

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
2:00 p.m., April 15, 2021
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Absent
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; Police Chief Jesse Linde, Public Works Director Jerry Rosati

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. COVID-19 Business Relief Forgivable Loan Program

City Clerk Monahan-Junek reminded the Council of the COVID grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the IRRRB with the City matching an additional contribution of \$50,000. The City has distributed funds to 17 qualifying Eveleth businesses with \$83,000 remaining. Monahan-Junek asked if the Council would be interested in working with the IGA grocery store to grant the remaining funds. IGA would also qualify for a storefront loan through the Eveleth EDA. The Council acknowledged the need for a grocery store in Eveleth and is in favor of working with IGA to get the store updated. The agreement would have stipulations for IGA set by the City.

2. New utility truck

Public Works Director Rosati reported on the City's utility truck. He said the engine was replaced five years ago and now the transmission has gone out. The 2004 truck is used on a daily basis and needs to be replaced. Estimates for a new truck with box are around \$85,000 with an approximate delivery date in August or September.

Discussion also took place on replacing the 2004 backhoe (used daily) and the 1982 international dump truck. Rosati would also like to consider purchasing an additional pickup for around \$30-35,000.

3. Project updates

CSAH Roads: Monahan-Junek, Rosati and Eric Fallstrom (St. Louis County) met to discuss a possible CSAH swap of roads to make up for the new CSAH road that will be built behind the new school from Station 44 Road to Progress Parkway. The Council is

in favor of moving forward with the swap. The new road will be 2.89 miles of CSAH and the County will be returning 2.81 of CSAH roads to the Eveleth within the City limits.

MnDOT Updates: MnDOT is planning to replace the bridge over Highway 37 in the next five years. They will add space for pedestrian and trail traffic. MnDOT will be installing cable guards between the north and southbound lanes of Highway 53 between Ely Lake through Midway, to prevent pedestrians and traffic from jumping the highway lanes. There will also be an intersection control evaluation done around Bourgin Road and a determination made for the Hat Trick intersection. The Council is opposed to a J-Turn at the Hat Trick intersection.

AEOA Live Well At Home: The City designated funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the AEOA Live Well At Home program in 2019. AEOA is in the process of writing grants and would like to know if the City will be able to contribute again. The Council is in favor of setting funds aside for this program.

207 Grant Avenue: Monahan-Junek read a report on the foreclosed former barbershop building at 207 Grant Avenue. The building is in very poor shape. She asked the Council if the City would want to purchase the building from the County. Monahan-Junek will ask the County if the building can be condemned. Councilor Lillis suggested the City make a request to the County that the building be demolished.

New School Building: Kraus Anderson, contractor for the new school building, has offered the Council Members a tour of the new building if they are interested.

Junior High Building: The school district is calling for bids to demolish the old Junior High School building. To date, they have not received any bona fide offers to purchase the building.

Rental Program: Monahan-Junek informed the Council of the need for someone to enforce rental codes. Monahan-Junek and former Police Chief Tim Koivunen met a while back with the City of Virginia to discuss the possibility of utilizing a joint code enforcement officer. It does not seem feasible at this point as Virginia and Eveleth have different objectives. Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested contracting out with someone from Duluth who could come up once or twice a month. Councilor Perpich wondered if it would be possible to train someone; perhaps the State has a program. Monahan-Junek encouraged the Council to consider alternatives to discuss at a future meeting.

Electronic Sign: Monahan-Junek has been talking with Bob Manzoline of the Regional Rail Authority about the possibility of an electronic sign near the entrance of Eveleth. Alan from Benchmark Engineering will be looking at a location for the sign.

City RV, Camper, & Boat Parking Lot: Monahan-Junek distributed a map created by Benchmark Engineering of the proposed City owned parking lot for RV, camper and boat parking.

City Hall Parking: Monahan-Junek distributed a conceptual parking lot layout for the parking lot across from City Hall. The plan would designate parking spaces for City Hall staff towards the Pierce Street side and leave 41 additional spaces towards Monroe Street.

Grant Avenue Parking: Monahan-Junek distributed a map for the proposed parking lot on the tax forfeited property on Grant Avenue. This would potentially be a permitted parking area.

4. Area activities update

Garfield Street: Public Works Director Rosati informed the Council that the Garfield Street Project may be starting May 3 to 5 and will be done the end of October. The 4th of July parade will run down Cleveland or Hayes Street this year as Garfield will be under construction.

Leonidas Overlook Filming: Rosati received a call from WDSE requesting permission to use Leonidas Overlook for filming. They will be highlighting local musicians and will have a licensed drone operator recording the area. They are hoping to film on April 19th dependent on the weather.

5K at Fayal Pond: Rosati informed the Council that Jon Wagner, high school cross-country coach, has requested use of Fayal Pond again this year for a 5K on July 3rd. Mayor Vlasisavljevich commented on the parking issues last year. Councilor Lillis asked that they clean up the paint used for signage after they are finished. Director Rosati will let Wagner know that the parking and paint clean up issues will need to be addressed if the school uses Fayal Pond.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.