

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
12:15 p.m., March 24, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

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; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.

1. Discuss Junior A Hockey Team

Brad Collins and Linda Davidson, of Atikokan, ON, addressed the Council regarding their proposed venture to establish a Junior A Hockey Team to be based out of the Eveleth Hippodrome. Collins gave a full overview of their business plan and distributed information for the Council to review. The Superior International Junior Hockey League (SIJHL) is a tier II regional league which plays in the Canadian Junior Hockey League along with other leagues from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. The SIJHL was founded in 2001 and was formed to give Northwestern Ontario, Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin players an opportunity to play a high level of junior hockey close to home. The league has one team in Thief River Falls, Minnesota and would like to expand with adding a team in Eveleth.

Their hope would be to begin ice time at the Hippodrome in September and go through April 15th to 20th. As part of their business plan, they would be looking to sell 300 season tickets at \$275 each. At the door tickets would run around \$15 for adult tickets and around \$10 for students. Branded team merchandise is also part the business plan. Collins said the team would be giving back to the community.

The Council thanked Collins and Davidson for their presentation.

2. Proposed new St. Louis County frontage road

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek informed the Council that the new County frontage road may go across the old City dump. The County is proposing to dig up the dump and use it for cover at the County landfill. Monahan-Junek discussed hiring an environmental

attorney. This is a very complex issue and the City will need to determine whether or not to disturb the site.

3. Update on Federal EDA grant – Progress Park

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reported that the registered land survey has been completed for 1404 Progress Park. The goal was to get the Federal EDA mortgage moved from 1404 to 1402 Progress Park. Rock Ridge School District is interested in purchasing 1402 Progress Park from VEEDA at a price of \$650,000. If VEEDA sells 1404 for under market value to the School District, the Council would like some assurances that the Eveleth School Campus buildings are demolished.

4. Bio-solids

This item was not discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.