

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m., December 5, 2023
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: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; 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 Koivunen to approve the following minutes:

- 1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held November 21, 2023; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held November 27, 2023.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to move the following agenda item to the end of the Council Meeting after Administrative Presentations:

Item No. 1.5. Closed meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop offers to purchase real property

Ayes – All.

E. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment of Breanna Peterson to the HRA

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to appoint Breanna Peterson to the Eveleth HRA (as resident member) for the term effective 12/5/2023 to 5/3/2028.
Ayes – All.*

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – November 1-15, 2023 in the amount of \$136,440.16
2. Approval of Claims – November 2023 in the amount of \$738,726.58

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Memorandum of Understanding by and between City of Eveleth and American Federal of State, County & Municipal Employees, Minnesota Council 65, Local #484

Agreement between City of Eveleth and Base Unit the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local Union No. 484, January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026

Agreement between City of Eveleth and Base Unit the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local Union No. 484, Regarding Health Insurance Coverage, January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the following:

- *Memorandum of Understanding by and between City of Eveleth and American Federal of State, County & Municipal Employees, Minnesota Council 65, Local #484*
- *Agreement between City of Eveleth and Base Unit the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local Union No. 484, January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026*

- *Agreement between City of Eveleth and Base Unit the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local Union No. 484, Regarding Health Insurance Coverage, January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026*

Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Vlasisavljevich; Abstained – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

2. Memorandum from Bob Streetar, Development Consultant, regarding disposition of Multi-purpose/fine arts building and Franklin Elementary School on Eveleth school campus

Mayor Vlasisavljevich stated that the City has done a lot of research conducted by Development Consultant Bob Streetar. Vlasisavljevich expressed his remorse on tearing down the gymnasium, but said the City cannot afford to put itself in that type of situation.

Councilor Lillis said the City would be responsible for demolition costs in the future (the school district would be paying for the demolition of the buildings if done now).

Councilor Perpich acknowledged the concerns of some citizens, but indicated it is really out of the Council's hands. Councilor Koivunen said the City cannot justify raising taxes to pay for those facilities. He said, "We don't have the finances." Koivunen pointed out that the City will have an easier time utilizing the property with nothing on it.

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to direct city staff to communicate to the Rock Ridge School Board that the City of Eveleth has no interest in retaining ownership of the Franklin Elementary School building, the Multi-purpose/fine arts building, or any of the buildings or improvements on the Eveleth School Campus located at 801 Jones Street; and that the City would like the Rock Ridge School Board to continue with the demolition of all buildings and improvements at 801 Jones Street. Ayes – All.

3. Declaration of Easement – East One Half (E ½) of Lot Two (2), Block One (1), Carlson's 2nd Addition to Eveleth

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Declaration of Easement – East One Half (E ½) of Lot Two (2), Block One (1), Carlson's 2nd Addition to Eveleth. Ayes – All.

4. Request from Police Chief to purchase new K9 squad

Police Chief Linde informed the Council that the current K9 squad, which was purchased in 2020 from Bois Forte Police Department, has approximately 181,000 miles. Over the last year, the vehicle has been in need of constant repair.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve request from Police Chief Linde to solicit quotes for a new 2024 K9 squad. Ayes – All.

5. Closed meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop offers to purchase real property

This item was addressed after Administrative Presentations.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Perpich reported that there are considerable demolition and recycling materials in dumpsters. Perpich suggested an informational flyer or letter be included in the utility bill to let the public know what is allowed in the dumpsters. He said that cardboard, plastic, metal and other materials should be recycled and that the City's rates will continue to increase if these items are not recycled. Councilor Lillis suggested some sort of notice be posted on the dumpsters such as a decal and that the City should consider monitoring problem areas.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

City Engineer – Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, is waiting to receive comments from MnDOT on the proposed Hat Trick slip ramp.

Item No. I.5 was addressed at this time.

I.5. Closed meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop offers to purchase real property

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize the Council to go into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to develop offers to purchase real property at 801 Jones Street, 402 Roosevelt Avenue, and 725 Jackson Street. Ayes – All.

The Council went into closed session at 5:30 to 5:44 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 5:44 p.m.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.