

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
8:35 a.m., September 28, 2023
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Absent
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. 1404 Progress Parkway

Mayor Vlasisavljevich reported on a recent VEEDA meeting regarding the 1404 Progress Parkway building. Three bids were received for the building. After advisement from VEEDA's attorney, they will call for bids again implementing a formal process.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said that none of these three bids would be in compliance with the current zoning. The original zoning was set as a light manufacturing for the building, and any other uses would require the occupants to seek Council approval for a variance from the City of Eveleth. The building is owned by VEEDA, but falls under Eveleth's zoning jurisdiction.

Councilor Lillis said it felt like the Rock Ridge School Board (one of the bidders for the 1404 Progress Parkway building) was throwing the Eveleth City Council under the bus after comments were published in the newspaper from their recent school board meeting. Lillis referred to the Eveleth City Council's letter to VEEDA which expressed Eveleth's desire to keep the 1404 Progress Parkway Building as economic development. Lillis said that one school board member suggested eminent domain would be an option for acquiring the property.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich indicated that the City may be looking to hire Frank Kvaternik again for some services.

Vlasisavljevich said the City still has not closed on the purchase of the former Junior High School Property.

Councilor Lillis said that there is a bidding process defined by State Statute that needs be followed by VEEDA. Lillis said it would be good to get the true information out to the public.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich said it is the Council's job to increase the commercial taxes to give residents a break.

2. Snowmobile trail through Eveleth

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed a map of proposed changes from the Snowmobile Club. The Club is trying to reconnect the snowmobile trail which was disconnected with construction of the new Rock Ridge School Campus. The Council is interested in a temporary trail connect. A permanent trail cannot be established until the route for Progress Parkway has been developed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.