

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., August 6, 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, Present
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Workshop held June 26, 2024;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held July 2, 2024; and*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Meeting held July 16, 2024.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Betsy Gorski & Shelly Rask – Donation to Eveleth Golf Course for an AED

Betsy Gorski and Shelly Rask presented a donation to the Eveleth Golf Course to be used towards the purchase of an AED to be housed on the course. This donation is in memory of their friend, Diane Twite, who tragically passed away from a heart attack while golfing at the Eveleth Golf Course in 2023.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich expressed his thanks from the City Council and Eveleth community. Councilor Rauzi said there are certain requirements for a building to house the AED.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the donation from the Eveleth Women's Golf and to send a letter of thanks. Ayes – All.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich would like to see a plaque in memory of Diane Twite placed by the AED.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – July 1-15, 2024 in the amount of \$164,476.48**
- 2. Approval of Claims – July 2024 in the amount of \$1,297,402.65**

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Reschedule November 5, 2024 due to General Election**

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to reschedule the November 5, 2024 City Council Meeting to November 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. due to the General Election. Ayes – All.

- 2. Consider Bids for AMI Metering Project**

The following bids were received on June 20, 2024 for the City Wide Water AMI metering project:

	Bid Amount
Dakota Supply Group	\$835,800.81
Wies Waterworks	\$854,513.73
Core & Main	\$967,298.28

Professional Meters, Inc.	\$1,111,407.75
Metering & Technology Solutions	\$913,564.86
United Systems & Software Inc.	\$997,867.68

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to award the bid to Dakota Supply Group for the City Wide AMI Metering Project in the amount of \$835,800.81. Ayes – All.

3. Pay Application 8 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$309,500.71 for City of Eveleth Projects

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Pay Application 8 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$309,500.71 for the City of Eveleth Projects. Ayes – All.

4. Pay Application 9 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$74,243.95 for City of Eveleth Projects

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve pay Application 9 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$74,243.95 for City of Eveleth Projects. Ayes – All.

5. Quotes for Auditorium stage curtains and audio/visual system

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve quote from Gopher Stage Lighting, Inc. in the amount of \$82,294.00 for a stage curtain system at the Eveleth Auditorium and the quote from Marco in the amount of \$94,777.13 for an audio-visual system for the Eveleth Auditorium. Ayes – All.

6. Pay Request #1 from 3D Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$32,160 for 2024 Curb & Sidewalk Improvements

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Pay Request #1 from 3D Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$32,160 for 2024 Curb & Sidewalk Improvements. Ayes – All.

7. Change Order No. 1 from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$8,019.00 for Fayal Pond Trail Improvements – Phase 2

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Change Order No. 1 from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$8,019.00 for Fayal Pond Trail Improvements – Phase 2 and Pay Request No. 1 from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$77,438.30 for Fayal Pond Improvements – Phase 2. Ayes – All.

8. Pay Request No. 1 from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$77,438.30 for Fayal Pond Trail Improvements – Phase 2

This item was approved above.

9. Pay Request #6 from St. Louis County in the amount of \$24,794.19 for 2022 Roosevelt/Douglas utility improvements

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Pay Request #6 from St. Louis County in the amount of \$24,794.19 for 2022 Roosevelt/Douglas utility improvements. Ayes – All.

10. Pay Request #8/Final from St. Louis County in the amount of \$5,468.90 & \$3,604.52 for 2022 Roosevelt/Douglas utility improvements

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Pay Request #8/Final from St. Louis County in the amount of \$5,468.90 and \$3,604.52 for 2022 Roosevelt/Douglas utility improvements. Ayes – All.

11. Proposal from Widseth for Grant Ave./Pierce St. arch removal, renovation, or replacement

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to table Item No. 1.11. Ayes – All.

12. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Public Works Program for Utilities for New Housing at 401 Roosevelt Avenue

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2024-24, “Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Public Works Program for Utilities for New Housing at 401 Roosevelt Avenue.” Ayes – All.

Mayor Vlaisavljevich asked if the Council could presell those lots. City Engineer Johson said there is a conceptual plan, but not a design for the area. The Council has not yet made a formal decision on whether or not an alley would be incorporated into the property.

13. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Public Works Program for Improvements to a New City Building at 801 Jones Street

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2024-25, “Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Public Works Program for Improvements to a New City Building at 801 Jones Street.” Ayes – All.

The City does not yet own the multipurpose building as the demolition of the other structures have not been finalized. Widseth is working on a heating system proposal. The City will also be receiving a price estimate to winterize the building if the heating system is not finished in time for the cold weather. Mayor Vlasisavljevich said he has already heard from some potential interested tenants.

14. Request from North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity for reduced camping fees at Veterans Park

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve request from North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity for reduced camping fee in the amount of 40% at the Veterans Park from August 12-23, 2024 and September 20, 2024. Ayes – All.

15. Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2024-26, “Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library (in Memory of Signe Johnson & Marcia Anderson)” and to send a letter of thanks to David & Vivian Hamalainen. Ayes – All.

16. Fall 2024 Refuse Collection & Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Fall 2024 Refuse Collection & Yard Waste Pickup Schedule. Ayes – All.

The City will accept trash and rubbish for disposal at the City Garage from September 20 to October 4, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Yard waste pickup will begin on October 14, 2024.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Perpich received a call from some residents at the Lincoln Place Apartments about not having parking spots available. There is an area being used by the contractor which has eliminated some parking spots. Perpich said that all residents of the apartments should be entitled to at least one parking space.

Councilor Koivunen said the Golf Commission will be meeting in the near future. Councilor Rauzi suggested the Golf Commission may want to discuss proper housing for the new AED.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said the Council will hold a second meeting this month on August 20th to take care of some issues.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich offered an opportunity for audience members to address the Council. Brian Zadnikar addressed the Council. Zadnikar said he has been in this town for 48 years and owned Ed's Body Shop for 20 years. He was also the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Manager for the last 2 ½ years, until his recent resignation. Zadnikar said he was attending the Council Meeting today because people in town have concerns. Zadnikar said that the five elected officials, voted in by tax payers, are supposed to make the decisions for the governing of the City. Zadnikar specifically addressed his concerns regarding the land at 408 Fayal Road. He is interested in purchasing the property to open a new business, but indicated that he has hit a road block every time. Zadnikar said he asked for a contract to be drawn up to tell him when the title will clear and when his building could be constructed.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said that Zadnikar had not completed the proper steps to move forward with cleaning up the contaminated property. Zadnikar questioned why he had to be involved with cleaning up site if he doesn't own the property. Vlasisavljevich questioned why the taxpayers should pay (if State funding is available).

Zadnikar asked, "Who is running the City? And who is running the airport?" Zadnikar said he is not sure what direction the City is going.

Councilor Perpich clarified that City needs a business to occupy the site in order to get funding for the remediation. Perpich pointed out that in order to apply for grant monies the City would need to have a business plan. Perpich said that Zadnikar has not provided a complete business plan.

Cammy Newman addressed the Council. Newman said she has lived in Eveleth all of her life as well as her parents and grandparents. Newman said that, "We need to bring our town back." She said that the City has lost so much (including a grocery store) and that something needs to be done to move forward and make this town a place where people want to visit and live.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested the Council hold a public meeting at the Auditorium with a casual setting for people to come and write down their ideas.

A meeting was scheduled for August 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auditorium. A notice will be published in newspaper.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.