

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m., June 6, 2023**  
**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; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 2, 2023;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held May 18, 2023; and*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held May 18, 2023.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the agenda. Ayes – All.*

**E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Payroll – April 16-30, 2023 in the amount of \$171,863.00**
- 2. Approval of Payroll – May 1-15, 2023 in the amount of \$118,501.87**

- 3. Approval of Payroll – May 16-31, 2023 in the amount of \$173,996.55**
- 4. Approval of Claims – May 2023 in the amount of \$665,831.55**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Consent Agenda Items F.1, 2, 3 and 4. Ayes – All.*

- 5. Authorize Water/Wastewater Operator to attend Wastewater Treatment Annual Conference, July 27-29, 2023, Grand Rapids**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Consent Agenda Item F.5. Ayes – All.*

- 6. Authorize Sgt. Elias and K-9 Bear to attend United States Police Canine Association 2023 Region 12 PDI Trials, June 25-27, 2023, Chisago, MN**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Consent Agenda Item F. 6. Ayes – All.*

## **G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Home Occupation Permit Application of Briita Potter of Iron Range Paddle, LLC**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Home Occupation Permit Application of Briita Potter of Iron Range Paddle, LLC. Ayes – All.*

- 2. Change Order No. 2 for 2023 Fayal Pond Trail Improvements in the amount of \$7,000**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Change Order No. 2 for 2023 Fayal Pond Trail Improvements in the amount of \$7,000. Ayes – All.*

- 3. Pay Request No. 1 for 2023 Fayal Pond Trail Improvements from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$19,863.55**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Pay Request No. 1 for 2023 Fayal Pond Trail Improvements from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$19,863.55. Ayes – All.*

**4. Cost Estimate for Pre-Demolition Asbestos Inspection and Hazardous Material Survey for 408 Fayal Road, Eveleth**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve cost estimate from NTS for pre-demolition asbestos inspection and hazardous material survey for 408 Fayal Road, Eveleth. Ayes – All.*

This is the former Blackwoods building.

**5. Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and Northern Pines Construction, LLC for Carter Circle, Lot 5**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and Northern Pines Construction, LLC for Carter Circle, Lot 5. Ayes – All.*

**6. Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and Northern Pines Construction, LLC for Carter Circle, Lot 6**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement between City of Eveleth and Northern Pines Construction, LLC for Carter Circle, Lot 6. Ayes – All.*

**7. Letter from Commercial Refrigeration dated June 1, 2023**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize Commercial Refrigeration Systems, Inc. to realign dasher boards at the Eveleth Hippodrome up to an amount of \$10,000. Ayes – All.*

**8. Hippodrome Arena**

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said the City has been dealing with hockey ice time at the Hippodrome. Vlaisavljevich would like to notify the school board that the City would like any future agreements or negotiations to be done in writing. He would like the City Attorney to send a letter to advise the school board.

Councilor Perpich pointed out that City of Eveleth was told the hockey playing time would be divided 50/50 between Eveleth and Virginia arenas. Perpich said there are around 75 high school hockey athletes in the Rock Ridge School District. The decision for the whole school district regarding ice time is being made for only 75 athletes.

Councilor Lillis said the public should be made aware that thousands and thousand of dollars are being spent each year to play at the Virginia arena. The City of Eveleth offered a remarkably lower rate for ice time.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said that, “Everyone knows what was said in that merger.” He commented that this is causing animosity between the communities.

Councilor Koivunen said, “It’s about the tax paying dollars. Let’s do the math.”

Councilor Lillis said he would like the public to know that it is all about the kids. He said, “We advocate for the best possible environment.” Lillis said we have a situation where Eveleth is getting shorted on an agreement that was struck before this became a reality and it leaves a bitter taste.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said he does not like being lied to.

Councilor Rauzi said the City of Eveleth cannot do anymore handshake agreements with the School District. Everything must be done in writing.

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi authorizing City Attorney to send a letter to the Rock Ridge School District Board informing them that any future negotiations or agreements with the City of Eveleth must be done in written form. Ayes – All.*

**9. Access Agreement between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth for Eveleth 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Access Agreement between United Taconite, LLC and City of Eveleth for Eveleth 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks. Ayes – All.*

**10. Request from 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for donation to support 4<sup>th</sup> of July events**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve request from 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for \$5,000 donation to support 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. Ayes – All.*

**11. Announce 4<sup>th</sup> of July Grand Marshal**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich announced Stanci & George Walters have been named the 2023 Grand Marshals for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Councilor Lillis congratulated the Walters and thanked them for years of public service.

**12. Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Council 65 to add Juneteenth to the paid holiday schedule**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Council 65 to add Juneteenth to the paid holiday schedule. Ayes – All.*

### **13. Reschedule July 4 Regular City Council meeting**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to reschedule the July 4, 2023 regular City Council Meeting to Monday, July 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Ayes – All.*

### **14. Resignation from Nicole Stone, EMT**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to accept resignation from Nicole Stone, EMT, and to send a letter of thanks for her service. Ayes – All.*

### **15. Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library in Memory of Sally Virkus (Carol Gunderson)**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2023-14, “Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library in Memory of Sally Virkus (by Carol Gunderson)” and to send a letter of thanks. Ayes – All.*

## **J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Lillis gave an update on the HRA. The annual inspection report was a 98 out of 100 and management is doing quite well. Lillis said there was a little snafu with installation of the new screen doors, and they are working to rectify the issue.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked that a notice be included with the utility bills referencing blight in town specifically related to junk cars in yards. The notice would also be put on the City’s website and in the local newspaper. Vlasisavljevich implied that, “The Hook might be coming to start yanking vehicles.”

Councilor Koivunen said the average person may not be aware of how long the blight procedure takes. Councilor Lillis said that due process must be followed. Lillis would be in favor of meeting with the City Attorney to look at potential ways to streamline the system to get things done in a much shorter time frame. He said it is hard for the police department to focus on blight. Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked if the City can hire someone to work specifically on blight. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said she could work with the City Attorney to modify the existing independent contractor agreement if the City finds someone.

Councilor Perpich announced the Open House at the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum on June 17, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and will include free admission to the Hall.

## **K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Director Rosati reported that the realignment and paving has started on the backside of Fayal Pond. There is some remaining landscaping, but the area is looking very nice. Rosati is hopefully waiting to hear about another grant source for more money to be used on the Fayal Pond trails.

## **L. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.