

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m., June 2, 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, Present
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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 1. Minutes of Local Board of Appeal & Equalization held May 14, 2025;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Workshop held May 15, 2025; and*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Meeting held May 19, 2025.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the agenda. Ayes – All.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe DelCaro, Eveleth resident, said he was approaching the Council with some concerns of escrow funds being held on 919 Adams Avenue. DelCaro said he has been speaking with a representative of the City Hall office, but is being given vague advice. He was instructed to get an attorney to draw up an agreement. DelCaro said he would like to speak to someone

who has authority so he can get the fire insurance escrow proceeds being held by the City. The home was damaged prior to him purchasing the property.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Application from Kevin Bird for appointment to Eveleth Economic Development Authority

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to appoint Kevin Bird to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority for the term 6/2/2025 to 5/3/2031. Ayes – All.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – May 1-15, 2025 in the amount of \$151,266.75
2. Approval of Claims – May 2025 in the amount of \$789,538.83

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Application for Transient Merchant/Solicitor License

Deputy Police Chief Brian Ness said the proposed application was modeled after the City of Virginia.

Councilor Koivunen expressed his concern as the 4th of July Committee already charges food trucks (\$100 each) during the festivities. The money collected is used towards the expenses of the 4th of July celebrations.

The Council will table this item until the verbiage on the application can be changed to not take money away from the 4th of July Committee.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to table this item. Ayes – All.

2. Independent Contract with Sheri Lillis for Police Administrative Assistant training

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Independent Contract with Sheri Lillis for Police Administrative Assistant training. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Roen. Abstain – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

3. License between City of Eveleth and 227 McKinley Ave LLC for a sign on City property

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve License between City of Eveleth and 227 McKinley Avenue LLC for a sign on City property. Ayes – All.

4. Letter from Eveleth Elks Lodge #1161 regarding Elks Corn Feed and Classic Car Show, August 22, 2025

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to provide City assistance for the Eveleth Elks Lodge #1161 for 19th Annual Elks Corn Feed and Classic Car with street closures, barricade delivery, and installation of No Parking signs. Ayes – All.

The Eveleth Elks Lodge will provide the No Parking signs.

5. Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency for the following real estate:

- *Lot 15, Block 94, Neville Addition to Eveleth*
- *Lot 12, Block 75, Dorr Addition to Eveleth*

Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis. Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

6. Consider awarding bid for Phase 3 Fayal Pond upgrades

Director Rosati reported that the IRRRB will extend their grant for Fayal Pond upgrades into 2026. Councilor Lillis recognized the importance of the improvements, but said perhaps rebidding the project would get some better quotations. Councilor Rauzi said he would like to continue to advance and enhance the area as it is Eveleth's front door.

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to decline the bid from Mesabi Bituminous for the Phase 3 Fayal Pond upgrades and to inform the IRRRB of the City's intent to rebid the upgrades and complete the project in 2026. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen said he has been working with Director Rosati to rectify the culvert issue at Fayal Pond. The culvert is not on City land so it has been challenging to solve the problem as the City does not control the area. Roen and Rosati will continue to work to get the matter resolved.

7. Resolution Accepting K-9 Donation

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2025-17, “Resolution Accepting K-9 Donation” and to send Susan Gilpin a letter of thanks. Ayes – All.

8. Resignation from Trever Mraz, EMT

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve resignation of Trever Mraz from the Eveleth Ambulance Service and to send a letter of thanks for his service. Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Roen; Abstain – Rauzi. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi reported on the recent HRA Meeting. Rauzi said that everything is moving along smoothly. There is apprehension regarding federal funding and how cuts could potentially affect the HRA.

Rauzi also reported on the recent RAMS meeting. He said the Allete Power Company was featured, and they have aggressive ideas and goals for the growth of their power company.

Mayor Roen gave an update on the ball fields behind the IGA. Roen said the City will be maintaining all three fields this summer as Rock Ridge School District has limited access to their fields due to the construction on Highway 53. The City Public Works Department has started working on the new dog park to be moved behind the IGA. The dog park will replace the old tennis courts. Roen encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Park Commission to apply as there is a vacancy.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said the Park Commission will be meeting on June 4, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Rosati reported that the pavement has been removed from the old tennis courts behind the IGA by the City crew, and they are in the process of finding some temporary fencing to install at the site.

Mayor Roen said the City is aiming to have the new pickleball court and resurfaced tennis courts, at the former school property, in place before July 4th.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson gave an update on the Eveleth/Fayal Airport Water Main Project.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.