

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Special Meeting
5:30 p.m., December 17, 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 Administrator Pat Oman; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; City Attorney Joel Lewicki; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Deputy Police Chief Brian Ness; Alan Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineering

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 1. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held November 20, 2025;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Workshop held November 25, 2025;*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Workshop held December 1, 2025;*
- 4. Minutes of City Council City Council Meeting held December 1, 2025;*
- 5. Minutes of City Council Workshop held December 8, 2025;*
- 6. Minutes of City Council Truth in Taxation (TNT) held December 8, 2025.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Hiti, representing the Westside Civic League, informed the Council there has been a rash of vandalism at the skate shack rink in West Eveleth. The doors and windows have been repeatedly damaged. Hiti indicated the group is requesting the City hire a rink attendant to

monitor the shack. Public Works Director said the only rink in Eveleth that currently has a hired rink attendant is Northside Park; however, it is up to the Council's discretion if they would like to hire an attendant.

Mayor Roen questioned the time frame of when the vandalism has occurred and wondered whether or not a rink attendant would solve the issue. Deputy Police Chief Ness indicated the Police Department has not received any reports of vandalism so they can not pinpoint the times when this is happening. The Council will discuss this item at the next workshop meeting. Mr. Hiti will give some names to Public Works Director Rosati for the City to consider hiring for rink attendants.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Payroll – November 16-30, 2025 in the amount of \$205,456.48**
- 2. Consider authorizing two Public Works employees to attend the Minnesota Rural Water Association Technical Conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on March 3-5, 2026**

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes – All.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Second Reading of an Ordinance Adding Section 6.28 Social and Civic Organizations to Chapter 6 of the City Code**

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 89, 2nd Series, "An Ordinance Adding Section 6.28 Social and Civic Organizations to Chapter 6 of the City Code." Ayes – All.

- 2. Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 Land Use Regulation, Section 11.01 General Provisions, Subd. 3 Definitions, and Section 11.20, Subd. 2 Zoning Use Classification List: Permissible (P) and Interim (I) Uses, Exhibit D of the City Code**

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 90, 2nd Series, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 Land

Use Regulation, Section 11.01 General Provisions, Subd. 3 Definitions, and Section 11.20, Subd. 2 Zoning Use Classification List: Permissible (P) and Interim (I) Uses, Exhibit D of the City Code.” Ayes – All.

3. Consider Letter of Support for St. Louis County’s # 1 Legislative Priority – Canyon Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus (SF 330 / HF 573)

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Letter of Support for St. Louis County’s # 1 Legislative Priority – Canyon Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus (SF 330 / HF 573).” Ayes – All.

4. Resolution Awarding the Sale of a General Obligation Capital Note, Series 2025C, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$205, 235.00 for Purchase of a John Deere Loader

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2025-40, “Resolution Awarding the Sale of a General Obligation Capital Note, Series 2025C, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$205, 235.00 for Purchase of a John Deere Loader.” Ayes – All.

5. Resolution Awarding the Sale of a General Obligation Capital Note, Series 2025D, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$199,705.75 for Purchase of a Refuse Truck

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2025-41, “Resolution Awarding the Sale of a General Obligation Capital Note, Series 2025D, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$199,705.75 for Purchase of a Refuse Truck.” Ayes – All.

6. Resolution Approving and Consenting to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority Entering into a Loan Agreement with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2025-42, “Resolution Approving and Consenting to the Eveleth Economic Development Authority Entering into a Loan Agreement with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB).” Ayes – All.

7. Resolution Approving Loan to Brian Zadnikar, Tammy Zadnikar and Big Stick Meatz LLC (COVID Forgivable Loan)

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to adopt Resolution No. 2025-43, “Resolution Approving Loan to Brian Zadnikar, Tammy Zadnikar and Big Stick Meatz LLC (COVID Forgivable Loan).” Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis commented on the beautiful building. Councilor Koivunen wished the Zadnikars the best of luck.

8. Pay Application 005 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc, in the Amount of \$65,068.21 for Eveleth Multipurpose Building Boiler Project

Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Pay Application 005 from Peterson Sheet Metal, Inc, in the Amount of \$65,068.21 for Eveleth Multipurpose Building Boiler Project. Ayes – All.

Director Rosati reported heat is working and the project is close to completion.

9. Fire Department Combining Lieutenant Officer Positions

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve combining the Lieutenant and Safety Officer Position. Ayes – All.

Councilor Lillis reported, on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, that they are comfortable with combining these positions. Lillis said the downsize was requested by the Fire Chief.

10. Request for EMTs to attend Training

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to authorize seven (7) EMTs to attend the 45th Annual Arrowhead EMS Conference and Expo scheduled for January 21-25, 2026. Ayes – Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis, Roen; Abstain – Rauzi (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

11. Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Tony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Independent Contract Between City of Eveleth and Tony Jeffries for Zoning Administrator Services. Ayes – All.

Councilor Perpich requested a monthly report from Jeffries. City Administrator Oman will discuss the workload monthly with Jeffries and report back to the Council. It was noted that this a five-month contract through May 31, 2026.

12. Memorandums of Understanding regarding Retiree Life Insurance

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the Memorandums of Understanding regarding Retiree Life Insurance. Ayes – all.

The City Council agreed to provide the amount of \$250 to replace the paid-up life insurance amount. MOUs were approved by the City Council for each collective bargaining agreement and for the former City Administrator Monahan-Junek. None of the bargaining units responded within the 60-day period so the City will proceed with the MOUs.

13. Resolution Adopting Budget for Year 2026

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to adopt Resolution No. 2025-44, “Resolution Adopting Budget for Year 2026.” Ayes – All.

14. Resolution Establishing Tax for Year 2026

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2025-45, “Resolution Establishing Tax for Year 2026.”

Councilor Koivunen stated that the Council set the preliminary levy at 9%, but worked hard to lower the levy to 8%.

Councilor Perpich said it is not an easy job to figure out how to put the tax payers’ money to good use.

Councilor Lillis said the City is currently in a healthy financial situation, and the Council has set the appropriate level of funding to continue services to the community. Lillis expressed the need to look into the future for things required to bring projects to fruition.

Councilor Rauzi said the goal is not taxing to make money, but to continue providing services.

Mayor Roen said the levy amount set by the Council will provide for what is needed, but not necessarily all the wants. Roen said, with this levy amount, there is no need to cut services or remove any jobs. He thanked the Council for attending many meetings to discuss the budget.

15. Consider accepting proposal for 2026 Engineering Services

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to accept the proposal for 2026 Engineering Services from Bolton & Menk, Inc. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen thanked City Engineer Johnson for guiding the Council with the numerous projects throughout the City.

J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rauzi reported on the recent dinner he attended with RAMS. Rauzi said the event was well done with the theme, “Alone we are drops of water. Together we are an ocean.” Mayor Roen praised the efforts of RAMS Executive Director Paul Peltier.

Councilor Lillis reported on the HRA Meeting. The HRA facility is looking forward to a building facelift with construction anticipated next fall or early spring.

Councilor Lillis said the candidate for the EDA Coordinator job declined the position. The ad hoc hiring committee for the EDA Coordinator is looking at a new plan to be addressed at the next workshop meeting.

Councilor Perpich attended the last Parks Commission Meeting of the season. The group will meet again in April. Perpich complimented the holiday lights at Northside Park.

Councilor Perpich reported on the recent Airport Authority Meeting. The new manager is doing a great job alongside of part-time maintenance help. The new loader is in Duluth and will be soon delivered to the airport.

Councilor Koivunen attended the Quad Cities Joint Power RRCC Board Meeting last Wednesday. Discussion took place on the successful [United States Steel Pan Continental Curling Championship](#) games (taking place in October of 2025).

Councilor Koivunen said it has been an interesting year with the City. He looks forward to working with new City Administrator Pat Oman.

Councilor Perpich announced the Celebrating a Legendary Legacy Event to place on December 20th at the Hippodrome to honor all Eveleth and Eveleth-Gilbert High School State Championship teams dating back to 1945. Councilor Koivunen announced there will be a tailgate party at Margie’s Roosevelt.

Mayor Roen said Rock Ridge High School Hockey team will be playing the hockey team from Rogers, Minnesota. Between the JV and varsity games they will be honoring the seven championship teams. Roen encourage everyone to come down for the exiting event to see the Hippodrome packed. Roen said the City will have an opportunity to show off its newly wrapped Zambonis, and commended the phenomenal work by AnderSigns, Inc.

Mayor Roen attended an Energizing Eveleth meeting last week. The group is actively moving forward and will be at the December 20th Hippodrome event with hopes of getting more people involved. The Masonic Lodge donated to Energizing Eveleth to help with operating costs.

Meeting Roen would like to discuss setting the next Town Hall Meeting to take place in February. Roen congratulated Eggy’s Bar on celebrating 35 years in business.

Councilor Lillis thanked all of the City employees for the work they do to keep the City running. Lillis said he is happy with the quality of work and that the Council very much appreciates its employees. Lillis wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Police Chief Ness thanked the Council for their support. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Police Department will likely be suspending calendar parking for the holidays—unless there is significant snowfall.

Public Director Rosati thanked the Council for support throughout the year. Rosati said they will be doing more projects to better the community.

City Engineer Alan Johnson reported that St. Louis County has been working on the second roundabout for Progress Parkway. The timeframe was adjusted due to some archeological finds which delayed the project. Eveleth will have some utility work done related to the project this summer. MnDOT will also be in contact with the City to discuss moving forward with the Hat Trick Slip Ramp project.

City Administrator Oman thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve Eveleth. Oman thanked the staff for working hard during this transition. Oman said he is a big believer in forward thinking, and will be taking on economic development. He said there is a lot to do, and he is excited to be in this position.

City Attorney Lewicki said the City of Eveleth is a special city and the people that live here are blessed. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Roen wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and the Safest of New Years. Roen said he appreciated his first year as Mayor and hopes to serve for many more.

L. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned 6:55 p.m.