

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
3:30 p.m., July 15, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

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

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

1. Visitor – Pete Auvinen, Kraus-Anderson Construction Company

Pete Auvinen gave a presentation to the Council on Start Smart Build Better.

2. Update regarding a grocery store in Eveleth

This item was moved to the second item so that Chris Ismil, IRRRB, would be able to attend this portion of the discussion. Mayor Roen and Ismil met a few weeks ago to discuss the IGA grocery store.

Ismil said that City leadership met with the IRRRB leadership to discuss redevelopment of the IGA grocery store. The IRRRB would work to provide funding to take the property out of the current owner's hands and acquire the building. The objective is to get the building ready for a developer to come in and open a grocery store. This would eliminate the upfront cost for a developer to renovate the building.

Ismil said the IRRRB has a meeting set for next week to walk through the building with developers and will also have contractors evaluate the roof. Bolton & Menk Engineering will provide an estimate for a parking lot. Ismil said the intention is to create a package deal to strongly incentivize redevelopment for a grocery store in the near future. The IRRRB would provide funding to make the bones of the structure really strong. Ownership would be short term from the City's EDA into the developer's hands. Ismil said the plan would be to hand the building to the City in September or October. Ismil said he will need information from the City to present to developers on "Why you should come to Eveleth."

3. Discuss large truck night

The Council had previously discussed holding a Big Truck Night along with inviting food trucks to participate during National Night Out. Police Chief Linde indicated there are some groups who have already planned activities for National Night Out. The Council would like to schedule the Big Truck Night for a different date so it does not conflict with National Night Out events.

Mayor Roen said the purpose of the Big Truck Night is to bring people to town. It would be a time for families and friends to look at the equipment the City owns, and ask others to participate, along with food trucks. Roen does not want to take away from National Night Out. He will work on setting a date, most likely, in September.

The Council discussed posting a banner to advertise like the City does for the City-Wide Rummage Sale. Inserting a flyer in the utility bill was also discussed.

4. Discuss the vision for Southside Park (dog park, playground, etc.)

Mayor Roen distributed an aerial photo of the new dog park located behind the former IGA. Public Works Director said the fencing should be complete in September. Roen indicated the Denny family will be building a little pavilion at the new dog park.

Public Works Director Rosati will be checking on price estimates for moving the playground equipment from the former school property to the park area behind the IGA. The equipment would be moved when new playground equipment has been purchased for the former school property.

5. Discuss use of former school site gym and green space by Rock Ridge School District

Mayor Roen met with the Rock Ridge School Community Ed Director. Roen reported that the School District would like to use everything at no charge. Roen and the Council concurred that there needs to be compensation. The school would like to use green space because they do not have enough room for football. They are also looking at using the multipurpose building for activities run through the Community Ed such as volleyball, basketball, and pickleball.

Councilor Lillis suggested the Community Ed Director send a formal request for the Council to consider. Public Works Director Rosati will work with the Eveleth City Council Building and Grounds Committee to update the facility use agreement with the school.

6. Discuss a hockey rink at the former school campus

Public Works Director Rosati updated the Council on the condition of the boards for the hockey rink at the former school property. The rink boards were purchased in 2013 and a lot of the boards broke. The company sent a whole new rink, but as the years went on, there were one or two boards breaking per year. The City is short about six of the corner boards

and four straight pieces to complete the rink. The company no longer makes these type of boards.

The Council discussed starting from scratch on a new rink. Councilor Rauzi said, “We have a chance to make it special,” and that the hockey talent over the years comes from practice on the outside rink. Councilor Perpich suggested that there may be someone who would want to donate to the construction of the rink. Director Rosati will get some pricing estimates for new boards.

7. Discuss the name “Eveleth Veteran’s Park on Ely Lake”

Councilor Perpich gave the history from 1946 in which the Eveleth Veteran’s Park on Ely Lake was dedicated to the World War II Veterans as a place to meet. Public Works Director Rosati said that the Eveleth Parks Commission has also discussed the name of the campground. The City does not offer any type of veterans’ discounts for using the campground. The Council is in agreement to keep the name as the Eveleth Veterans Lake Park and perhaps add some type of memorial for veterans at the park.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.