

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting  
Calumet City Council Room  
Tuesday September 17, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

While we were waiting for another councilmember to arrive, Lee Longoria introduced himself as the new Nashwauk Police Chief and discussed the continuation of the contract with the City of Calumet starting October 1<sup>st</sup> for police services.

Tim Zarren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim Zaren called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. after Nick Porter arrived so there was a quorum.

Present: Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand, and Nick Porter Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bill Berger & Loren Benchmark Engineer.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #24-09-17 a resolution to appoint Tim Zaren to the Mayor's position and declare a vacancy in his council position ending Dec. 31, 2024, seconded Porter, upon vote taken, for: Strand & Porter, opposed: none, Abstain: Zaren. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #24-09-17-2 a resolution to appoint Barbara Banks to the vacant councilmember position ending Dec. 31, 2024, seconded by Strand, upon vote taken, for: Zaren, Strand and Porter, opposed: none, Abstain: Tuorila. Resolution was duly passed and adopted. Clerk Serich gave the Oath of Office to Barbara Banks as a new councilmember.

Motion by Strand to approve the agenda with the additions of Range gateway #169 Coalition, approve the Calumet Church Bingo gambling event, and the LMC dues, seconded by Banks, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Strand to approve the August regular meeting minutes and two special meeting minutes, seconded by Porter, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the August Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$164,808.80, Disbursements \$56,062.98, Investments \$9,847.05 and total checking balance \$430,754.90, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #24-09-17-3 a resolution to apply to and accept funds from the IRRR for the City Hall/library project, seconded by Porter, upon vote taken, for: Zaren, Strand, Porter and Banks, opposed: none. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #24-09-17-4 a resolution setting the 2025 Proposed Tax Levy at \$249,179 a 10% increase over last year and Budget at \$694,321, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, for: Zaren, Strand, Porter and Banks, opposed: none. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports:**

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that the roof is completed. All the damaged ceiling tiles were replaced. Green Again treated the fields with weed killer. 6 new cameras were put in. 34 Flag football players 4-6 grade. Use crossbar website to register. MN Power is coming to see why the bill is so high.

Cemetery Bd: no report.

WMMPB: Zaren discussed the Range Gateway #169 Coalition funding.

MCWWTP: meeting Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. in Marble.

Benchmark Engineer Loren gave an update on the project. Wednesday will be the final tarring of 1 ½ inches. She will ask the county about the alley between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. The lights are supposed to go in on Monday or Tuesday. They have to wait until after the paving is done. She will check on the estimate for a new road to the tower and the area for the Hill Annex equipment.

Public Works Report: Supervisor Bill Berger stated that the grass has slowed down and he has been doing some patch tarring on roads and moving the burn pile across the bike trail. Discussed putting a camera down the sewer line by Dave Chupurdia's. Discussed the cleanup from the Casper project. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & Corey St. has a lot of rocks. The council stated that Bill Berger is doing a good job.

**Comments as complaints from the floor:**

Donald Banks had complaints about Red Rock Auto still looking like a junk yard. Our police services with Nashwauk Police Department will start again Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Notices for blight will be sent out again.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 120 shut-off letters were sent.

Update on Blight: All the previous blight notice addresses will be given to the Nashwauk PD to check on then we will start to send out new notices and continue on with the process for prosecuting according to the ordinance. Clerk Serich will check with Dimich about any tickets that had been issued. There are 22 cars and a trailer at Red Rock Auto on both sides of the highway. Finke has an unlicensed car, there is an unlicensed car next to the church and Kluck's still have a couch on a trailer in their yard.

Porter left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Update on Radio Tower: The propane is the city's property and has been removed. The sale will probably take place in October. Discussed where the money is going to be invested and used with the new councilmember. \$1 Million will be invested to earn interest for the city to use each year. The 850,000 will be put into the checking and used to pay off debt as well as used for yearly expenses.

**New Business:**

Motion by Strand to reinstate the contract with Nashwauk for police services, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about the city hall/library project. Roof bid is being done by Meyer Group. Clerk Serich will get quotes for the electrical updates and renovation of the council room.

Discussion about the old bank building. The council decided to put it up for rent or sale to get it back on the tax rolls. 2,800 square foot building. Clerk Serich will put it on the city Facebook for anyone interested to give us a plan and price and bring to the city clerk's office. The council will decide on what to do with the building after looking at any plans that come in at the next meeting.

Tabled the franchise fees for gas and electric sales.

Motion by Zaren to approve \$1,500 for purchasing Christmas candy for the fire department to deliver, seconded by Banks, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve an excluded Bingo activity for the Calumet Church on Oct. 23 at the Greenway Snowmobile club, seconded by Banks, abstain: Zaren, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve LMC 4-month dues \$193, seconded by Zaren, all in favor. Motion carried.

We will have a work session meeting October 1<sup>st</sup> with Sarah Carling about the ball field and the other projects on our priority list.

Clerk Serich will set up a meeting with Alex from AFSCME to discuss the process of hiring someone part-time this winter if needed.

Motion by Zaren to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Banks, meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Tim Zaren, Mayor