

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m., January 8, 2024**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present  
Councilor John Rauzi, Present  
Councilor Brian Lillis, Absent  
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; Consultant Bob Streetar; **County Commissioner Keith Nelson; St. Louis County Vic Lund; St. Louis County Eric Fallstrom**

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**1. New Progress Parkway**

Consultant Bob Streetar gave the Council a presentation of the City's desired access points for the proposed development in Progress Parkway. The City is referring to the development as Jack Pine Drive as the working name. The actual street name has yet to be determined.

Streetar said the City is looking for acknowledgment by the County of the City's proposed access points on the new road for the Jack Pine business park. The city will also be seeking commitment from the State to purchase 80 acres of property located along the new road. The City will be meeting with both the State and IRRRB, and would like to have these issues complete by January 31, 2024 in order to apply for funding. Streetar said it would like to have a general agreement with the County. Vic Lund said the County could approve the layout for placements of the driveways by using the map. At the point of construction, the City would apply for a driveway permit from the County.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich emphasized the need for clear communication throughout this process. Vlasisavljevich referred to a bike trail on Highway 101 leading into West Eveleth which was promised, but never came to fruition.

Consultant Streetar and City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will be meeting with the County today to discuss wetlands in the area of the new development plan. Streetar said the Eveleth City Council would like to possibly change the name of Progress Parkway. Lund said the St. Louis County 911 office is the naming authority for all roads in St. Louis County. The CSAH road has been assigned the number 142. The 911 office typically defers to the local City for naming decisions. Lund is currently working on an agreement for CSAH 142 which will include a maintenance aspect, CSAH road swap details and determine

responsibility for the permanent upkeep of the road. The agreement will be considered for approval by the Eveleth City Council. Lund said the road would be maintained by St. Louis County.

Commissioner Keith Nelson said he does not want to get into the politics of naming the road, and that he would not commit to the naming it Jack Pine Drive. Nelson said the County is trying to fix the nightmare the school has with traffic. Nelson said that the County would like to be part of the cure for the problem. He said that the City of Virginia will also need to contribute to the solution by doing something with Bourgin Road.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich remarked that the school construction is a monument of bad decisions.

Discussion took place on the Hancock business property located in the new Progress Parkway development area where the County would like to construct a roundabout. The County has been in contact with the owner of the business about a potential purchase of a portion of the property. The County will be handling the right of way process and working with the business property's attorney.

Consultant Streetar said the City of Eveleth is questioning if St. Louis County can remove the ATV and snowmobile trail from the plan until the City has determined the impact a trail would have to new businesses in the development. Streetar asked if County Ordinance No. 64 applies to this proposed trail which allows off-road vehicles to operate on the shoulder of the road.

Vic Lund said the goal of the new trail is to provide a connection for the disconnect which happened for the snowmobile trail with the construction of the new school. Lund said that all conversations the County has had to date have committed to creating a trail. Lund said that County's position is that if the City Council wants the trail removed, the Council would have to pass a resolution to remove the trail and engage with the clubs to get their approval for removal of the trail.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said the process does not seem to have followed protocol. The non-profit clubs should have addressed the Council first to ask permission for the trails.

Eric Fallstrom said there is an ATV master plan coming out proposed by the County. The plan will focus on rural segments so cities have not been included in this plan.

Commissioner Nelson said if the City loses the opportunity to include the trail in the alignment with the new road, the City will never get it back. Nelson predicted the trail would not affect economic development and suggested that creating the path to be all inclusive makes sense. The determination on how the trail will be used is controlled by the City.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said many people live up here to use these type of machines. He said we need to keep the lines of communication open.

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.