

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m., July 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, Present
Mayor Adam Roen, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Assistant Public Works Director Mark Karpen; Police Chief Jesse Linde; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering, Eveleth Fire Chief Guy Spurlin

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of City Council Meeting June 16, 2025

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Minutes of City Council Meeting held June 16, 2025. Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the agenda with the following addition:

I.12. Request from Waterview Woods Nursing Home to Hold a Classic Car Show on August 13, 2025

Ayes – All.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Reappointment of George Walters to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to reappoint George Walters to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority for the term 7/7/2025 to 5/3/2031. Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis thanked Mr. Walters for stepping up to serve another term.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – June 1-15, 2025 in the amount of \$161,532.28**
- 2. Approval of Claims – June 2025 in the amount of \$1,016,716.15**

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. Consider quotes for new dog park fence

The City received the following quotations for installation of a fence at the new dog park (located behind the former IGA):

Iron Oakes Fencing Bovey, MN	\$10,869.00 + \$2,470.00 (for optional fence to divide tennis courts)
Keller Fence Company Grand Rapids, MN	\$14,693.25

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve quotation from Iron Oakes Fencing, Bovey, MN for \$10,869.00 + \$2,470.00 (for additional work to divide tennis courts). Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen explained that the City will be utilizing fencing from the existing dog park to secure the site. The new fencing will create two entry points—one for small dogs, one for large dogs.

2. Bolton & Menk Engineer’s preliminary cost estimate – parking lot improvements at former school site

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to approve preliminary cost estimate from Bolton & Menk Engineering for the parking lot improvements at the former school site in the amount of \$345,580.00. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen, Councilor Perpich and City Engineer Alan Johnson revisited the former school site to determine the needs for the parking lot. Roen also discussed snow removal with Public Works Director Rosati. The proposed lot will hold 30 parking stalls. Councilor Lillis clarified that the main purpose of the parking lot is to service the multipurpose building. The intent is not to serve any other future buildings. Perpich explained that this parking lot would be utilized for businesses or activities taking place at the multi-use building. Mayor Roen stated that the funding would come from a portion of the IRRRB housing grant money for the former school site.

3. NTS cost estimate for geotechnical investigation – parking lot improvements at former school site

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the NTS cost estimate for geotechnical investigation (at the former school site for the parking lot) in the amount of \$8,442.00. Ayes – All.

City Engineer Johnson explained that the soil borings will be an independent check done by the City to make sure the fill is suitable to build on top of. This is to ensure the parking lot does not settle.

4. Discuss Fire Consolidation with Fayal Township and City of Gilbert

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to discuss fire consolidation with Fayal Township and the City of Gilbert. Ayes – All.

The purpose of these discussions will be to involve leadership from Eveleth, Fayal and Gilbert to determine the potential of combining fire departments. Mayor Roen and Councilor Rauzi will serve as the representation for the City of Eveleth. Councilor Koivunen, who was involved with the first conversations held a few years back, said the State will give funding for communities combining services, not individual entities.

Councilor Lillis said he participated in the previous informative process for several months only to have it shut down by a small minority of personalities. Lillis said he learned from that experience that the decisions need to be made by the Council and Town Board leadership, instead of letting the committee run the show. He said it is best to be in a position that the governing bodies will have the ultimate say on what happens. Lillis said he sees the benefit of sharing municipal services, and that the bottom line is the level of service that can be provided and at what expense.

Councilor Perpich would like to see a spirit of cooperation with the entities. Perpich said there are future projects moving forward, with share services potential, that could benefit all communities.

Councilor Rauzi said he agrees with the general thought. Rauzi invested a lot of time in the first round of discussions and understands the issues. He pointed out that nothing is broken with any of the fire departments. The goal is to be better financially and maybe have more manpower. He cautioned getting too far ahead and encouraged taking one step at a time.

Fire Chief Guy Spurlin said this is something the Eveleth Fire Department needs to do financially. Spurlin said Eveleth, Gilbert and Fayal all work well together, and that the Eveleth Fire Department will follow the direction of the City Council.

5. Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Regulating Antennas and Towers

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Regulating Antennas and Towers. Ayes – All.

6. Consider approving the title and summary of the proposed Ordinance Regulating Antennas and Towers to be published in the City's official newspaper

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the title and summary of the proposed Ordinance Regulating Antennas and Towers to be published in the City's official newspaper. Ayes – All.

7. Pay Application No. 2 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of the \$134,536.53 for Multipurpose Building Boiler Reconstruction Project

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Pay Application No. 2 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of the \$134,536.53 for the Multipurpose Building Boiler Reconstruction Project. Ayes – All.

8. Pay Application No. 3 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of the \$75,462.20 for Multipurpose Building Boiler Reconstruction Project

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Pay Application No. 3 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of the \$75,462.20 for the Multipurpose Building Boiler Reconstruction Project. Ayes – All.

9. Pay Application No. 013/Final from Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$131,279.32 for City of Eveleth Projects

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Pay Application No. 013/Final from Max Gray Construction for City of Eveleth Projects in the amount of \$131,279.32 less \$5,000 for outstanding punch list items. Ayes – All.

The City will withhold \$5,000 until the remaining items have been finished.

10. Miscellaneous Lease between Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and City of Eveleth (for property west of Highway 53 for possible business park development)

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Miscellaneous Lease between Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and City of Eveleth (for property west of Highway 53 for possible business park development). Ayes – All.

11. Request for one EMT to attend Wilderness EMS Event, August 19-22, 2025, Ely, MN

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to grant the request for one EMT to attend the Wilderness EMS Event, August 19-22, 2025 in Ely, MN. Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Roen; Abstain – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

12. Request from Waterview Woods Nursing Home to Hold a Classic Car Show on August 13, 2025

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize the request from Waterview Woods Nursing Home to block off the 600th block between Hayes and Jackson Street for a Classic Car Show to be held August 13, 2025 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Ayes – All.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Koivunen will be attending a Golf Commission meeting and an Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Meeting this Thursday.

Councilor Perpich reported on the recent Parks Commission Meeting. The playground equipment, behind the former IGA store, has been removed. The Eveleth Veterans Lake Park campground managers will be hosting a craft fair at the campground in September. Perpich suggested maybe some food trucks would want to participate at the craft fair.

Perpich said the name of the “Eveleth Veterans Lake Park” was discussed and he referred to the Council for consideration as to whether or not the name should be changed. City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek will look to see if there is any official City documentation which refers to the name.

Mayor Roen said that he heard a lot of excitement from people over the holiday weekend with the green space at the former school property and the pickleball court.

Councilor Lillis recently attended an EDA meeting at which discussion took place regarding further additions to the new pocket park on Grant Avenue. The EDA is looking at making more improvements to Leonidas Overlook by adding equipment to enhance visitors' ability to view the area. There is hesitancy due to recent vandalism and graffiti which was done right after the overlook opened with the new improvements.

Councilor Rauzi reported on the HRA meeting. The new playground equipment has been installed and is being used.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief – Chief Linde thanked the officers for their coverage during the 4th of July activities. The Fire Department assisted in setting up street barricades which was a huge help to the Police Department.

Public Works Director – Assistant Public Works Director Karpen thanked the Public Works staff for a very good job in getting the City ready for the 4th of July. Karpen said that everyone stepped up to the plate.

City Engineer – Alan Johnson said that the construction on Highway 53 is progressing and that the utility work is scheduled to begin the end of this month.

Mayor Roen thanked all City staff for everything done to prepare for the 4th of July. Roen said the City looked amazing. He thanked the 4th of July Committee for their hard work to put on a great show.

L. ADJOURN

The Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.