

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting**  
**4:30 p.m., September 20, 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: Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

**1. Discuss Hiring Parks & Recreation Worker**

Director Rosati was informed of an employee planning to take extended sick leave from November into late March and then retiring. In anticipation of this potential retirement, Rosati met with the Personnel Committee. Rosati is seeking Council approval to post internally and externally for the position if needed. This item is on the regular Council Agenda for tonight.

**2. Discuss Facility Use Agreement & other Hippodrome use**

Fritz Kvaternik addressed the Council. Kvaternik said there is a misconception that the City of Eveleth is only interested in 150 hours of ice time for Rock Ridge High School Hockey. Councilor Koivunen clarified that the Eveleth's last proposal to the School Board gave two options. The first option was for the ice time to be divided 50/50 between Virginia and Eveleth. The second proposed option was for 100 percent of the hockey games to be played at the Eveleth Hippodrome. (The City of Virginia recently proposed an agreement to the school for 500 hours of hockey ice time.)

On September 12, 2022, Kvaternik said the school approved an agreement awarding Eveleth with 150 hours of hockey ice time at \$150 per hour. Virginia was awarded 350 hours of ice time at \$207 per hour. Kvaternik urged someone from the Council to go to the School Board Meeting on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> to explain that Eveleth did not propose 150 hours. Kvaternik said the School's logo is "Fiercely United" and that the public has been told hockey, along with everything else, would be evenly split between the two entities. Kvaternik opined that 30/70 is not evenly split, and that this has not been properly vocalized at the School Board Meetings. He urged the Council to tell the School Board that Eveleth does not want 150 hours—Eveleth wants 250 hours (half of the 500 hours).

Attorney Lewicki reaffirmed that the City of Eveleth sent two proposed agreements to the Rock Ridge School Board following the September 6, 2022 Eveleth City Council Meeting. The previous agreement is void. The new proposed agreements offered two options: 1) 50/50 or half of ice time to be played at the Eveleth Hippodrome; or 2) 100% of ice time to be played at the Eveleth Hippodrome. The School is looking at 500 hours as proposed by the City of Virginia (not 300 hours as used in the previous year). Half of the 500 hours would be 250 hours of ice time.

Director Rosati explained that preliminary negotiations with the School were made based off of last year's use at the Hippodrome which was 300 hours. The school's use was recently increased by the City of Virginia to 500 hours for the 2022-2023 season. Neither the City of Eveleth nor the Rock Ridge School Board were made aware ahead of time of the increase in ice time hours (from 300 to 500 hours) which is now being proposed by the City of Virginia. The School Board is forming their decision on a 150-hour agreement with the City of Eveleth based off the preliminary proposal which was made using 300 hours.

Attorney Lewicki said using the 50 percent minimum agreement (with the increased 500-hour proposal from the City of Virginia) would set aside 250 hours of ice time for Eveleth - not 150 hours of ice time.

Kvaternik said if the School Board proceeds approving the agreement with Virginia obtaining 350 hours of ice time at \$207 per hour, the rise in hockey ice time would be \$20,000. Tax payers would ultimately be held responsible to pay for the hockey ice time increase.

Councilor Koivunen asked why the School Board is caving to Virginia.

The meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m.