

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m., October 19, 2021**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Mayor Joseph Koivunen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Karl Sundquist; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held October 5, 2021; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held October 7, 2021.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*Remove :*

*112. Reschedule November 2, 2021 regular City Council Meeting because of local school board election*

*and Replace with:*

*112. Consider RV, Camper and Boat Parking Lot Fees*

## **E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Payroll – September 16-30, 2021 in the amount of \$153,712.17
2. Agreement between the Minnesota Historical Society and City of Eveleth (U. S. Hockey Hall of Fame pass through funding)
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Minnesota (Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Mesabi Range College) and City of Eveleth

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

## **G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Resignation letter from Joshua Engel, Patrol Officer**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to accept resignation of Patrol Officer Joshua Engel effective October 23, 2021 and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – All.*

### **2. Request to hire Full Time Patrol Officer**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize hiring of Megan L. Larsen as a full-time regular Police Patrol Officer contingent upon a successful completion of physical and psychological examinations and other background investigation processes. Ayes – All.*

### **3. Request from Chas Denny to purchase city lots on Grant Avenue**

At the September 13, 2021 City Council Workshop Meeting, the Council discussed the request from Chas Denny to purchase city lots on the 500 block of Grant Avenue for \$1,000. At that time, the lot was thought to be a total of 70 feet in width. At the October 7, 2021 Workshop Meeting, the Council was given updated information which was

supplied by Contract Zoning Administrator Tony Jeffries, that lot in question is actually 100 feet wide by 120 feet deep.

Councilor Lillis stated that he would be more comfortable with looking at Mr. Denny's request with a full Council present. He suggested this item be postponed until the Mayor and Councilor Perpich are back in attendance. Councilor Rauzi stated that he does value the input from the full Council, but did not want to hold up Denny's project. Rauzi said his biggest concern is that the area be kept nice as this garage will be on the main street. Rauzi stated that Denny must follow the purchase agreement. Acting Mayor Koivunen concurred that Denny is under time constraints.

Councilor Lillis asked if the Council would want to sell the entire lot or split the lot. Acting Mayor asked Denny if he would be willing to purchase a 50-foot-wide site rather than the original 70-foot site. Denny agreed that he would be interested in purchasing the 50-foot lot (and the additional 50-foot lot if available) and that his garage project would fit within the 50-foot parameter. Denny would need to work with Zoning Administrator Tony Jeffries for the exact placement. Denny will move his structure over more towards the former Variety Video building.

The Council strongly stated that do not want any outside storage (motor homes, boats, trailers, etc.) on the property.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the resolution conveying real estate to Chas Denny along with a purchase/development agreement for the northerly 50-foot-wide lot located on the 500 block of Grant Avenue in the amount of \$1,000 contingent upon Denny working with City Administrator Monahan-Junek and City Attorney Sundquist to comply with conditions of the purchase/development agreement to include stipulation that prohibits outdoor storage of any kind. Ayes – All.*

Lillis reiterated that he was reluctant to sell the property.

#### **4. Restate City's commitment to Fire Department Shared Services initiative with Town of Fayal**

Councilor Rauzi reported on the joint meeting with the Eveleth City Council and the Fayal Township Board. Rauzi recounted that after some discussion, it was decided by both entities that the plans to move forward should continue and not to abandon the process. Councilor Lillis was optimistic after the meeting with the township. Lillis said he hopes that in the future our efforts are not thwarted by people who do not have the best interest of Fayal and Eveleth in mind.

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to restate the City of Eveleth's commitment to the Fire Department Shared Services initiative with the Town of Fayal. Ayes – All.*

**5. Pay Request No. 5 from Veit and Company in the amount of \$166,344.08 for Garfield Street Reconstruction**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Lillis to approve Pay Request No. 5 from Veit and Company in the amount of \$166,344.08 for Garfield Street Reconstruction. Ayes – All.*

City Engineer Alan Johnson updated the Council on the project. Finalization of the project was scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>, but the weather was not favorable. The sod is being delivered tomorrow and it may take a day or to finalize the project.

**6. Purchase Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools and Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Purchase Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools and Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools. Ayes – All.*

**7. Commercial Lease with Scenic Rivers Health Services**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve commercial lease with Scenic Rivers Health Services. Ayes – All.*

The Scenic Rivers Health Services received some federal funding for painting the interior and to upgrade some furnishings for the new clinic. Acting Mayor Koivunen said it is nice to see people in the clinic.

**8. Letter from City of Virginia regarding their application for financial assistance to USDA for the new regional Virginia Public Safety Center**

At the October 7, 2021 Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting, the Council had discussed the request from the City of Virginia for Eveleth's support of their application to the USDA for a new regional Public Safety Center in Virginia. It was determined that formal support of Virginia's application could harm Eveleth's chances in the future to make a similar application to the USDA.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Lillis to wish the City of Virginia "Good Luck" on their new regional Virginia Public Safety Center, but inform them that the City of Eveleth cannot formally support their project as it may hinder future financial assistance for Eveleth. Ayes – All.*

**9. Letter from Mesabi Community Band requesting use of City auditorium**

The Council discussed the Mesabi Community Band's request to use the City Auditorium (for no charge) on Thursday evenings for practices and concerts. The Council would be in favor of allowing them to use the Auditorium with the stipulation that someone from the band clean the facility after use. This would include restroom clean up and garbage emptying, etc. Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen stressed the need for the facility to be left in the same condition as when they walk in. The City has rentals for the Auditorium with many of the renters using the building on Fridays.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the Mesabi Community Band to use the City Auditorium on Thursday evenings for practices and concerts with the stipulation they clean up the facility after use. Ayes – All.*

#### **10. Resolution Accepting K-9 Donation**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2021-24, "Resolution Accepting K-9 Donation" and to send a letter of thanks to the United States Police K-9 Association. Ayes – All.*

The United States Police K-9 Association donated \$500 to the Eveleth K-9 Unit.

#### **11. Resolution Accepting Library Donation**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2021-25, "Resolution Accepting Donation for Library" and to send a letter of thanks to Dr. James and Jean Juola. Ayes – All.*

A \$50 donation was gifted to the Eveleth Public Library by Dr. James and Jean Juola along with a text book written by Dr. James Juola with his former student, Hideya Koshino.

#### **12. Consider RV, Camper and Boat Parking Lot Fees**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve a \$10/per month parking fee at the City's RV, Camper and Boat Parking Lot. Ayes – All.*

Councilor Lillis questioned if the City will be confirming with renters that camping is prohibited. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek indicated each participant will have to sign a license agreeing to abide by the rules. No camping is one of the top rules on the list.

### **J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Rauzi is planning to attend an HRA meeting tomorrow.

### **K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Bill Aho, owner of the Super 8 and Eveleth EDA Board Member, said he was a bit concerned with the actions taken by the Council tonight to sell property for a garage to be built on Main Street. Aho said that we have to have a sense of downtown, and a garage does not feel like downtown. Aho referred back to past EDA goals for downtown from hockey statutes to the pocket park (which he said has been delayed). He said he is not satisfied.

Aho commented on the Council not formally supporting Virginia's new public safety building. He said, "We can have so much more—does it have to be an issue of Eveleth or Virginia? We are shutting things off and I don't like it." He wants to work with every community around him so that we can have more.

Acting Mayor Koivunen said the USDA does not look at it that way.

Aho said, "Take a look at downtown. We build garages. We deserve more." He referred back to a donation he made for \$1,000 towards City beautification in July of 2013. He said nothing was done and the contribution was returned to him. Aho said he had also offered \$5,000 to enhance the intersection at Hat Trick Avenue. He said he was willing to do some things for the City of Eveleth.

Acting Mayor Koivunen said, "If we didn't care we wouldn't be up here." Koivunen closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Lyle Reiners was the winner of two free tickets for the Minnesota Wild Hockey game to be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum.

## **L. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.