

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:15 a.m., December 1, 2021
City Hall, 413 Pierce Street, 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; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; City Attorney Karl Sundquist; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Benchmark Engineering, Alan Johnson

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the Workshop Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Discuss MnDOT Highway intersection

The Council is in favor of a roundabout at the Hat Trick intersection. They do not like the J-turn option. Councilor Perpich would like to see the roundabout big enough to accommodate boat trailers, mining equipment, or anything else accessing Highway 53. Perpich is also in favor of keeping the stop lights at the Lundgrens intersection, but eliminating the merge into Eveleth to be replaced with a 90-degree turn. Councilor Lillis concurred that eliminating the merge would be safer.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich would like to see the cross over at the Bourgin Road intersection be eliminated. Vlasisavljevich also stated that the Old Highway 53 southbound access needs to remain open.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reminded the Council that the City will have to participate in some of the costs for these intersection improvements.

Monahan-Junek and Director Rosati will work together to draft a response to Alex Peritz of MnDOT.

2. Follow up to Eveleth school campus tour

Some of the Councilmembers went on a tour of the Eveleth School Campus this Fall. Jeff Carey, Rock Ridge School District, has now provided the Council with reports on the school buildings. The Council will hold a future workshop meeting after the New Year to discuss possibilities for reuse of the campus.

3. Highway 53 Corridor

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek has been in contact with Boise Forte. Boise Forte has recently hired a new project manager to look at the possibility of a convenience store on Station 44 Road. Hopefully by March of 2022, they will know whether or not the project will be feasible. In the meantime, the City's realtor is still looking for interested parties.

4. 2022 discretionary capital

Public Works Director Rosati distributed a handout of public works items to be considered. The Council will need to set the 2022 levy at the next meeting.

5. City lands

Benchmark Engineering completed the surveying of City owned land at the 500 block of Grant Avenue. No land encroachment was found. City Clerk Administrator suggested the Council look at all vacant City owned lands to price and list on the City's website. Monahan-Junek received a request from Troy Martinson regarding a lot in West Eveleth.

Mayor Vlasisavljevich suggested that Chaz Denny work with Gary Skjerance to possibly purchase his garage at the end of Grant Avenue. Skjerance is looking to sell the property. Vlasisavljevich said that Denny has a certain amount of funds set aside to build a new garage and perhaps he would be able to update the existing structure. The City would be able to provide sample development agreements if they are interested in a private agreement. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said that Denny may also qualify for an EDA storefront loan. City Attorney Sundquist will be in contact with Denny.

6. 2022 projects

The Council will hold a workshop meeting after the New Year to discuss 2022 projects.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.