

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:30 a.m., December 13, 2023
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: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering; Consultant Bob Streetar; Urban Designer John Slack

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

1. School campus visual preference survey - Bob Streetar

Bob Streetar reminded the Council that Phase I of the school campus preference study has been completed. The Council is now entering Phase II of the plan. The community advisory board met last night for two hours. The goal is to create a vision for the design and development of the former school site.

At their last meeting, the Rock Ridge School Board approved the Eveleth City Council's recommendation to demolish the existing structures on the former Eveleth High School property.

Streetar introduced Urban Designer John Slack to the Council. Slack went through a visual preference survey with the Council and an exercise in which the Council wrote a postcard to the future. The exercise was intended to have the council answer the questions: 1) What do you want to see on the site? 2) What do you want people to say about the site 10 to 20 years from now?

The community advisory board completed the same exercises at last night's meeting. A vision statement will be presented by Streetar and Slack based off this information. Design concepts will primarily focus on housing.

2. New Progress Parkway alignment and development potential – Bob Streetar

Bob Streetar presented a large detailed map to the Council with alignment route proposed by St. Louis County. Streetar pointed out potential developments for the Council to consider.

Streetar and City Administrator Monahan-Junek met with the County yesterday to discuss alignment.

Discussion took place on whether or not the Council would be supportive of an ATV trail which would run through potential development sites. The County is currently seeking \$10 million dollars in additional funding to cover construction of the new road through Progress Parkway. The estimated cost for the ATV trail is approximately \$2 to 3 million dollars. The proposed ATV trail would be on Eveleth's land and the City must provide consent to allow the trail. Streetar said the County could save \$2 to 3 million dollars by not constructing the trail. Streetar said he is not sure that an ATV trail running through the front of the property would be attractive to potential business developers.

The Council is in favor of City staff communicating to the County that they would like the ATVs and snowmobilers to use the roadway rather than construct a \$2 to 3 million dollar trail. The allotted trail funding could be used towards the \$10 million dollar shortage to construct the new roadway in Progress Parkway.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.