Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday July 21, 2022

2:00 P.M.

Mayor Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tuorila called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand and John Vaudrin. Also present: Clerk Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Street Maintenance worker Bill Berger.

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions, discuss the Gary Scherf commercial property and cars, CEDA meeting 9:00 a.m. Thurs. July 21st, discuss what’s going on with old Hicks property, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the minutes of the June regular meeting (minutes by Treasurer Mary Garner) with the correction of electric manual hookup to the generator not buying a new one, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the June Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $276,473.60, Disbursements $151,297.71, Investments $9,090.04 and total checking balance $272,914.86, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Police Services Report: Cody Woodman reported on the blight and other issues going on in town.

20 hrs. 16.5 hrs. owed to us.

MN Basic Code of Ordinances states grass over 12 inches is blight and needs to be mowed. 842 Morgan St. Duplex is a disaster area. The occupants have been ticketed once and could be ticketed again. Discussed the Rental Ordinance, landlords and license. William and Elette Wilson have not contacted the city to set up an inspection of their rental. Motion by Tuorila to contact the attorney to start the process to revoke the rental license if they have not gotten in contact with the clerk by Thurs. July 21, Clerk Serich will send a letter advising of the license being revoked, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried. Several Blight notices of code violation were given out and Clerk Serich will send out a few more on mowing grass. Discussed the old Calumet Chev building and what the new owner Gary Scherf is allowed to do on this commercial property. A notice will be sent for unlicensed and inoperable vehicles. Complaints were received about someone on a mini-bike going around town at night and in people’s yards. Cody will contact dispatch for them to patrol the city at night 2-5 am.

Engineer Alan Johnson gave us a map of our utility and street projects.

Greenway Recreation Bd: Strand reported that they asked Blandin Foundation for funding for a new roof & cooling system for compressors $150,000 and then they will ask IRRR.

Cemetery Bd: No report.

MCWWTP: No report.

WMMPB: Zaren reported that the DNR stated they will keep the Hill Annex open thru 2022 and until mining resumes. The Canisteo had a temporary pump put in. Doug Learson was appointed to the Hwy #169 Advisory Committee.

Greenway Fire Bd: No report.

Zaren reported on the Pre-Bid meeting for the old Spur station. There were 6 or 7 contractors there. 25 ft. of contaminated soil needs to be excavated. They will need 5,000 gallons of water and they want to know what the city will charge for it. The contaminated water needs to be treated and go into the sanitary sewer. The contractor will need to contact the MCWWTP. Bob Hoshal is concerned about the pumps getting burned up and wants the engineer to walk thru what’s going into our system.

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob discussed the flow meter and the totals from Marble and about saving the city money. Currently Calumet pays 37.5% of the total expenses. The population has gone down.

They put chemicals on the streets and sidewalks to kill the weeds. They got the cylinder fixed on the dump truck. They need to paint the bike trail arch yet. J&R Wastewater is cleaning the north half of town. The electrician is done at the pump house. Mn Energy needs to put in a gas line before we can have the slab pored for the generator. What is the full weight of the generator& cover and when can we get it?. Discussed the burn pile. It is burning now and there is a lot of dirt and stumps that haven’t burnt. Mayor Tuorila suggested to move some over to the low area across from the bike trail. Bob has court on Monday July 25th for the pile of garage debris that was dumped at the turn around area by the burn pile. The guy never did come back and clean it up. Now it has been burned.

Utility Shut offs: 7 shut off notices were sent out.

**New Business:**

Motion by Tuorila to approve a temporary liquor license for the Greenway Fire Dept. for the Kids and Cars in the Park City event on Saturday August 27th, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion passed.

Discussed getting new banners. We will wait until next year to see what kind of light poles we get.

Discussed and tabled the Pay Equity Non-Compliance, because the street maintenance position has lower points and higher pay than the clerk’s position that has higher points and lower pay, until after the budget and contract meetings. The union contract talks should start in August because the 2023 Proposed Budget needs to be approved at the September council meeting. Mayor Tuorila suggested that the city pay .50 an hour increase each year of the contract and keep all the benefits the same or give a lump sum of $1,500 to the employees. The employees will contact the union to set up meetings.

Clerk Serich will contact Bonnie from Sterle & Co to come to a budget work session.

Discussed the proposal from Spencer Davis to purchase the city’s leases on the radio tower. Who would be responsible for maintenance of the tower and who would own the land. Should he come to a meeting to discuss the questions the council has? Clerk Serich will check on this.

Tom Greniger asked Council member Strand if he could remove the poles and the tin on the old Hick’s property. Council approved with him signing a liability release form.

Some one tipped over the porta potty at the ballpark.

Discussed removing the old skating shack to use it as a parking area.

Council approved Bob to purchase a powered weed whip with a blade up to $500.

Discussed the possibility of a landlord putting in a canister for a shed. The council said no it’s not allowed according to city ordinance. Tabled.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor