

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
9:00 a.m., February 27, 2020
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brad Hadrava, Absent
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Robert Vlaisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Police Chief Tim Koivunen,
Public Works Director Jerry Rosati

Mayor Vlaisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. 2020 Garfield Street Project

Public Works Director Rosati distributed proposed assessment roll(s) for the project. The City Council will review the proposed assessment roll(s) and reconvene to discuss at another workshop.

2. Public works staffing

One full-time employee has given his retirement notice and we are expecting another retirement notice in the near future. Public Works Director Rosati will be requesting to post in AFSCME for the retirement vacancy and advertise for any subsequent vacancy (that may arise from the AFSCME posting) at the next City Council meeting.

3. Public safety committee duties

Councilor Lillis distributed an outline of proposed public safety committee duties. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will forward it to City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt for his review and input.

4. Legislative priorities

Monahan-Junek will be attending the upcoming Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Conference and League of Minnesota Cities Legislative Conference in St. Paul. The City's building envelope and air quality project(s) are in the Governor's proposed bonding bill. Other priorities if there are excess taconite dollars to be allocated are infrastructure, bonding match, and auditorium improvements.

5. Discretionary Expenditures

Rosati handed out a list of possible projects. These will be discussed at a future workshop.

6. Airport Operations

Monahan-Junek reported that she was told (and confirmed) very recently there was no Avgas available for sale at the airport. She asked if the City would consider purchasing and selling the fuel at the airport. The City Council is in favor of this. She also asked the Council if they would consider making changes to the Board makeup. The City Council is in favor of this. Changes to the Board makeup has already been discussed by the City of Virginia.

7. Logging on City owned Progress Park property

Monahan-Junek reported that the School District needs to access the City's property (that we intend to sell them) to log the property before spring thaw. An access agreement will be presented at the next City Council meeting.

8. Sale of Land to School

Monahan-Junek reported that she and David Salene will be working with real estate attorney in Duluth to get the Federal EDA and IRRRB mortgages removed from the City owned property in Progress Park that we intend to sell to the School District.

9. Tax Forfeit Property

Monahan-Junek reported that there is a person interested in purchasing tax forfeit property at 1290 Industrial Park Drive. This person has tried to reach a purchase deal with the former owner with no success. The prior owner experienced a spill of chromium into our sanitary sewer which caused us to report it to the MPCA. The City traced the spill to 1290 Industrial Park Drive. The MPCA is unable to release any data regarding the cleanup and enforcement action on this property at this time. Monahan-Junek stated if the City wants to acquire this property from the County and sell it to the interested person, that we need to do our due diligence regarding the spill, and if we are unable to purchase the property from the County, we need to inform the County that the spill, etc., needs to be cleaned up before the County Board approves the former owner to repurchase the property from the County. The City Council is in favor of the City purchasing this property from the County and possibly splitting the property for the City to retain the undeveloped easterly portion of said land and selling the building and remainder of the land to the interested person.

The workshop adjourned at 10:43 a.m.