brunfelt reminded the Council that the City does not want to be in a position to lose the protection of its insurance company and expose the City's general fund.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief Koivunen commended the businesses who have been reopening in compliance with the Governor's COVID-19 Orders. He said they have come up with professional and creative ideas to practice safe distancing.

Councilor Rauzi thanked Guy and Sandra Cuppoletti for donating dishes to the Fire Hall in honor of their late mother, Olympia Cuppoletti.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.