

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:00 a.m., August 9, 2023
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, 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, Benchmark Engineering

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Bob Streetar, Development Consultant:

Discuss housing (in general)

Consultant Bob Streetar gave a presentation of general housing needs in the Eveleth area. Streetar reviewed the housing demand for the former Eveleth-Gilbert School site. He gave extensive information on affordable housing followed with highlights of successful affordable housing examples from other areas. The session was purely informational for the Council. The Council is in favor of Streetar arranging a meeting with Kootasca Community Action of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, to discuss their affordable housing development.

Hwy. 53 & 37 Site Development Work Plan

The Council was presented with a Highway 53 & 37 Development Work Plan Supplemental Proposal from Streetar Consulting. The City of Eveleth owns 30 acres on Highway 37 east of Highway 53. The parcel is separated by Highway 37, with 18 acres on the north and 12 acres on the south. The goal of this work plan would be to determine the Council's preference to develop the 18-acre parcel.

Streetar said that raising the level of readiness of this acreage would be very attractive to potential businesses.

Other projects

Streetar will be preparing a similar proposal for the Council to consider for the Eveleth downtown.

Streeter and City Administrator Monahan-Junek are working with a local health care provider to consider a campus in Eveleth. They continue to work with Brian Zadnikar who would like to expand his business into the former Blackwoods site. Future updates to the zoning code and comp plan will need to be considered.

2. Discuss blight enforcement

Police Chief Linde reported that the Police Department is currently very short staffed. Linde acknowledged that the City Council made the focus on blight a priority. However, due to the staff shortage, the Police Department has been unable to enforce blight.

The City has been looking for an independent consultant to handle blight. Councilor Brian Lillis is interested in this position. City Attorney Joel Lewicki explained that an independent consultant would be exempt from conflict of interest (as specified in the City Charter) for City Councilmembers. The City will meet with LELS to discuss any issues with contracting out the blight enforcement. This item will be brought to a future Council Meeting for consideration.

3. Snowmobile trail

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed a map of the proposed snowmobile route. The route would use existing trails and reconnect the land lost with construction of the new school site. If the Council would like to grant temporary access for the trail, a land license permit would be issued to the Trail Hawks Snowmobile Club.

4. Youth Hockey ice time

The Council is in favor of keeping the Youth Hockey ice time rate at \$10 per hour.

Director Rosati said the Wounded Warriors would be willing to pay for ice time at the Hippodrome. The Council does not want to charge for their ice time. This item will be considered at the next Council Meeting for formal approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.