

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**2:00 p.m., February 4, 2025**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present  
Councilor John Rauzi, Present  
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present  
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present  
Mayor Adam Roen, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 21, 2025**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 21, 2025. Ayes – All.*

**2. Minutes of City Council Workshop January 22, 2025**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held January 22, 2025. Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the agenda with the following revisions:*

*Add:*

*J.9. Resolution for Approval of State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Eveleth and City of Virginia and Saint Louis County Cooperative Construction Agreement No. 1058281*

*Ayes – All.*

The closed session was moved to the end of the meeting and the Item No. changed from J.9. to Item No. J.10. Closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) Attorney-client privilege.

## **E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Polly Sorcan, West Eveleth resident, thanked Public Works Director Rosati for his prompt action in fixing a hand railing at City Hall. Sorcan said she informed Director Rosati yesterday of the loose railing and it has already been repaired.

## **F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the following appointments:*

- 1. Appointment of Luke Bjorge to the Park Commission for term effective 2/4/2025 to 1/31/2027.*
- 2. Appointment of Kathy Murphy to the Park Commission for term effective 2/4/2025 to 1/31/2027.*

*Ayes – All.*

Councilor Perpich is the Council Liaison to the Park Commission. He expressed his appreciation for these members who have been a part of the commission for a long time. Councilor Lillis thanked the members for wanting to continue serving the City of Eveleth.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Claims – January 2025 in the amount of \$1,493,575.50**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Consent Agenda Item G.1. Approval of Claims – January 2025. Ayes – All.*

### **2. Request to send officer to out-of-town training**

Police Chief Linde reported that Officer Huhta has shown interest of becoming a K9 handler in the future. Huhta would be attending the McDonough K9 training in Blaine, Minnesota on February 11-12, 2025.

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Consent Agenda Item G.2. Request to send officer to out-of-town training. Ayes – All.*

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code Chapter 2, Section 2.02. Council Meetings – Time and Place**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve final reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 85, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, “An Ordinance Amending the City Code Chapter 2, Section 2.02. Council Meeting – Time and Place.” Ayes – All.*

Beginning in March 2025, the City Council will meet the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Eveleth City Hall Council Chambers.

### **2. Consider approval to move forward with the Rental Housing Code and program development**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve moving forward with the proposed Rental Housing Code and program development. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Koivunen, Roen. Abstain – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

The Council’s action is to move forward with developing the program. The ordinance will not be approved at this point. Mayor Roen asked about a time line. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said the hope is to have this program finished by the end of 2025 and to begin implementation in 2026.

### **3. Proposal from Northeast Technical Services for 408 Fayal Road**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the proposal from Northeast Technical Services for 408 Fayal Road. Ayes – All.*

Mayor Roen asked if the City works with Tom Muhich for these types of services. Public Works Director said the City has worked in the past with Muhich for removing the old feed store. Roen suggested the City explore utilizing services, when possible, from those who are paying taxes in Eveleth.

### **4. Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan**

Tom Dye, MSA Professional Services, gave a presentation on the proposed improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Eveleth Auditorium.

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04, “Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan.” Ayes – All.*

Dye projected the improvements would begin in spring of 2027 to allow two full construction seasons in order to meet the requirements of the MPCA by 2029.

**5. Request from Police Chief to sell abandoned & City owned property**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve selling the following abandoned & City owned property:*

*Vehicle #1: 1981 Honda ATC 200, 3-wheeler, VIN: tB0500BC033659  
Vehicle #2: 2006 Red Yamaha Moto 4-wheeler, VIN: JY41NU00760005300  
Vehicle #3: 1972-1974 Yamaha Enduro 100 Dirt Bike  
Trailer: Small white utility trailer, no registration information.*

*Ayes – All.*

**6. Quote for 2025 Ford Police Interceptor AWD**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve quote from Lundgren’s Ford for a new 2025 Ford Police Interceptor AWD in the amount of \$44,821.40 plus taxes, licenses, fees. Ayes – All.*

**7. Appoint city council members to an ad hoc Destination Hat Trick committee**

The City of Eveleth was awarded grant money in the amount of \$100,000 from the IRRRB for the development and planning of Hat Trick Avenue. The role of the Council committee would be to develop a concept to reuse the former Days Inn site and also incorporate the Hippodrome and property throughout the City to promote the hockey heritage of Eveleth.

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to form an ad hoc Destination Hat Trick Committee and to appoint Mayor Roen, Councilor Perpich and Councilor Koivunen (as alternate) to the committee. Ayes – All.*

**8. Application for Exempt Permit for Curl Mesabi at Range Recreational Civic Center, March 20, 2025**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Application for Exempt Permit for Curl Mesabi at Range Recreational Civic Center, March 20, 2025. Ayes – All.*

**9. Resolution for Approval of State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Eveleth and City of Virginia and Saint Louis County Cooperative Constructions Agreement No. 1058281**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2025-05, “Resolution for Approval of State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Eveleth and City of Virginia and Saint Louis County Cooperative Constructions Agreement No. 1058281.” Ayes – All.*

Councilor Koivunen expressed his concern with the exit to Eveleth (by the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum) being eliminated. Koivunen said it would be nice for the businesses in town if the traffic was directed to come downtown.

Director Rosati explained that the detour is for safety reasons during the construction period for the improvements on Highway 53. Councilor Lillis said this would be a temporary detour. Mayor Roen asked if the City could speak with the State or County to put up a temporary sign or billboard that announces the businesses in Eveleth.

City Engineer Alan Johnson said that signage for business access is included within the temporary traffic control plan. Johnson said the City could ask for special circumstances or adding more specific language to the sign. He explained that there will be different stages of construction which will impact additional access areas. Johnson will discuss extra signage with MnDOT.

**10. Closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) Attorney-client privilege**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize going into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) Attorney-client privilege. Ayes – All.*

The Council went into closed session at 2:53 p.m. Mayor Roen reconvened the regular meeting at 3:32 p.m.

**K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Koivunen praised the Public Works Department for a job well done with snow removal.

Councilor Perpich reported on his first Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority meeting. Perpich said the airport is looking to hire a part-time person to help with snow removal.

Councilor Lillis said the EDA will be meeting on February 6, 2025.

Councilor Rauzi reported on the first RAMS meeting he attended. Rauzi indicated there are many municipalities and school districts involved which seems to be beneficial to the entire area.

#### **L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the City has just under 100 meters left to install. Rosati described the process as slow as the City must call and schedule times to get into houses to install the remaining meters. Rosati said the new AMI meters have been beneficial in that the system recently triggered three or four different instances of burst pipes. The City was able to notify the residents who were out-of-town at the time or unaware of the incident.

#### **M. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.