

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:00 a.m., July 8, 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; Police Chief Tim Koivunen, Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. City ordinances

Mayor Vlasisavljevich questioned whether or not the City needs to update any ordinances to prevent blocking of streets by protestors. Police Chief Koivunen said the City would have the authority per state statute. Mayor Vlasisavljevich referred to protestors blocking off Highway 35 in the Twin Cities, and said he did not know how it was tolerated to block off a main artery of traffic flow. Vlasisavljevich voiced his concern about Eveleth streets being inaccessible for ambulance or emergency response. Chief Koivunen said Eveleth has what it needs to keep the streets clear.

2. Tax forfeit property

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek gave an update on the property at 1290 Industrial Park Avenue. Monahan-Junek had a recent conversation with Commissioner Keith Nelson who indicated the County will not consider an agreement with the property owner unless there is a stipulation that the City gets paid back. Monahan-Junek had been in contact with the owner's daughter who was given a breakdown of the cost to the City for the Chromium dumped into the sanitary sewer. The cost of damages is estimated at \$16,282.04. The family would like to negotiate for a lower price if they pay for the damages now before selling the property.

3. City parking

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said the City owns the former Tuna's property. There are some large boulders put on that property by the County's request which would need to be removed to establish parking spaces. Monahan-Junek would like have the Council review a map and drawing plan for some additional parking spots downtown.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said that space could be used to rent out for residents needing a place to park snowmobiles, trailers, fish houses, etc. He would like to see licensed vehicles only so that it is not used to house junk.

Monahan-Junek suggested signage be placed in the public parking lot across from the City Hall indicating reserved parking Monday to Friday for City Hall parking.

Discussion took place on the Auditorium parking lot. Chief Koivunen said this parking lot has been a nightmare. The same vehicles are parked in this lot and have to be towed during events. He suggested going to parking permits.

4. City owned lots

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will present a diagram at a future meeting to the Council listing each parcel for sale in Eveleth. Some of these lots could be split and sold for garages. The Council will review these lots and look at pricing to get them sold and on the tax rolls.

5. Seasonal RV/boat storage

The City has a seasonal agreement with Cleveland Cliffs, but the Council is looking to change the seasonal storage clause to an annual storage plan.

Vic Opelt addressed the Council with concerns over the RV and boat storage lot. Opelt said is concerned with spacing issues in the lot. He said it is too tight to move vehicles in and out of the area and said, "If someone is blocking the road we cannot get into our space." He suggested some signage in the lot which would refer people to City Hall with questions on renting the space. Bruce Anderson thanked the Council for working with the Cliffs for parking in that area. Public Works Director Rosati and City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will schedule a time to meet with Vic and Bruce to discuss a plan for parking.

6. Auditorium rental fees

The current rental rates for the Eveleth Auditorium are \$300.00 for residents and \$350.00 for non-residents. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek suggested the Council consider raising the rates to \$400.00 for residents and \$500.00 for non-residents. The facility clean-up costs begin at \$150.00. Monahan-Junek will check on the rates at the RRCC for comparison and report back to the Council.

7. 2020 discretionary capital

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek provided an updated discretionary capital list for the Council's review.

Monahan-Junek pointed out the fencing for Alice location. The Library projects would include security cameras and desk enclosure. The Auditorium includes sound, stage lighting and curtains, developing scope of work for the downstairs, upstairs renovation and a 500 pound ice maker.

The Council discussed leasing radios for all City departments – Fire Department, Police, and Ambulance. Councilor Lillis said the department heads need to be aware so we can get this moving as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.