

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m., June 8, 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 May 13, 2021;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 18, 2021; and*
3. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held May 25, 2021.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*J10. Discuss signage on trails in Eveleth*

*Ayes – All.*

**E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## F. VISITOR/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

## G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – May 1-15, 2021 in the amount of \$113,499.49
2. Approval of Payroll – May 16-31, 2021 in the amount of \$142,741.15
3. Approval of Claims – May 2021 in the amount of 504,494.21

*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. Rescind Resolution No. 2020-08 Declaring a Local Emergency

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to rescind Resolution No. 2020-08, “Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency.” Ayes – All.*

### 2. Consider transferring the St. Louis County refuse service fee collection back to the County

Public Works Director Rosati reported that the City collects a monthly St. Louis County Refuse Service Fee from our utility customers. The payments are then sent to the County in quarterly disbursements. Three times in the last few years, the City has had to make adjustments to residential and commercial utility bills, raising these fees solely for the County. Rosati is suggesting the County assume the duty of collecting the Solid Waste Service fees through charges applied on the property tax statements beginning in 2022.

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize transferring the St. Louis County refuse service fee collection back to St. Louis County. Ayes – All.*

### 3. Quotation from Zeigler CAT for new backhoe/loader

Director Rosati conveyed to the Council that the City is unable to buy parts for the 2000 Komatsu Loader/Backhoe. This piece of equipment is used daily and in need of replacement.

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to accept quotation from Zeigler CAT at a cost not to exceed \$120,000. Ayes – All.*

**4. Quotation for Braun NW Inc. for new ambulance**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to accept quotation from Braun NW Inc. for a new ambulance in the amount of \$234,086.00. Ayes – All.*

The delivery time is estimated at 10 months out for a new ambulance.

**5. Quotation from DSC Communications for public works radios and installation**

Director Rosati distributed an updated proposal to the Council. Rosati recommended the Council give a little flexibility from the \$39,125.95 quotation so the City can add a radio or a few additional pieces of equipment.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the quotation from DSC Communications for public works radios and installation in the amount not to exceed \$45,000. Ayes – All.*

**6. Pay Request No. 1 from Veit and Company in the amount of \$144,465.38 for Garfield Street Reconstruction**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Pay Request No. 1 from Veit and Company in the amount of \$144,465.38 for the Garfield Street Reconstruction Project. Ayes – All.*

Councilor Koivunen commented that this is a very big project that has needed to be done for a long time.

**7. Approve 2021 Discretionary Expenditures**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the 2021 Discretionary Expenditures. Ayes – All.*

The following expenditures were approved:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Sidewalks	\$30,000
Trees – Streets	\$5,000

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Trees – Parks	\$5,000
Misc.	\$30,000
Upgrade & Add Cameras	\$30,000
Fence – Alice Location & Gravel Pit	\$120,000
Parking Lot Improvements	\$10,000
AEOA -Live Well at Home	\$10,000
Electronic Signs – Auditorium & Library	\$12,000
New Voting Machine (3)	\$16,000
New Backhoe/Loader	\$135,000
New Streets Pickup Truck	\$35,000
Station 44 Road Lot – Log & Flag Wetlands	\$10,000
Soil Cleanup – 408 Fayal Road	\$40,000
Grade City Lot by Daycare – Industrial Park Drive	\$30,000
New Public Works Vehicle Radios	\$45,000
New Ambulance Set-Side (2022 delivery)	\$153,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$736,092</b>
Available Funds	\$736,245
<b>Other</b>	
Utility Truck	\$85,000 (water & sewer funds)
Library desk enclosure & cameras	\$50,000 (library fund)
New ambulance (remainder)	\$81,908 (to be funded in 2022)

**8. Proposal from PSN and Banyon Data Systems for accepting credit cards and electronic payments**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve proposal from PSN and Banyon Data Systems for accepting credit cards and electronic payments. Ayes – All.*

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek explained that the process will take some time to update the City’s accounting system.

**9. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources lease for observation lookout and roadway (Leonidas Overlook)**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve lease with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for observation lookout and roadway at Leonidas Overlook. Ayes – All.*

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said this is a renewal lease with the DNR. Once the renovation plans are decided for Leonidas Overlook, the City will get final approval from the DNR. Renovations will include signage, an outlook platform, a story display of the overlook, lighting, etc.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich referred to Leonidas Overlook as a great gem within Eveleth.

## **10. Discuss signage on trails in Eveleth**

Councilor Rauzi is the Council liaison for the Joint Trail Board. Rauzi indicated there has been some trail abuse and the Board's hands are tied due to the legality of who owns the land. Rauzi said it would behoove the City to increase signage and enforcement of those trails, and that people are suffering until the problem is rectified.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich noted the same issues in town with ATV drivers. Vlasisavljevich said that 99% of the people are respectful, but there are a few characters causing problems. He suggested that maybe it is time to impound some of these ATVs. The offenders are driving right down the middle of the street. He said, "Pretty soon we will have a dozen doing the same thing."

Councilor Perpich concurred with Vlasisavljevich's concerns citing safety issues particularly now that school is on break and kids are out riding their bicycles. Councilor Koivunen warned those breaking the law to, "Slow down. Be courteous." Koivunen said he believes the signage around town is clear to get from Point A to Point B. He cautioned that if you do not follow the law, the police are going to take whatever you are riding, and "It's going to cost you money to get it back."

Attorney Brunfelt advised the Council that the police are governed by state statute as to determine when a vehicle can be impounded. Mayor Vlasisavljevich said, "Right now, the criminals are running the town!" Attorney Brunfelt cautioned the Council that the police can only enforce as the law allows.

Discussion took place on some of the situations which could prove to be dangerous such as a minor driving down the middle of the road at an increased speed, and an ATV driver popping wheelies on Cleveland Street.

Councilor Lillis said there are a broad array of laws that would cover this type of illegal conduct. Chief Police Linde said the Police Department is aware of these complaints and has been dealing with them. Linde said that much of it boils down to the police being able to observe the behavior and being at the right place at the right time.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich questioned whether or not the City has enough cameras. Councilor Lillis agreed that cameras would produce evidence.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich clarified that his goal is not to keep the vehicles to sell. He would like to temporarily confiscate the vehicle from the offender and issue a ticket. He also said, “Don’t fault the kids. It starts at home.” Vlasisavljevich reiterated that 99% are respectful, but there are few that need to get attention. He said, “Somebody is getting a ticket!”

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

Councilor Koivunen said the Golf Course and Ely Lake Park look great. He has received a lot of compliments. Koivunen also acknowledged the hard work of Carla and Steve Moberg at the City’s Dog Park, and praised the Memorial Day program at the Eveleth Cemetery.

Councilor Lillis announced that City Hall is now open to the public; with some minor COVID restrictions.

Councilor Rauzi said there will be another Fire Shared Services Committee meeting next month.

#### **L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the County will be doing a mill and overlay between Fayal and Adams and Adams and Grant. Rosati is not certain when the project will begin, but those areas are on the County’s schedule for this summer.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, said the contractor is making good progress on the Garfield Street Project. They did run into a bit of ledge rock while working on this last section.

#### **M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.