

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., September 20, 2022
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: Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; 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 Meeting held September 6, 2022; and*
2. *Minutes of City Council Meeting held September 6, 2022.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll - August 16-31, 2022 in the amount of \$165,584.82**
- 2. State of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Memorandum of Agreement between Minnesota North College and Eveleth Ambulance Service**

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. Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance Adopting a Revised Salary Schedule for the Mayor and City Council

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve introduction and first reading of an Ordinance Adopting a Revised Salary Schedule for the Mayor and City Council. Ayes – All.

2. Mayor & City Council Retirement Policy

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Mayor & City Council Retirement Policy effective January 1, 2023. Ayes – All.

3. Resolution Establishing Proposed Tax for Year 2023

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2022-26, “Resolution Establishing Proposed Tax for Year 2023.” Ayes – All.

3. Resolution Adopting Proposed Budget for Year 2023

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2022-27, “Resolution Adopting Proposed Budget for Year 2023.” Ayes – All.

4. Set date for Public Hearing to discuss the proposed budget and tax for 2023

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to schedule the Public Hearing to discuss the proposed budget and tax for 2023 to be held December 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Eveleth City Hall Council Chambers. Ayes – All.

5. Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (Bldg. 310 & Bldg. 340, Countryside Apartments)

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2022-28, "Resolution Authorizing the City of Eveleth to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (Bldg. 310 & Bldg. 340, Countryside Apartments). Ayes – All.

6. Patrol Officer Eligibility List

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve establishing an eligibility list for the position of Patrol Officer for a one-year period as follows:

1. *Hunter Soular*
2. *Jacob Wood*

Ayes – All.

7. Request to hire a Patrol Officer

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve hiring Hunter D. Soular for the position of full-time regular Police Patrol Officer contingent upon successful completion of a physical examination, psychological examination and all other pre-employment requirements. Ayes – All.

8. Quote from MTI Distributing for 2023 Toro Workman

The City received a quotation from MTI Distributing on September 8, 2022 for a new Toro Workman.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve quotation from MTI Distributing for the purchase of a new 2023 Toro Workman in the amount of \$34,889.40. Ayes – All.

9. Authorize city staff to post internally and externally if necessary to fill the vacancy potentially created by the opening for a Parks & Recreation Worker and/or other positions as they become available.

Public Works Director Rosati informed the Council that beginning November, the Public Works Department will be down an employee due to an extended sick leave and then proposed retirement.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize City staff to post internally and externally if necessary to fill the vacancy potentially created by the opening for a Parks & Recreation Worker and/or other positions as they become available. Ayes – All.

10. Consider Facilities Use Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the agreements have been changing and apparently, they (School Board) do not care how much they pay. Money is not an object.

Councilor Perpich said the public has to know that the bidding war for hockey ice time was started by the City of Virginia. The City of Eveleth had a number of hours listed based on discussions held with Public Works Director Rosati, Councilor Perpich and the School's Athletic Director. The School had assured the City they did not want to take anything away from Eveleth. At that time the number of hours used was 300 which was based upon the School's use at the Hippodrome for last year's season. Now, the School is getting counter offers. Based on the City of Virginia and Iron Trail Motors agreement, the City of Virginia is stipulating that all hockey games (boys and girls) are to be played at the new Iron Trail Motors Event Center.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the whole proposal should be done again—fairly. City Attorney Lewicki concurred that would be the optimal solution.

Councilor Koivunen said that when you look at the dollar amounts it does not make sense. Eveleth's proposal was \$150 per hour. The City of Virginia proposed \$207 per hour.

Councilor Perpich stated that taxpayers in the Rock Ridge School District should not have to pay for a new convention center in Virginia. Perpich said that the parents of hockey players cannot hold the rest of the tax payers in the school district hostage by insisting they pay for hockey. The City of Eveleth has presented the school board with plenty of options.

Councilor Rauzi said he would like to see justification for paying that much more for ice time.

Councilor Koivunen questioned where the 500 hours came from. Director Rosati indicated that number was presented by the City of Virginia. Rosati stated that when the City of Eveleth started negotiations with the School Board, Eveleth used 300 hours. The City of Virginia is asking for 500 hours of ice time which was unknown to the City of Eveleth when negotiations started.

Councilor Koivunen said he would like to know the reasoning for the School Board only authorizing 150 hours to be played at the Hippodrome (with 350 hours authorized to City of Virginia to be played at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center). Koivunen said the taxpayer are the ones paying for this; not the School Board or the City of Virginia.

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to table agenda item No. I.10.
"Consider Facilities Use Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Independent School*

District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools” and to authorize City staff, City Attorney and a member of the City Council to take steps to further clarify this issue with the parties in question. Ayes – All.

11. Approve FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Agreement Between St. Louis County and City of Eveleth

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Agreement Between St. Louis County and City of Eveleth. Ayes- All.

12. Approve selling 2010 Ambulance

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve selling 2010 ambulance to Ryan Ruberg of Elite Ambulance Sales in the amount of \$10,000. Ayes – All.

13. Resignation Letter from Shea Galaski, EMT

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve resignation from Shea Galaski, EMT, and to send him a letter of thanks for his years of service. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi updated the Council on the HRA. Rauzi reported that there has been a governmental rate adjustment which will increase the rent.

Councilor Koivunen said the Golf Course will be closing in a week. He will soon be reporting on final financial figures and an update from the Golf Course Commission.

Councilor Lillis said there will be an EDA Meeting next week.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief – Chief Linde reminded the public that calendar parking will be in effect starting October 1st. Councilor Rauzi asked about specific rules the police department may have regarding calendar parking. Chief Linde said anyone with questions can call the police department. There may be a future insert in the utility bills with a breakdown of specific instructions for residents.

Public Works Director – Director Rosati reminded the public that Fall Clean-Up is happening now. Councilor Perpich stated that the public should not be putting leaves in the street. Perpich asked residents to bag up leaves and yard waste for the Public Works Department to gather during alley pick up.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, gave an update on the demo for 1104 McKinley Avenue. The Council awarded the project to G-Men. The contracts have been authorized for abatement. Johnson does not know the schedule yet, but will be attending a pre-construction meeting.

Johnson reported that City utilities for the Douglas street improvement project are near completion. The City's portion of the work will soon be finished.

L. ADJOURN

The Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.