

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Special Meeting
(Regular Meeting Rescheduled from January 19, 2026, due to Holiday)
5:30 p.m., January 21, 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, Absent
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; EMS Supervisor Therese Elverum

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 January 5, 2026; and*
- 2. Minutes of City Council Meeting held January 5, 2026.*

Ayes – All.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

F. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll – January 1-9, 2026 in the amount of \$103,090.45

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

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Request from Roller Underground to Rent the Hippodrome for Practice and to Host Competition in 2026

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve the following request from Roller Underground to rent the Hippodrome for practice and host competition in 2026 to include:

- *Hippodrome rental for practices at \$50 per practice (Mondays and Thursdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.);*
- *Use of small closet in the Hippodrome for storage of league supplies;*
- *Hippodrome rental for closed scrimmages at \$50 per scrimmage; and*
- *Hippodrome rental for bouts open to the public at \$250 per bout.*

Ayes – All.

2. Accept Boreal Waters Community Foundation Anonymous Fund Grant

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to accept the Boreal Waters Community Foundation Anonymous Fund Grant and adopt Resolution No. 2026-03, “Resolution Accepting Library Donation (Anonymous Fund for Unrestricted, Boreal Waters Community Foundation).” Ayes – All.

City Administrator Oman said he will be relying on Eveleth Library Director Mary Ellen Higgins to take the initiative on ways to use the \$5,000 grant.

3. Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 2583, 301 Adams Avenue

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo, Knights of Columbus Council 2583, 301 Adams Avenue. Ayes – All.

4. Application for Exempt Permit from Sturgeon River Chapter of MN Deer Hunters Association, Curl Mesabi Range Recreation Civic Center, 901 Hat Trick Avenue, September 19, 2026

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve Application for Exempt Permit from Sturgeon River Chapter of MN Deer Hunters Association, Curl Mesabi Range Recreation Civic Center, 901 Hat Trick Avenue, September 19, 2026. Ayes – All.

5. Authorize Out of Town Training Request for City of Eveleth Police Chief to Attend 2026 Executive Training Institute Conference in St. Cloud, MN on April 13 – 16, 2026

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize out of town training request for Eveleth Police Chief to Attend 2026 Executive Training Institute Conference in St. Cloud, MN on April 13 – 16, 2026. Ayes – All.

6. Authorize Signing of Cooperative Agreement for 2026 & 2027 Curb & Sidewalk Repairs

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to authorize signing of Cooperative Agreement for 2026 & 2027 Curb & Sidewalk Repairs. Ayes – All.

The Cooperative Agreement with St. Louis County provides the City with funding for up to \$15,000 from the County towards curb and sidewalk repairs.

7. Approve Resolution Accepting Office of Emergency Medical (OEM) Services Grant

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to adopt Resolution No. 2026-04, “Resolution Accepting Office of Emergency Medical (OEM) Services Grant.” Ayes – All.

8. Authorize Consultant Services Contract with Abdo

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize Consultant Services Contract with Abdo. Ayes – All.

City Administrator Oman clarified that the services with Abdo would be done to get things in place for the audit. Communications will be done by phone and internet. No onsite services will be provided.

9. Authorize Additional Purchases for Community Center

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize additional purchases for the Community Center in an amount not to exceed \$15,000. Ayes – Rauzi, Lillis, Koivunen; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

The Council discussed the purchase of the following items for the Community Center at the workshop meeting: indoor signage; office chair, tables/chairs & table dollies; additional funds for bouncy houses; fridge, freezer, stove; other misc. items for building.

10. Authorize the Hiring of Community Center Attendants

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to authorize the City Administrator and Public Works Director to hire attendants for the Community Center. Ayes – Rauzi, Koivunen, Lillis; Abstain – Roen (due to conflict of interest). Motion carried.

11. Authorize the Hiring of Part-time Library Clerks

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Lillis to approve hiring Mallory Maki and Kya Huewe for the Part-time Library Clerk position. Ayes – All.

12. Resignation of Bruce Stanaway from the Golf Course Commission

Motion by Councilor Koivunen, second by Councilor Rauzi to approve resignation of Bruce Stanaway from the Golf Course Commission and to send him a letter of appreciation for his service. Ayes – All.

13. Easement Agreement with St. Louis County for Progress Parkway Corridor

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to approve the Easement Agreement with St. Louis County for Progress Parkway Corridor. Ayes – All.

Mayor Roen explained that the goal is to create another pathway to get to the school and to develop industrial businesses in Eveleth. Roen said that County Commissioner Keith Nelson has been a great help to the City. Councilor Lillis said cooperating with St. Louis County on this project will benefit both the City and County.

14. Identify Eveleth Projects for Regional Brownfields Grant Application

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve moving forward with the Alice Location as the priority for the Regional Brownfields Grant Application. Ayes – All.

15. Resignation of Police Officer

Motion by Councilor Lillis, second by Councilor Koivunen to approve the resignation of Police Officer Jeffrey Leffler effective January 30, 2026; to send him a letter of appreciation for his service; and to authorize the Police Chief to move forward with filling the vacant position. Ayes – All.

16. Schedule the Next Town Hall Meeting

Motion by Councilor Rauzi, second by Councilor Lillis to schedule the next Town Hall Meeting for Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Eveleth Auditorium. Ayes – All.

K. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Koivunen reported on the last Airport Authority meeting. The new loader and plow truck are in use.

Councilor Lillis indicated the HRA met earlier today to discuss routine business.

Councilor Rauzi reported that the EDA met to resolve an issue with the elevator at Lincoln Place Apartments.

Mayor Roen reported that he, along with City Administrator Oman, met with the IRRRB to discuss the grocery store at the former IGA. Oman reported that the real estate agreement was approved at a previous EDA meeting and the City now owns the property. The IRRRB will be the funding source for rehabbing the building. The City must pay to have the work done and will be reimbursed by IRRRB. The EDA will be meeting to develop a strategy for the grocery store project. Roen thanked the community for their patience. He said most of the progress will come this spring.

Mayor Roen attended the recent Joint Cable TV Board Meeting. He said the change in time to noon has been successful in getting a quorum for the meetings. Roen would like to see if there is a way to have more information from the City of Eveleth posted on Channel 12.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director – Director Rosati said he will be compiling a list of equipment to go on auction this summer.

Clerk-Administrator – Administrator Oman will be meeting with Public Works Director Rosati and City Engineer Johnson to discuss requests from St. Louis County for the Progress Parkway development.

M. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.