

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Calumet City Council Room
Tuesday April 16, 2024
2:00 P.M.

Mayor John Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present: Mayor John Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand, and Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal & Public Works MW Bill Berger.

The council accepted letters of interest for John Vaudrin's vacant council member position from Larry Pitts and Nick Porter who are both valid Calumet residents, and after a discussion a Motion was made by Zaren to appoint Nick Porter to fill the council member position with a term ending December 31, 2024, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions-approve and sign MNDNR Lease amendment for playground & pavilion; set up WHPP public information meeting with MN Rural Water and MN Dept. of Health for the 10-year Wellhead Protection Plan; Discuss MCWWTP compliance with MPCA collections operators needing license- Travis Ross from Advanced Utility Solutions could provide the service; Discuss MN Dept. of Health Sanitary Survey Report for the public water supply; Approve a zoning permit for Diane Schuster 522 5th Ave. for a fence attached to the corner of the house and not close to the alley; Discuss Weed Ordinance 92.38 a written complaint & report were submitted to the city council that the grass is 3 feet high at 211 2nd Ave. and is in violation of the ordinance so the council needs to send a written notice of a destruction order to Robbie Darland by certified mail; set up a special meeting after April 23 bid opening to award the project work for Gary St. seconded Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the March meeting minutes with the correction- Calumet Reclamation mining should be a 20-sq. mile radius instead of a 20-mile radius, seconded by Strand, all in favor, M/C.

2:30 p.m. Open bids for surplus inventory: Canon Ball Safe- \$2,300 Rick Troumbly and \$150 Greg Anderson; Rectangle Safe-\$250 Rick Troumbly; Bank Vault Door- \$1,200 Rick Troumbly; Plantstand on wheels- \$2 Mari Jo Anderson; Cork Board- \$2 Mari Jo Anderson; Metal File Cabinet \$32.50 John Tuorila. Motion by Strand to accept the high bids for the surplus inventory, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the March Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$21,310.36, Disbursements \$61,479.26, Investments \$9,844.28 and total checking balance \$352,684.76, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #24-04-16, a resolution approving the Building Inspector's report and ordering Amberley Schneider at 754 7th Ave. to repair or removal of hazardous structures and to remove or correct hazardous conditions on the property, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, Hernesman and Porter, Opposed: none. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #24-04-16-2, a resolution approving gambling activity at the Calumet Saloon by Community Charities of MN, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Strand, Hernesman and Porter. Opposed: none, Abstain: Zaren. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that baseball and softball sign-ups for boys and girls are at the end of April. New ceiling tiles replaced after 30 years for \$3,500 and concession stand is \$3,000 in black.

Cemetery Bd: No report. Nic Porter will be the representative in place of John Vaudrin.

WMMPB: Tuorila and Zaren reported that the Hill Annex Mine State Park most likely will be decommissioned as a state park so permitting for mining can be done. The concerns were losing the club house museum and its displays. It may be moved to city property or at least the contents moved to city property. Calumet Reclamation will work with the city. An information sheet was handed out on their plans for mining.

Amanda Hernesman left the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

There was a discussion about the Hwy #169 project. \$6 million was awarded towards engineering and preliminary plans for the highway improvements project to get it closer to becoming shovel ready, in addition to the \$5 million already awarded.

Ambulance Service: Tuorila reported that a joint powers board needs to be formed and he will be the Calumet representative.

Police Services: The City of Nashwauk is suspending their services because of a lack of employees and Kurt Metzger, Police Chief, is retiring in July. Tuorila will contact Sheriff Joe Dasovich about services.

Comments and Requests from the Floor:

Matt Rothstein had complaints about the neighbors on 7th & 8th Aves. And Gary St. Many times, loud music is playing, and they can hear the bass inside their house. The cops have been called and nothing has been done about it. The dogs are running loose and barking. One dog attacked a person walking by. There were a lot of people at the rental house and some staying in campers. Multiple unlicensed and inoperable vehicles all over the yard. Kids were running around after dark on the streets. Clerk Serich will send code violation notices for all the issues to the renter and homeowners. Tickets will be issued for not complying with the notices.

Steve Serich asked what the right of way is for parking in the alley. A camper, snowmobile and boats without license are at the neighbors as well as tires and scrap by the garage.

Public Works Report: Hoshal reported that the picnic tables, benches, and flags were put out. He wants to rent a Harley rake for 1-2 days to use at the ballfield. It's \$165 a day. Discussion about clean up days. Clerk Serich will contact Waste Management for dumpsters Wed. – Friday in May. She will check with Scranton Iron for a dumpster for the scrap also. The council wants Bob & Bill to write down blight when they are driving around and give the list to Clerk Serich so she can send out code violation notices. Bob & Bill will post them on the residence. Clerk Serich will give them a clipboard and lists for the blight notice information.

Motion by Strand to approve the purchase of 3 double-sided American flags and 2 POW flags, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussed the mulch for Julie's Jungle. Clerk Serich will contact Sarah from CEDA to check on ordering the mulch. Bob stated the city needs a new streetlight on 3rd Ave. He will contact Corey from MN Power. Possibly they could take a light from Julie's Jungle playground and put it on 3rd Ave.

Gary Street County Project Update: The council needs to set-up a special meeting to approve and award the Gary St. project work. April 26th @ 1:00 p.m. in the council room was set.

Unfinished Business:

Utility Shut-offs: 21 shut-off letters were sent.

Update on Blight: Clerk Serich will send code violation notices for all blight issues to renters and homeowners. Tickets will be issued for not complying with the notices.

Update on Radio Tower: Motion by Zaren to sell the radio tower, property under it and the lease for the SBA tower site for \$1.85 million, in one payment, to Everest Infrastructure Partners, EIP Holdings II, LLC, with the intent to put \$800,000 in the general checking to pay off the city debt, \$50,000 in savings and put \$1 million into a safe investment to earn interest to provide annual money for the city expenses, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried. The city will need to contact professionals to help with the payment and investments.

Update on the Projects for using the Blandin grant: The city can use money for half the cost of the mulch and slide at Julie's Jungle Park.

New Business:

Motion by Strand to contract with Township & Range LLC for Andrew Sharpe Municipal Rental Code Inspection Services, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve \$200 membership for Day of Caring, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried. The kids will weed and put mulch along city hall, wash windows and if they have time rake rocks by the Depot parking lot.

Motion by Zaren to approve the MN Pump Works scheduled pump maintenance agreement \$895 a yr. and a 3 yr. agreement, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and sign the MN DNR amendment to the lease agreement to take out the old playground equipment & pavilion and put in new equipment and pavilion as well as add cement to the existing slab for a pickleball court, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

The city needs to set up a Wellhead Protection Plan scoping meeting and public information meeting with the MN Dept. of Health and MN Rural Water. May 9th at 1:00 p.m. was set for the public information meeting and Clerk Serich will check if that works for all.

A letter was received from Travis Ross from Advanced Utility Solutions to provide his services for wastewater collections operator. The operators need to be licensed by the MPCA to be in compliance. More information is needed.

Motion by Tuorila to approve a zoning permit for a fence at 522 5th Ave Diane Schuster Rental, a 5' high chain link type fence approximately 40' wide and 61' long, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, M/C. Dan Strand left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and accept \$65,000 ARP money from Itasca County for the Gary Street Project, seconded by Porter, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, and Porter, Opposed: none, Absent: Hernesman and Strand. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Mayor John Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

John Tuorila, Mayor