

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., July 16, 2024
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Absent
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Mike Kearney; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Remove Item:

I.6. Revised Earned Safe & Sick Time Leave Benefit Policies

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – June 16-30, 2024 in the amount of \$184,582.96

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Lillis to Consent Agenda Item No. F.1. Ayes – All.

2. Request for 4 firefighters to attend Minnesota State Fire Department Association Fire School & Conference, September 20-21, 2024, Mankato, MN

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Consent Agenda Item No. F.2. Ayes – All.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to hire additional EMTs

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize EMS Operations Supervisor and City Clerk-Administrator to hire five (5) additional EMTs. Ayes – Perpich, Lillis, Vlasisavljevich; Abstain – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

2. Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Brian Lillis for blight code compliance and related administrative functions

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Brian Lillis for blight code compliance and related administrative functions. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Vlasisavljevich; Abstain- Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

3. Pricing from Max Gray Construction for Library steps repair

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek has already consulted with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to allow Max Gray to begin this project prior to formal Council approval.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve pricing from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$33,831.00 for Library steps repair. Ayes – All.

4. Resolution Appointing Election Judges for Federal, State, County and City Primary and General Elections to be held on August 13 and November 5, 2024, Respectively

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2024-21, “Resolution Appointing Election Judges for Federal, State, County and City Primary and General Elections to be held on August 13 and November 5, 2024, Respectively.” Ayes – All.

5. Resolution Establishing an Absentee Ballot Board for August 13, 2024 Primary Election and November 5, 2024 General Election

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2024-22, “Resolution Establishing an Absentee Ballot Board for August 13, 2024 Primary Election and November 5, 2024 General Election.” Ayes – All.

6. Revised Earned Safe & Sick Time Leave Benefit Policies

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for the Residential Redevelopment Program for 612 Grant Avenue

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2024-23, “Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for the Residential Redevelopment Program for 612 Grant Avenue.” Ayes – All.

8. Request to hire Patrol Officers

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve hiring the following to the position of full-time regular Patrol Officer:

Stephanie Mathison, Brent Mathison and Jeff Leffler contingent upon successful completion of a physical examination, psychological examination and all other pre-employment requirements; and that candidates Stephanie Mathison and Brent Mathison start at the top patrol wage and benefits included in the L.E.L.S. contract due to their many years of law enforcement experience. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reported that the Airport Board will be holding a special meeting. The Board currently does not have any citizen representation. Vlasisavljevich said they are down to just the Eveleth and Virginia City Council representatives.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

City Engineer- Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, reported that Mesabi Bituminous is making good progress on the Fayal Pond Trail. They will continue to work there steady for the next week or so.

Councilor Rauzi said that in order for him to fully understand what he can and cannot talk about (as he is also an employee of the Eveleth Ambulance Service), he really needs a definition of what makes something a conflict of interest. Rauzi said he would like a written definition so he does not get in trouble again. Councilor Perpich concurred that it would be in the best interest of the Council to clarify that for Councilor Rauzi.

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the City Attorney to provide a definition to the Council of what makes something a conflict of interest.
Ayes – All.*

Councilor Rauzi said that people do not think we are doing anything about a supermarket in town. Rauzi would like to make it known that we are trying. City Clerk-Administrator Monahan-Junek said the City does not own the property of the former IGA. Rauzi clarified that he is not referring to a specific property, but wants the public to know the different chains the City has tried to contact, such as Kwik Trip. Monahan-Junek said that anyone interested should contact the City and the City would be happy to help.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich said the City should think of a name for the gym, tennis court, etc. such as Golden Bear Plaza or something as a tribute to the old school. The Council agreed that the complex should be named.

Councilor Perpich thanked the City crew, Police Department, Fire and Ambulance for their efforts over the 4th of July. Perpich said the streets were cleaned up after the July 3rd activities in time for the 4th of July parade.

Councilor Rauzi said that today marks the 40th year of service with the City (Ambulance Service). The Council congratulated and thanked Rauzi for his commitment.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.