

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:30 a.m., May 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 Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt; Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Police Chief Tim Koivunen; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

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

1. Discuss customer parking accommodations for businesses reopening June 1

Discussion took place on allowing tables to extend out onto the sidewalk and blocking off parking right in front businesses to help with compliance of the Governor's Order (which allows restaurants and bars to be open with outside seating only). Councilor Lillis expressed his concerns with allowing alcohol in the street. The Council will be open to discuss needs of any Eveleth business which needs special accommodations to comply with the Governor's Order and will wait until those needs have been brought forth by the business owners.

Police Chief Koivunen received a call from Commissioner of Minnesota Public Justice Harrington after the Council passed the Constitutional & Business Friendly Community Resolution. Koivunen explained to Harrington that he was not aware of any businesses planning to reopen before June 1st.

2. COVID-19 Loan(s) and Grant Programs

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek, Councilor Rauzi, Councilor Lillis and Financial Consultant Dave Salene met via phone conference to discuss the Council's desire to help businesses affected by shutdowns due to COVID-19. The Council has already approved a Bridge Loan Program and the EDA has a storefront loan program.

Two more options for struggling businesses were presented to the Council. The first option would be a grant opportunity which would give up to \$3,000 to qualified businesses to help with operating expenses such as utilities and property taxes. The \$3,000 grant program

would max out at \$50,000. Applicants would need to provide financial information to the City and attest as to how the funds would be used.

The second option would be a loan program which would allow for more flexibility to disburse funds than the Bridge Loan Program. As with the grant, applicants would need to provide financial information to the City.

3. Discuss 2022 utility projects

Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen said that St. Louis County is developing a plant to improve County Aid streets and sidewalks in 2022. The cost of the underground water and sanitary would be the City's responsibility. The Council would like to hold a future workshop meeting to discuss the details of the potential project sites to include Roosevelt (Fayal to Jackson), Douglas (Garfield to Temple), and Temple towards Grant.

4. Discuss Veterans Park shoreline wall restoration

Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen explained that the Veterans Park shoreline restoration project came back higher than estimated. Monahan-Junek said the City's portion would increase by \$5,000 to \$7,000.

5. Discuss ditch in West Eveleth

Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering, said the low bid from Jola & Sopp will be on the next Council agenda for consideration to clean up the ditch at 17th Street and 5th Avenue in West Eveleth.

6. 2020 budget, discretionary expenditures, and projects

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reminded the Council on expenditures already included in the 2020 budget.

Additional items to consider:

- The Fire Department is in need of new radios which could cost around \$75,000. Police Chief Koivunen said that some communities lease radios which could be an option for the Fire Department.
- The City may also want to look at a glass enclosure at the Library similar to that what was installed at front counter of City Hall.
- Chief Koivunen said the K9 Unit vehicle is outdated. The City may be able to use some of the K9 donations towards a new SUV.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.