

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m., April 7, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Deputy Police Chief Brian Ness; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering; Eveleth Fire Chief Guy Spurlin; Therese Elverum, Eveleth Ambulance EMS Operations Supervisor

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the following minutes:

- 1. Minutes of City Council Town Hall Meeting held February 26, 2025;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held March 12, 2025;*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Meeting held March 17, 2025; and*
- 4. Minutes of City Council Workshop Meeting held March 25, 2025.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the agenda. Ayes – All.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Juren Raske and Aaron Rasmusson addressed the Council. They are in the process of starting a Cannabis farm at the Woodline building. This area is not within the City limits of Eveleth, but Raske and Rasmusson have been attending surrounding area City and Township meetings to make sure there are no major roadblocks. The farm, which is limited to 35,000 square feet, will grow plants indoors with artificial lighting and irrigation. After 18 months,

the farm will be inspected. If it passes inspection, Raske and Rasmusson would be allowed one store front. They are unsure if they would open up a store front on the Iron Range or in Minneapolis within two years.

Mayor Roen wished Raske and Rasmusson the best of luck. He thanked them for informing the Council of their plans, and asked them to keep the Council up to date.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – March 1-15, 2025 in the amount of \$157,164.11**
- 2. Approval of Payroll – March 15-31, 2025 in the amount of \$190,316.86**
- 3. Approval of Claims – March 2025 in the amount of \$704,397.36**

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Roen. Abstained – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Authorize Director of Public Works to purchase regular road salt for the 2025-26 season from the Cooperative Purchasing Venture State Bid program or the open market**

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the Director of Public Works to purchase regular road salt for the 2025-26 season from the Cooperative Purchasing Venture State Bid program or the open market. Ayes – All.

- 2. Authorize the City Engineer to call for quotes for the 2025 Phase 3 Fayal Pond area improvements**

Public Works Director Rosati informed the Council that the City has received a grant from the IRRRB for \$32,000 for Phase 3 of the Fayal Pond Improvements. The City Engineer has estimated Phase 3 will cost \$60,000. The City will pay the remaining balance. Rosati presented the Council with two drawings. The first drawing portrays what would be accomplished using the grant money alone. The second drawing shows an upgrade to the parking lot which could be added as an alternate bid to the project. The parking lot improvement would be an additional City expense and is estimated at \$15,000 to \$16,000.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize the City Engineer to call for quotes for the 2025 Phase 3 Fayal Pond Area Improvements and to authorize obtaining quotes for the add alternate parking spot improvements. Ayes – All.

City Engineer Johnson anticipated quotes may be available for Council approval the first or second meeting of May.

3. Consider quotes for 2025 Curb, Sidewalk & Pavement Replacement

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the quotation from 3D Concrete & Construction for 2025 Curb, Sidewalk & Pavement Replacement. Ayes – All.

4. Consider quotes for lawn mowers

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to purchase two (2) 35HP Toro Zmaster 4000 Pro 72” Cut lawnmowers from Five Seasons Sports in the amount of \$12,467.00 per mower. Ayes – All.

5. Catalis website proposal

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize moving forward with the Catalis redesign website proposal and the mass notification implementation in the amount of \$4,500.00. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen would like the Council to review examples (which were provided to them) of other websites created by Catalis and discuss the website redesign at the next City Council Workshop Meeting.

6. Memorandum of Understanding for the St. Louis County Multi-Disciplinary Team for vulnerable citizens

Therese Elverum, Eveleth Ambulance EMS Operations Supervisor, explained the Memorandum of Understanding which allows first responder agencies to discuss private information. This allows these agencies to review cases involving vulnerable citizens in order to work through problems or difficulties.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the Memorandum of Understanding for the St. Louis County Multi-Disciplinary Team for Vulnerable Citizens. Ayes – All.

7. Approve Medical Director Agreement between MJM Medical Director Consortium and City of Eveleth

The Eveleth Ambulance Service must have a medical doctor who provides direction for training, equipment and patient care. The City Council approved the Medical Director agreement at the February 6, 2024 City Council Meeting. The Medical Director Consortium declined to sign the agreement as there were issues with the City's insurance requirements. Both parties have now been able to come to an agreement on insurance.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Medical Director Agreement between MJM Medical Director Consortium and the City of Eveleth. Ayes – Perpich, Lillis, Roen. Abstained – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

8. Quote from North Shore Compressor Inc. for a cascade system to fill SCBAs

Fire Chief Spurlin addressed the Council with a request to purchase a new cascade system to fill SCBAs. The current system does not have the capacity to fill the tanks adequately. There are also safety issues as the system cannot secure the canisters as they are being fill. This could result in a rupture which would potentially cause injury. The other safety factor relates to fire scenes and how much air the firefighters have when entering a building.

Councilor Lillis reported that the Public Safety Committee met with Chief Spurlin and have concurred that the risk to the City's firefighters is not acceptable. Lillis said it only takes one incident to create a terrible tragedy.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek said about 10 years ago the City starting putting money aside to replace equipment, and funds are available to purchase the new system.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the quote from North Shore Compressor Inc. for the purchase of a new cascade system to fill SCBAs in the amount of \$47,147.90 plus installation costs. Ayes – All.

9. Modify Easement Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Brandie's Building Limited Liability Partnership

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to modify the Easement Agreement between the City of Eveleth and Brandie's Building Limited Liability Partnership by changing the dollar amount from \$1,342.00 to \$1 per year for use of the easement; and to also modify the parties of the Easement from Brandie's Building Limited Liability Partnership to Appletree. Ayes – All.

City Attorney Lewicki recommended the City issue a Land License to Appletree to utilize the parking lot adjacent to the parcel at no additional cost. In the event the City owned parcel is developed, the parking lot would not be part of the lawful agreement to

provide access for their building. It was pointed out that there is a parking lot off of the daycare building. The City's lot is providing extra parking.

10. Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement for Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block One (1), Carter Circle

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate and Purchase Agreement for Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block One (1), Carter Circle to David Mark Olson, Vickie Marie Olson, and Jamie Marie Heglund in the amount of \$4,000.00. Ayes – All.

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reported that there are two remaining lots to be sold in Carter Circle.

11. Consider recommendation for casual pay

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to raise the casual pay rates as follows:

<i>Adult Casual</i>	<i>increase from \$16/hour to \$18/hour</i>
<i>Student Lead Casual</i>	<i>increase from \$15/hour to \$17/hour</i>
<i>Student Casual</i>	<i>increase from \$13/hour to \$15/hour</i>

Ayes – All.

12. Inquiry regarding police service

Councilor Lillis received a phone call from Gilbert City Councilor Bob Pontinen. Councilor Pontinen explained that he, along with Gilbert Councilor Vertachnik, were looking at ways their City could save money by reducing police expenses. Pontinen asked to meet with Eveleth's Public Safety Committee (Councilors Lillis & Koivunen) to discuss how much Eveleth would charge the City of Gilbert to provide contract police services to Gilbert. Councilor Lillis and Councilor Koivunen both agreed that they should not meet with the Gilbert City Council unless the Eveleth City Council approved. Councilor Lillis stated the Eveleth City Council would need to determine whether or not they would want Eveleth to provide police services to Gilbert given the potential political backlash. Lillis said he does see an opportunity, and has long been a proponent to shared services with our neighboring communities. He sees the value of discussion between the two communities about a potential merging of police departments.

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize the Eveleth Public Safety Committee to continue conversations with the City of Gilbert regarding their inquiry of sharing police services. Ayes – All.

13. Letter from Code Enforcement Officer regarding Declaration of Building Condemnation at 1502 W. 1st Street

Councilor Lillis noted for the record that he would be participating in the conversation as the Code Enforcement Officer for Eveleth and not a City Council Member.

Councilor Lillis presented a report regarding the building at 1502 W. 1st Street, Eveleth, which was issued a Declaration of Building Condemnation on July 24, 2024 requiring that both buildings on the property be demolished no later than January 24, 2025.

Property owner, Bernice Sabetti, requested additional time to tear down the building as the ground was frozen. Lillis responded to Sabetti's request extending the deadline to March 15, 2025. Lillis was able to speak with Sabetti who indicated her attorney would be contacting the City to make arrangements to split property into two lots, giving half of the property to her daughter, and donating the other half with the buildings to Habitat for Humanity. To date, Lillis has not heard from an attorney and recommends the City set up a hearing for the property.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to schedule a hearing with Bonnie Sabetti regarding the demolition order for buildings located at 1502 W. 1st Street, Eveleth, Minnesota. Ayes – Rauzi, Perpich, Roen; Abstain – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

14. Removal of Police Officer from Probationary Status

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to remove Officer Brent Mathison from probationary status effective April 8, 2025 and that he be classified as a full-time regular patrol officer for the City of Eveleth. Ayes – All.

Deputy Police Chief Ness said that Officer Mathison is a transfer from another agency. His probationary time was shortened due to his years of experience.

15. Consent to Iron Range Half Marathon, August 16, 2025

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize consent to the Iron Range Half Marathon on Saturday, August 16, 2025. Ayes – All.

16. Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library (Summer Reading Program)

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2025-10, "Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library from the United Way of Northeastern MN," and to send a letter of thanks. Ayes – All.

The United Way of Northeastern MN donated \$1,000 towards the Eveleth Library Summer Reading Program.

17. Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2025-11, “Resolution Accepting Donation for the Library.” Ayes – All.

The City received a \$100 anonymous donation for the Eveleth Library.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Perpich will be attending the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Meeting tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. Perpich said he just started serving as the liaison to the Airport Authority this year, and the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting looks like a heavy load.

Councilor Rauzi attended the recent HRA meeting. Rauzi reported that the issue with the doors has been rectified. The doors have been replaced and are no longer freezing up.

Rauzi summarized the last EDA Meeting and reported that Phase 2 of the Pocket Park is underway. They are looking at adding shrubs and ornamental trees. Leonidas Overlook was discussed at the EDA Meeting. The EDA may be looking at things to enhance the location such as two sets of binoculars (which are being priced). The concern for any enhancement is vandalism.

Rauzi reported on the RAMS meeting he attended. At the RAMS meeting, a power point regarding the helium project and the permitting process in Babbit was discussed. Rauzi said that if this project is successful, it will affect the whole region.

Mayor Roen pointed out that RAMS has different activities going on all the time. He encouraged the Council to attend if they are interested.

Mayor Roen attended the public meeting held by MnDOT on April 1, 2025. Roen said there were a lot of questions about the slip ramp off of Hat Trick. Roen would like to discuss this issue further so that business owners have a better understanding of the slip ramp which will run by the Rink Sports Bar & Grill.

Roan said the Council will be able to get feedback at the next Town Hall Meeting of the new renditions (prepared by Consultant Bob Stretar) of the school property. The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief – Deputy Police Chief Ness asked for the public’s patience for calendar parking through the end of the month.

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the City is waiting for one more part to repair the street sweeper and hope to be out sweeping this week.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.