

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., September 3, 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; EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum; St. Louis County Traffic Engineer Vic Lund

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

1. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held August 6, 2024;*
2. *Minutes of City Council Workshop held August 15, 2024; and*
3. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held August 20, 2024.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the agenda with addition of I.5. Declaration of Public Safety Hazard. Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – August 1-15, 2024 in the amount of \$153,720.61**
- 2. Approval of Claims – August 2024 in the amount of \$1,275,355.05**

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. Cooperative Agreement Between County of St. Louis and City of Eveleth

Vic Lund of St. Louis County explained that the agreement is for the main water line under Hat Trick Avenue (which the County took over as a CSAH route in July). The County will pay for 100 percent of the project.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Cooperative Agreement Between County of St. Louis and City of Eveleth. Ayes – All.

2. Resolution for Approval of the CSAH 142 (Progress Parkway), CSAH 149 (Industrial Park Dr.) and Wolverine Way Roundabout Project

Vic Lund specified that the layout referred to in this resolution will be constructed in 2025. MnDOT also plans to complete their highway improvements in 2025. The goal is to minimize the impact that construction will have on the school to one school season.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2024-30, “Resolution for Approval of the CSAH 142 (Progress Parkway), CSAH 149 (Industrial Park Dr.) and Wolverine Way Roundabout Project.” Ayes – All.

3. Quote for four portable radios for Ambulance Service

EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum reported that the Ambulance is at full-staff right now with new applications on file. The ambulance is in need of new radios as many of the radios are obsolete and cannot be fixed. Elverum explained that the quoted price is around \$4,700 per radio, but she may be able to get \$900 reduced from the price for each radio. The \$900 covers encryption which is currently used only by law enforcement.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize the purchase of 10 new radios for the Ambulance Service from Motorola Solutions at the original quoted price of \$4,713.37 per radio (or approximately \$900 less per radio if the encryption feature is able to be removed). Ayes – All.

4. Quote for two new LifePak 35 cardiac monitors for Ambulance Service

EMS Operations Supervisor Elverum reported that the current monitors are at least 15 years old and will no longer be supported. The City would be able to get a trade in allowance if new monitors are purchased by October 1st.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the purchase of two (2) new LifePak 35 cardiac monitors for the Eveleth Ambulance Service from Styker Medical in the amount of \$93,166.74. Ayes – All.

5. Declaration of Public Safety

Councilor Lillis read a Declaration of Public Safety Hazard referring to the Hell’s Angels Motorcycle establishment at 413 Grant Avenue.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said this is definitely a safety hazard. Vlasisavljevich said it’s time to find a different place and location that can provide more safety for their members and the City can provide safety to the downtown area. He said there needs to be a departure plan.

Councilor Perpich said that a lot of people are headed to downtown businesses to get a coffee or exercise in the morning. Perpich said it could have been more than shooting through a door.

Councilor Koivunen said that the Council was, “Elected to do what is best in our town.” Koivunen said it is time to get them out of town and that this should have been done before. He apologized to the residents that this was not done sooner.

Councilor Rauzi said he would like them to be relocated.

Councilor Lillis said that this enterprise attracts this type of criminal activity.

Police Chief Linde said that the individual responsible will appear in court. Linde thanked the efforts of corroborating law enforcement agencies.

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to support the following Declaration of Public Safety:

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On September 2, 2024, a public instance of violent criminal activity occurred at the property situation at 413 Grant Avenue, whereby a person discharged a handgun several times from a public street or sidewalk. The police department is investigating this very public crime. The City Council recognizes that:

- 1) There is a clear and present significant risk to the safety of the public presented by such a criminal act;*
- 2) This act is the second publicly reported violent criminal act to have occurred at this location in roughly nine months' time;*
- 3) This location is on the main street of the City of Eveleth, and is proximate to a number of businesses that are frequented by members of the public;*
- 4) This location is recognized as the clubhouse for the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang;*
- 5) The U.S. Department of Justice has recognized the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang as an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang;*
- 6) The City Council of the City of Eveleth has an obligation to protect the citizens of the community;*

Therefore, The City Council:

- 1) Declares that the enterprise operating from the building situated at 413 Grant Avenue is a public safety hazard and an ongoing threat to public safety;*
- 2) Declares that all lawful steps to eliminate all threats to public safety are warranted.*

Ayes – All.

City Attorney Joel Lewicki will advise the Council on the next steps to take in this matter.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi updated the Council on the HRA. The door controversy continues and the HRA is trying to resolve the legal matters before the cold weather.

Councilor Lillis reported that a utility shed has been purchased for the Lincoln Place Apartments. This will free up some parking space in the garage for tenants.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich asked if the City must wait to do anything until taking possession of the school property. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said that after the demolition of the Franklin School building the City could ask permission to move forward with the skating rinks. Public Works Director Jerry Rosati said they will be going through the boards to see what they have available for the rink at the former school property and the Northside Park. The rink at the former school property will need lighting and a warming shack.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.