

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Special Meeting**  
**9:30 a.m., November 27, 2023**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.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; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Progress Parkway Roadway Alignment**

Consultant Robert Streetar reviewed the proposed alignments for the new Progress Parkway Roadway. St. Louis County had eliminated two out of the four alignments to be considered. Originally proposed Alignments 1 and 4 were the remaining choices. City staff had communicated to St. Louis County on two separate occasions that the City preferred Alternate 1. Alternate 1 would provide the most potential for developable land. St. Louis County last week proposed two new revised routes for Alternates 1 & 4 with the renamed titles of Alternate Routes A & B. Both of the revised proposals would cut considerably into the City's developable land. The County gave four days for the City of Eveleth to give input on the new routes. Streetar provided alternative route comparisons as to property taxes and job totals as follows:

- Alternative 1 provides \$83,000 in property taxes and 91 jobs generated
- Alternative A provides \$23,319 in property taxes and 23 jobs generated
- Alternative B provides \$50,000 in property taxes and 50 jobs generated

The County has not yet shared any information on the cost of the road. Streetar advised that if the City of Eveleth gives up Alternative 1, the City gives up on those annual property taxes and potential jobs forever. The ripple effect throughout the economy will continue. The County may save money for the initial construction costs, but that decision would cost the City of Eveleth property taxes each year moving forward.

Streetar opined that, if cost of the road is an issue for the County, perhaps the projected ATV trail should be put on hold. An ATV trail may impact future business with vehicles going up and down the trail all hours of the day and weekend.

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to convey to St. Louis County the Eveleth City Council's preference for the original Alternative Route 1 for the new Progress Parkway Road, and that municipal consent will be only be granted for the original Alternative Route 1. Ayes – All.*

Mayor Vlasisavljevich stated that the ATV trail should be constructed after the road has been developed. The City would then be able to determine the impact trail would have on businesses and public safety issues could be addressed prior to constructing the trail. Mayor Vlasisavljevich would like the land where Service Master is located for City Development.

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to inform St. Louis County of the City of Eveleth's desire to acquire the parcel of land where Service Master is located for economic development for a period of 10 years. If there is no development within 10 years, the land will revert back to the original owner. Ayes – All.*

The Council would like to invite County Commissioner Keith Nelson to attend a Council Workshop Meeting to further discuss this matter.

**2. Closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to go into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property at 801 Jones Street, 402 Roosevelt Avenue, and 725 Jackson Street. Ayes – All.*

The Council went into closed session at 10:04 a.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

**3. Action after closed session**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to direct staff to work with Rock Ridge School District to purchase 801 Jones Street, 402 Roosevelt Avenue and 725 Jackson Street. Ayes – All.*

**D. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.