

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**2:00 p.m., September 17, 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 Joel Lewicki; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Engineer Alan Johnson

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- 1. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting held August 27, 2024;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Workshop held August 27, 2024;*
- 3. Minutes of Community Meeting held August 27, 2024; and*
- 4. Minutes of City Council Meeting held September 3, 2024.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*Remove: Item No. I.8. License with TrailHawks Snowmobile Club, Inc., for snowmobile trail on city land*

*Add: Item No. I.11. Request to Proceed with House Demolition Process at 620 Douglas Avenue*

*Ayes – All.*

## **E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

None

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Payroll – August 16-31, 2024 in the amount of \$187,149.87**

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

## **G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Property Acquisition & Public Safety Committee**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to appoint the following members to the Property Acquisition & Public Safety Committee: Councilor Lillis, Councilor Perpich, Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek; City Attorney Joel Lewicki. Ayes – All.*

### **2. Resignation from Alex Tasson, firefighter**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the resignation of Alex Tasson from the Eveleth Fire Department and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.*

### **3. Removal of Police Officer from probationary status**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve removal of Police Officer Gage Gabrielson from probationary status and that he be classified as a regular full-time police officer for the City of Eveleth effective September 8, 2024. Ayes – All.*

### **4. Pay Request #2 from 3D Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$16,592 for 2024 Curb & Sidewalk Improvements**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Pay Request #2 from 3D Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$16,592 for 2024 Curb & Sidewalk Improvements. Ayes – All.*

**5. Bids for Airport water main project**

The City of Eveleth received four (4) bids for the Miller Trunk Road Water Main Improvements on August 13, 2024 as follows:

Jola & Sopp Excavating	\$486,330.00
George Bougalis & Sons Co Inc.	\$513,268.50
Utility Systems of America, Inc.	\$534,270.00
Viet & Company, Inc.	\$555,057.50

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the base bid from Jola & Sopp Excavating for the Miller Trunk Road Water Main Improvements in the amount of \$486,330.00 and Add Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$62,450.00 for a total of \$548,780.00. Ayes – All.*

The City move forward with additional cost to install the watermain via directional drilling to the airport parking lot at an expense of \$62,450. The water will be installed along the airport entrance road and a Change Order will be added for future Council approval.

**6. Pay Application 10 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$71,453.23 for City of Eveleth Projects**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Pay Application 10 from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$71,453.23 for City of Eveleth Projects. Ayes – All.*

**7. Temporary Easement on Hat Trick Avenue to the State of Minnesota for highway purposes**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Temporary Easement on Hat Trick Avenue to the State of Minnesota for highway purposes. Ayes – All.*

**8. License with TrailHawks Snowmobile Club, Inc., for snowmobile trail on city land**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**9. Revised Earned Safe & Sick Time Policy**

The Earned Safe & Sick Time Policy has been revised due to changes in the law. The fire and ambulance will no longer be covered under this policy.

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the Revised Earned Safe & Sick Time Policy. Ayes – All.*

**10. Application for Exempt Permit from Mesabi Fit at Curl Mesabi, 901 Hat Trick Ave., October 3, 2024**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Application for Exempt Permit from Mesabi Fit at Curl Mesabi, 901 Hat Trick Ave., October 3, 2024. Ayes – All.*

**11. Request to Proceed with House Demolition Process at 620 Douglas Avenue**

Councilor Lillis reported as the Code Enforcement Officer for the City. Lillis is requesting authority to proceed with the demolition process of the house at 620 Douglas Avenue. The property was burned in a fire in 2023 and has remained in that condition since that time. Part of the structure is bowing out more now than previously and has become a safety issue. The property has been forfeited to the State of Minnesota. As part of the process, Lillis would be working with St. Louis County and the Minerals Department to get authorization for the demolition. He will also be researching funding sources and obtaining quotes for the demolition.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize Code Enforcement Officer Brian Lillis to work, in collaboration with City staff, to proceed with the processes necessary to have the house at 620 Douglas Avenue demolished and removed. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

**J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reported that the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority has made some progress. They may have a new manager available to fill the vacant position.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich wondered if the City could begin reconstructing the ice rink at the former

Franklin School. Public Works Director said the City would have to own the property before moving forward, but the City could ask the school for permission.

**K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Public Works Director Rosati said that the City crew is installing ice at the Hippodrome and will be ready on October 1, 2024 for the NA3HL Minnesota Wilderness Junior Hockey Team. Their first home game is scheduled for October 12, 2024.

Rosati reported that Fall Clean Up will begin next week with extended hours until 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday for residents to drop off refuse. Councilor Lillis encouraged residents to utilize this service.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, reported that Jola & Sopp will complete the new airport water main line in the spring.

Johnson also conveyed that the MnDOT prework package on Highway 53 includes some work to be done in Eveleth.

Audience member Sue Hill questioned if the Council would be demolishing the property at 618 Douglas, which also received fire damage. Councilor Lillis, as Code Enforcement Officer, stated the only public information available at this time concerning the property is that the City has been pursuing both properties (620 & 618 Douglas Avenue).

## **L. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.