

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting**  
**9:30 a.m., April 23, 2020**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

Councilor John Rauzi, Present  
Councilor Brad Hadrava, 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; Police Chief Tim Koivunen, Public Works Director Jerry Rosati

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**1. COVID-19 Business Assistance**

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed a draft of an Economic Development Authority COVID-19 Business Assistance Bridge Loan Guidelines. The Council would like to help small businesses who are waiting for money from the State or Federal Government. Monahan-Junek said this would be a bridge loan. The small businesses would provide proof that their application to the State or Federal Government is pending. After the state provides assistance, the businesses would repay the loan back to the City. If the state denies the business owner funds, the loan would be repaid to the City over a 5 year period at an interest rate of 1/4 % over the Bond Buyers Index. The maximum loan amount for small business owners would be \$10,000 and the minimum would be \$1,000. These loans could be made available to Eveleth business owners affected by the Governor's Orders closing small businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has potentially 17 small businesses who would apply for this assistance. The funds would be disbursed via the EDA which will set aside \$170,000 for this purpose. Councilor Lillis and Councilor Rauzi serve on the EDA Board. They will also serve as the committee for approving the business loans. Loans under \$10,000 do not need Council approval.

**2. 2020 projects**

Discussion took place on the possibility of waiting on the Garfield Street Improvement Project until next year as the financial impact of COVID-19 is uncertain. Councilor Hadrava suggested the City could proceed with a partial project. He said it might cost a little more, but it would keep people (such as construction workers) employed. Mayor Vlasisavljevich wondered if the project could be broken down into two or three stages. Director Rosati said the City may actually save a lot of money on the entire project as oil prices are down. He will have to check with Alan Johnson of Benchmark Engineering to get an estimate on the

asphalt prices for this year. The Council does not have to make a decision quite yet as the public hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2020.

Director Rosati gave an update on the Veterans Lake Park. The Park is scheduled to open on May 1<sup>st</sup>; however recreational camping is not allowed under the Governor's Orders. The restroom and shower buildings will need to be closed until at least May 4<sup>th</sup> (which may be extended) under the current Order. Seasonal campers are allowed to camp in their RVs. Campground managers Bob & Kenne Cherro will have to cancel camping reservations for May at the Lake Park.

The Council would like to continue hiring student casuals for employment again this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.