

MINUTES

**Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:00 a.m., January 25, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present (via phone)
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

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Joint Rec Board programs

Rock Ridge School District Superintendent Noel Schmitt was scheduled to appear at the workshop meeting to discuss the school's direction for the programs. He was not in attendance.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich stated that whoever is funding the rec programs should have a say in the direction. Councilor Perpich said if the School wants to combine all the programs, they need to let the Joint Rec Board know how Eveleth, Gilbert and Fayal are going to be represented. Perpich pointed out that the Joint Powers Agreement (which includes Eveleth, Gilbert, Fayal and School District) requires 365 days of notice for any entity wishing to withdraw from the agreement. The School has not provided any notice of withdrawing.

Police Chief Jesse Linde (serves on the Virginia Baseball League) indicated that back in November, the Joint Rec Board approached the Virginia Baseball League to see if they would like to consolidate with the Eveleth, Gilbert and Fayal Joint Rec department's baseball program. A new league was formed and renamed Rock Ridge Youth Baseball. Linde indicated this group is run by volunteers and has nothing to do with the school district. The league is a nonprofit organization and has openings which would allow anyone from each of the entities represented to serve on the board.

Koivunen wants to see the fields, Hippodrome and facilities used and said this is for the kids. Councilor Lillis agreed and said that everyone needs to be informed of what is going on.

Public Works Director Rosati said the last time it was mentioned at a meeting with the school, it was stated that community education was planning to take over and possibly add a few more activities. Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested someone from the school's Community

Ed Department come and explain how things are going to be accomplished. Councilor Perpich said he wants to make sure that Eveleth, Gilbert and Fayal are represented.

2. 2022 Discretionary expenditures

Public Works Director Rosati distributed a list of expenditures for the Council to consider.

The following items will be considered as priorities for 2022:

Skid-Steer Loader	\$55,000
Street: Sidewalks	\$30,000
Street & Parks (Trees)	\$10,000
Hippodrome (Replace 2 boilers)	\$75,000
WWTP Sanitary Sewer Composite Samplers	\$12,000
Outlet & Christmas decorations at Park	\$ 7,000
Install pole & light at dog park	\$ 3,000

Public Works Director Rosati will look into leasing options for a new Street Motor Grader which is estimated at \$350,000 to purchase new. The dump truck with plow (estimated at \$175,00) and the jetter/vacuum trailer (estimated at \$90,000 to \$120,000) will be put on the back burner for now.

Director Rosati will explore possible grant opportunities with the tourism bureau and the IRRRB for rerouting and reconditioning the path around Fayal Pond. The last estimate done in 2019 was \$132,964. It may be possible to do sections of the path, to break down the cost, and prioritize areas which flood annually.

Councilor Koivunen commented on how nice the park looks as people pull into town during the Christmas season. He said he receives many compliments on the Christmas decorations.

3. Safety footwear policy

The Council is in favor of developing a safety footwear policy for the public works department. There are funds available in the safety fund which could be used to reimburse employees.

4. Visitor mask policy for City Hall & Library

City Clerk Administrator asked about requiring visitors entering City Hall and the Library to wear a mask. Councilor Lillis suggested the signage be simple and clear for visitors. Councilor Koivunen said the City should have a box of masks available for visitors in the event they do not have a mask with them.

5. Inquiry regarding City owned West Eveleth property

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek indicated she is working on a comprehensive list for the Council's review of available City owned properties for sale.

Monahan-Junek recently received an inquiry regarding a large lot on the 15th Avenue East side of West Eveleth. The lot could split into three lots and the City would maintain an easement. The Council will hold off on selling this West Eveleth site until they have had a chance to review all properties and determine land values.

6. City Council pay and medical policy

The Council will review Council monthly pay and compensation for additional meetings attended such as special meetings, workshops, committee and commission meetings. Any changes made would not be affective until after the 2022 election.

There is a policy currently in affect from December 20,1988 regarding health insurance coverage for retired elected officials who have served a minimum of 20 years as an elected official for the City of Eveleth. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will develop potential alternatives to this policy.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.