

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
8:30 a.m., January 22, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor Jim Perpich, Absent
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Absent
Mayor Adam Roen, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Wastewater Plant Facility Study – Tom Dye, MSA Professional Services

Tom Dye, MSA Professional Services, presented the Council with an update on the Wastewater Plant Facility Study. Dye has been working for the City of Eveleth for the last 15 years.

In March of 2022, the MPCA imposed new total phosphorous and mercury limits the City must meet by 2029. As part of the steps to meeting the requirements for a new permit, the City completed and reported to the MPCA the results of the Pilot Testing Study. The Facility Plan is due in March of 2025. Dye gave an overview of the proposed improvements to the Eveleth Wastewater Treatment Facility. Dye explained that, although the improvements do not need to be complete until 2029, the City must move forward as designing and planning will take three to four years. The City should allow for two full construction seasons as delivery of equipment has been taking over a year. The last major upgrade to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was in 2004. The equipment from that upgrade will begin to break down.

In order for the City to get a permit from the MPCA these upgrades must be met. The project is estimated at \$12 million dollars. MSA Professional Services will complete the Project Priority List application on behalf of the City and submit this application to the MPCA. There is a Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) offered which could cover up to 80% of the cost with a maximum grant level of \$7 million dollars. The City lobbyists will be notified of the project as there may be some infrastructure funding available.

Dye will present the Wastewater Facility Plan at the February 4, 2025 City Council Meeting. A public hearing will be scheduled to take place at the Auditorium on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

2. Discuss rental ordinance

Councilor Lillis stepped down from his Council role to serve as the Code Enforcement Officer. Lillis distributed a draft of a Rental Housing Code. He gave a presentation to the Council and City staff on the proposed model of the code. Further discussion will be essential to determine staffing needs for implementation. There is an estimated 300 rental properties in the City of Eveleth. The proposed rental code will be added to the February 4, 2025 City Council Meeting for consideration.

3. Discuss purchase of new refuse truck

Public Works Director Rosati said the City's garbage trucks run five days a week, including holidays. Rosati said the City usually purchases a new truck every seven years, and is currently at the six-year mark. Rosati would like to start getting bids as a new truck would not be available until 2026. The truck will be paid for out of the refuse fund and not the general fund. The City has around \$150,000 reserved for a new truck. It is estimated a new truck will cost between \$350,000 to \$450,000. The current truck is a 2012 which could be a trade-in or sold out right.

The Council discussed gradually raising the utility rates to help cover the cost of a new truck. A debt service fee could be applied on the bill. This would allow customers to see the increase is due to a new garbage truck.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.