

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Meeting**  
**5:30 p.m., January 5, 2026**  
**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; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Police Chief Jesse Linde; 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 City Council Workshop Meeting held December 23, 2025;*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held December 17, 2025; and*
- 3. Minutes of City Council Special Meeting held December 23, 2025.*

*Ayes – All.*

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the agenda with the following additions:*

- I.10. Authorize Purchase of Public Entertainment Equipment for the Community Center*
- I.11. Acquire Necessary Cleaning Equipment for the Community Center*
- I.12. Authorize Cleaning Bid for Community Center*
- I.13. Consider Adding City Logo to Minnesota Wilderness Hockey Team Jersey*
- I.14. Approve the Cost for Purchase and Installation of Gates for Three Stairwells at the Community Center*

*Ayes – All.*

## **E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annamae Tomczak addressed the Council regarding a prior request she had made to purchase the undeveloped alley right-of way adjoining her lot at 809 Douglas Avenue. Ms. Tomczak would like to revise her request to just the northside of the property. Tomczak also pointed out a property line/fenceline dispute she has with her neighbor which has cost both of them a lot of money. Tomczak would like for the City Engineer to put pins in the ground so the dispute can be ended. She said she is willing to pay the City Engineer \$1,000 to place the pins so that things are no longer missing or destroyed on her property. Tomczak announced that she plans to run for City Council.

Mayor Roen would like Ms. Tomczak's request to be added to the next City Council agenda.

## **F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Reappoint Steven Taft to Golf Course Commission**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to reappoint Steven Taft to the Golf Course Commission for the term effective 1/5/2026 to 12/31/2028. Ayes – All.*

The Council thanked Mr. Taft for his service to the community.

## **G. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Payroll – December 1-15, 2025 in the amount of \$195,106.10**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Consent Agenda Item No. G.1. Ayes – All.*

### **2. Approval of Payroll – December 16-31, 2025 in the amount of \$185,533.53**

*Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Perpich to approve Consent Agenda Item No. G.2. Ayes – All.*

### **3. Approval of Claims – December 2025 in the amount of \$875,361.08**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Consent Agenda Item No. G.3. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Roen; Abstain – Lillis (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Appointing Acting Mayor**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to appoint Councilor Joseph Koivunen as the acting mayor in the absence of Mayor Adam Roen. Ayes – All.*

**2. Designate Official Newspaper**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Koivunen to designate the Hometown Focus as the City’s official newspaper for 2026. Ayes – All.*

**3. Designate Depository**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to designate the Miners National Bank of Eveleth, MN as the City’s depository for City funds and to authorize Adam Roen, Pat Oman and Stephanie Friebe as authorized signatories on the accounts. Ayes – All.*

**4. Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assign Duties**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2026-01, “Resolution Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assign Duties.” Ayes – All.*

**5. 2026 City Council Board, Committee & Liaison Appointments**

*Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the following City Council Board, Committee & Liaison Appointments for 2026:*

**Councilors are Voting Members**

<i>Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority</i>	<i>Councilor Perpich &amp; Councilor Koivunen (Mayor Roen – alternate)</i>
<i>Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Zoning Board</i>	<i>Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>Economic Development Authority</i>	<i>Councilor Rauzi &amp; Councilor Lillis</i>
<i>Golf Course Commission</i>	<i>Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>Joint ATV/OHM/Snowmobile Trail Board</i>	<i>Councilor Rauzi</i>
<i>Parks Commission</i>	<i>Councilor Perpich</i>
<i>Quad Cities Joint Recreation Authority Board</i>	<i>Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>VEEDA Board</i>	<i>Mayor Roen</i>
<i>HRA Board</i>	<i>Councilor Rauzi &amp; Councilor Lillis</i>

**Councilors are Liaisons to Commissions**

<i>Joint Cable Commission</i>	<i>Mayor Roen</i>
<i>Planning Commission</i>	<i>Councilor Rauzi</i>

**Internal City Operations Committees**

<i>Building and Grounds</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>City Owned Land Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Lillis</i>
<i>Donations Committee</i>	<i>Councilor Lillis &amp; Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>Cemetery Committee</i>	<i>Councilor Koivunen &amp; Councilor Rauzi</i>
<i>Council Economic Development Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Perpich</i> <i>(Councilor Koivunen – alternate)</i>
<i>Personnel Committee</i>	<i>Councilor Perpich &amp; Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>Public Safety Committee</i>	<i>Councilor Lillis &amp; Councilor Koivunen</i>
<i>Public Utilities Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Lillis</i>
<i>Streets &amp; Alleys Committee</i>	<i>Councilor Koivunen &amp; Councilor Perpich</i>
<i>Marketing Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Rauzi</i>

**Other**

<i>Administrative Hearing Officers</i>	<i>Mayor Roen &amp; Councilor Perpich</i>
<i>RAMS Board of Directors</i>	<i>Councilor Rauzi</i>

*Ayes – All.*

**6. Application for Exempt Permit, Curl Mesabi (Range Recreation Civic Center), 901 Hat Trick Avenue**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve Application for Exempt Permit, Curl Mesabi (Range Recreation Civic Center), 901 Hat Trick Avenue for March 19, 2026. Ayes – All.*

**7. Authorize Letter Supporting Participation in the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission’s Brownfield Assessment Coalition and Support for the FY2026 Application for a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize Letter Supporting Participation in the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission’s Brownfield Assessment Coalition and Support for the FY2026 Application for a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. Ayes – All.*

**8. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Grant Anticipation Note, Series 2026A to Finance the Acquisition Costs of Snow Removal Equipment for the Eveleth-Virgina Municipal Airport**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to adopt Resolution No. 2026-02, “Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Grant*

*Anticipation Note, Series 2026A to Finance the Acquisition Costs of Snow Removal Equipment for the Eveleth-Virgina Municipal Airport.” Ayes – All.*

**9. Consider Scheduling Regular City Council Meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve moving the January 19, 2025 City Council Meeting (due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday) to Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. and to hold a Workshop Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Ayes – All.*

**10. Authorize Purchase of Public Entertainment Equipment for the Community Center**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize the purchase of public entertainment equipment for the Community Center up to \$15,000. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

**11. Acquire Necessary Cleaning Equipment for the Community Center**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the purchase of necessary cleaning equipment for the Community Center up to \$25,000. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

The City will be purchasing a commercial scrubber for the gym floor as well as other cleaning items.

**12. Authorize Cleaning Bid for Community Center**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the bid for up to \$18,000 to clean the Community Center. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

**13. Consider Adding City Logo to Minnesota Wilderness Hockey Team Jersey**

*Motion by Councilor Perpich, second by Councilor Lillis to authorize the Minnesota Wilderness Hockey Team to place the Eveleth City Logo on the back of their team jersey. Ayes – All.*

Mayor Roen said the Wilderness would like to place the City logo on the back of the jersey of one of their athletes as a thank you to the City. Roen encouraged the public to attend the games at the Hippodrome to support the Wilderness.

**14. Approve the Cost for Purchase and Installation of Gates for Three Stairwells at the Community Center**

*Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Perpich to approve the cost for the purchase and installation of gates for three stairwells at the Community Center in an amount up to \$10,000. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Perpich, Lillis; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.*

## **J. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Koivunen recently attended a RRCC meeting in which they discussed maintenance of the building.

Mayor Roen is serving on the CDBG Advisory Board and has attended several meetings. Roen said the group is doing much for the community. Roen thanked the Public Works Department for taking care of everything over the holidays.

City Administrator Oman said he is uploading documents to the state and will be focusing on grants from the IRRRB.

Councilor Rauzi wished everyone a Happy Serbian Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Roen encouraged the public to “stay warm” and indicated if you need help there are different ways of assistance. Roen encouraged the public to support the Minnesota Wilderness Hockey team playing at the Hippodrome.

## **K. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **L. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.