

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop
Monday, January 5, 2026
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN
4:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Roen called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Discuss West Eveleth Force Main Project

This item was removed from the agenda.

2. Discuss Zamboni Wrap

Mayor Roen met with a representative from the Minnesota Wilderness Hockey Team. Roen said they are interested in advertising on the Zamboni for the next season. Public Works Director Rosati will talk to AnderSigns, who is finalizing the designs, to see if they can hold off on wrapping the second Zamboni as the Wilderness would like to add advertising this summer.

Councilor Perpich suggested the City include the Wilderness schedule on the bottom of the utility bills. Discussion took place on including Hippodrome events in the utility bill. Councilor Lillis brought up the idea of an electronic billboard in a high-level area announcing City events. Roen would like to get some costs on an electronic billboard and discuss this further, but would first like to start with some sort of paper notices to inform the public of upcoming activities.

3. Discuss Hockey Boards

Public Works Director Rosati revealed the City received a grant to finance half of the new hockey boards for the rink on the former school property. The project is estimated at \$60,000 and the City received a \$30,000 grant. Rosati said the Council will need to decide on the placement of the rink as the company supplying the boards will also provide installation services.

Mayor Roen suggested the former Chicagami parking lot area would be a good location for the new rink. The City could put up a shed and would possibly need electricity and lights installed. As development of the former school property has not yet begun, this may be a temporary location for the rink. The City may find it fits well or may need to be moved depending on future expansion of the area. The Council would like to move forward with purchasing the boards and will work out storage until placement of the rink can be finalized.

4. Discuss Rink Attendant

Public Works Director Rosati reported that he has received a few calls on potential hires for the ice rink in West Eveleth. The goal would be to hire a few part-time positions to cover the shifts at the rink.

5. Data Practices Policy

City Administrator Oman said the City does not have a data practice policy. Chief of Police Linde and Deputy Police Chief Ness have put together a draft of policy which has been sent to the City Attorney for review. Police Chief Linde said the auditors recommended the Police Department have a policy in place with a form which would be filled out ahead of time. They may also require the individual requesting the information to pay ahead for the copies. This policy would be adopted by all City departments.

6. Discuss School Redevelopment Property and Community Center Project

Mayor Roen said development of an apartment building at the former school site is a priority for the City. City Administrator Oman is working on getting someone to present an informational session on TIF districts to the Council.

Roan said he recently walked through the Community Center and the building is a mess. He said the second floor must be cleaned at the same time as the first level. Otherwise, the dirt from the second floor will continue to track down to the first floor. Roan will inform the individual hanging the historical banners of the February 1st deadline. If the banners are not hung up by that time, they will be moved. Biss Lock is in the process of installing new locks on the doors. The City has received four applications for gym attendants.

The Council discussed putting a survey in the utility bills to ask the public what type of activities they would like to see held at the Community Center. The Council discussed a possible City Facebook page to help with keeping the public informed.

City Administrator Oman will be in contact with CTC to determine whether or not fiber has been installed to the building.

7. Other Items

The following items will be added to tonight's City Council Agenda for consideration:

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

Councilor Rauzi asked if there has been any progress on brush removal on the City property between North and South Court. Public Works Director Rosati reported that the contractor was waiting until the ground was frozen in order to prevent the heavy equipment from sinking in the ground. The contractor is now having a hard time finding equipment to rent, but is still trying.