Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday September 19, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Mayor John Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present: Mayor John Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand and Amanda Hernesman.

Absent: John Vaudrin. Also present: Clerk April Serich, and Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger.

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions, approve the gambling permit for the Calumet Community Church to conduct a Bingo at the Greenway Snowmobile Club on Oct. 25, 2023, discuss Park State Bank sign, discuss increase in RAMS dues, discuss with Jordan Schafer Hill Annex Mine State Park about bringing equipment up onto city property, and discuss the wastewater treatment plant, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the minutes of the August regular meeting with a correction to the Cemetery meeting report, the amount for the John Deere Pro Gear utility machine should be $34,000, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the Aug. Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, (Dan Strand had questions about the bank statement report showing less deposits in transit. That is how the CTAS program reconciles with the bank, the financial report shows all the accounts in the city) Receipts $55,561.80 Disbursements $49,774.73, Investments $7,678.15 and total checking balance $352,881.70, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to take the monthly payment for the John Deere track loader from the general checking account at Park State Bank instead of the equipment savings account at First National Bank in Coleraine and Transfer $2,164.42 to the Debt Service Fund from the Water Fund, and Transfer $2,164.42 to the Debt Service Fund from the Sewer Fund and Transfer $2,885.91 to the Debt Service Fund from the Radio Tower Fund for the SE Project Interest, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #23-09-19 a resolution approving to apply to and accept funds from MDH grant for security cameras, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Vaudrin. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Police Services Report: Kurt Metzig Nashwauk Police Chief gave an update on the blight and parking issues. 14 blight letters were sent out. They were checked on and 5 criminal citations were issued. The was a person who had a warrant on domestic assault that was taken in. A suspicious vehicle was checked on. A lot of highway traffic stops have been made. The council asked about getting a portable speed sign set up on the highway. He will check on it.

Aug. balance=3 hours owed by the city.

Jordan Schafer DNR Hill Annex Mine State Park talked about moving equipment up the hill to city property and off of school trust land. Jordan said he has the funding to move the equipment and level out the land where it will go south of the bike trail and east of 3rd Ave. He said he could get some picnic tables also. We will meet with him and go look at the equipment on Sept 29th at 10:00 a.m. The council is in favor of Jordan looking into further about the equipment and building to be moved.

Lynda Tarbuck from the Greenway Area Community Fund as the Calumet representative discussed how the grant money has been distributed and asked for $200 for advertising for events.

Motion by Tuorila to pay $200 to the Greenway Area Community Fund for advertising for the City of Calumet, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Levi Petz(Jerrica Mutchler) at 624 6th Ave wants to put up a fence and take down 2 pine trees on the boulevard and one is by the power pole. They want to put in more raised garden beds. He would take the trees down with no cost to the city, stump grinder will remove the stumps. They will limb the trees all the way up in 12-inch pieces. The city will have him sign a waiver of liability.

Motion by Hernesman to approve the Levi Petz at 624 6th Ave to remove the two pine trees and stumps on the boulevard after they sign a liability waiver for the city, seconded by Strand, all in favor, M/C.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that figure skating and basketball sign ups start Oct. 4th. Range Cornice is giving an estimate for the flat part of the roof to be replaced next year. IRRR $85,000, GR $40,000. The summer hockey program made $48,000 - $38,000 for a profit of $10,000.

Cemetery Bd: No report.

WMMPB: Tuorila reported that there was a lengthy presentation on Taconite Production Tax. Calumet got $36,404 in 2023. Sept. 28th @ 9:45 a.m. the group will tour Mesabi Metallics.

Greenway Joint Fire Board Meeting: Calumet had 3 calls in the third quarter. Currently there are 20 members in the fire department, and they could hire more. John talked to the fire chief Ladd Finke about the washout behind the backside of the fire hall towards 9th Ave. He will check with MN Energy that has a driveway near the washout as well as the City of Marble and Greenway Township. The Fire department will deliver Christmas candy in December. The new fire truck is coming in Aug.2024.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:**

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal reported that they are just about done getting everything winterized. The plow truck is back. JM Auto completely made a bracket for the dump truck for $12,000. Bob stated that the license on the new Dodge is expired and is not tax exempt and he has asked about it for 2 years. The license was from the dealership when the city purchased the truck. We have not received a renewal. Clerk Serich will check on it with MN License Bureau. Strand asked the guys to sweep and pick up leaves. Bob stated that they need a new brush for approximately $800. The council said to order one if they need one. Rick from NOS was here to repair a board. He stated that the computer board in the water tower could be updated but Bob stated that it’s not needed. They will be flushing hydrants Wed. & Thurs. Bob stated that he wants to apply for a MNOSHA Safety Grant for a snowblower attachment for the John Deere track loader.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #23-09-19-2 a resolution approving to apply to and accept funds from MNOSHA Safety Grant program for a snowblower attachment, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand and Hernesman, Opposed: none, Absent: Vaudrin. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. Bob thanked the council for installing the internet at the city shop, so they have email.

Gary Street County Project Update: Engineer Alan Johnson said he will apply again in December to IRRR then it will be within the 6-month window for construction. It is up Itasca County to decide on when to bid out the Gary St. project. Most likely it will be in March. We should ask the IRRR board members about our project. Farnsworth, Justin Eichorn, Lislegard and Chris Ismil. Alan will send John the figures and what to ask the legislators for. Strand reported that some met with an Itasca County board member about the 2nd Ave to Mesabi Ave extension of the Gary St. project. There is ARPA money that could be used. The city is asking for $100,000 for sidewalks, curbs and pavement.

Hernesman left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 19 shut-off letters were mailed and 4 paid so far. Next week the door hanger shut off notices will be posted.

Update on Blight: Zach Boorman did not turn in a rental application. There is still a camper at his rental unit at 733 7th Ave. Amberley Schneider has a dumpster at her residence at 754 7th Ave. It has been declared a hazardous building and she has 30 days to remedy it, which would be Oct. 1. We will continue on the next step with the attorney or building inspector as needed. The cop can give her a ticket.

Update on Radio Tower Leases: The exclusivity agreement with Everest ends on Sept. 19. Now we can send information about selling the tower to all companies on the tower. Attorney John Licke told the attorneys from Everest all the things that were wrong with the agreement over a phone conversation.

Everest is offering to pay $1.8 million in one lump sum payment. After a discussion about selling the tower, Clerk Serich stated that the city does not have to sell the tower. Atty Licke will continue to work on the agreement.

**New Business:**

The council approved purchasing $1,000 in Christmas candy to be delivered by the fire dept.

Motion by Tuorila to certify the 2024 Proposed Property Tax Levy $226,526, General Fund $137,308, Library $51,900 and Fire $37,210, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about the lease agreement for a sign on city property. The attorney said we need to check on and review the city property on the north side of Hwy #169 to see if there would be an impact on sign restrictions. Brad from Franklin stated that there would be no limitations on signs on the south side of Hwy #169. Discussed a counteroffer for more money and setbacks. Alan Johnson will send Clerk Serich a zoning permit. No action taken. Mayor Tuorila will check with other cities to see what they have for setbacks and pricing.

Motion by Strand to approve the annual dues for the LMC $550 and the Mayor’s Assn $30, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the gambling permit for the Calumet Community Church to conduct a Bingo at the Greenway Snowmobile Club on Oct. 25, 2023, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, M/C.

Discussion about acquiring the Park State Bank building. The council agreed to continue the process. They would like to put a sign (not electronic) on city property in lieu of the building with all its contents. We will continue to work with them on a sign agreement. Brian gave Clerk Serich a key and code for the building. The council can go in and check things out when they want. We are not responsible for the building yet.

The 2024 RAMS dues will be increasing. Calumet should not pay the same as larger members.

Discussion about the Marble-Calumet Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Breen had discussed with others about the possibility of combing with Nashwauk Keewatin wastewater treatment plant. We could send the effluent to their plant through lines and a lift station. There is funding for collaboration. This is something that should be explored for Calumet and Marble. Their meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Nashwauk city hall.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor