

**NASHWAUK
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION
REGULAR AGENDA**

p: 218-885-1210



City of
NASHWAUK
FROM TIMBER TO TACONITE

301 Central Avenue, Nashwauk, Minnesota 55769

NPUC COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

E. Milton Latvala

Chair

Mike Anderson

Commissioner

Mark Marinaro

Commissioner

Brian Ekholm

Commissioner

Tom Martire

Commissioner

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**
 - a. Appointment of Chair**
 - b. Appointment of Vice Chair**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Minutes of the December 17, 2024, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.
- 5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update.
 - b. 3rd Street Utility Project Update (2025 Project)
 - c. Water Storage for Bozich, Co Garage, Mesabi Metallica.
 - d. Tracking water tower restoration.
 - e. Updates and recommendations from Joe Peterson.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Approve April Kurtock and Jason Martire to attend the 2025 Lead & Copper Rule Revision training in Bemidji on May 22, 2025.
 - b. Approve Jason Martire to attend the MRWA Water & Wastewater annual technical conference in St. Cloud on March 4-6, 2025.

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8. PUBLIC COMMENT. Members of the public are welcome to address the Commission. Please provide your name, brief description of the subject matter, and keep comments to 5 minutes.

9. ADJOURN

**City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
December 17, 2024**

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Nashwauk City Hall.

Members present: Chairman Milt Latvala, Commissioner Tom Martire, Commissioner Mark Marinaro, Commissioner Mike Anderson.

Members absent: Commissioner Greg Heyblom.

Also present: John Jamnick, April Kurtock, Joe Peterson, Lance Hopke.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adopt the agenda of the December 17, 2024, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the claims and file the claims register as official record.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Old Business

East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update

Engineer John Jamnick shared that the VFD failure was going to be discussed later in the week with the electrical contractor and the general contractor. It was part of the "loose components" electrical panel that was created when the originally designed parts were so delayed at the beginning of the project in March 2023. The warranty expired August 2024. The breaker for the VFD did not trip but tripped the main panel. The VFD ran the aerators. Commissioner Marinaro speculated that the aerator twisting issue caused issues with the integrity of the VFD. They'll test breakers and troubleshoot when they meet. Joe Peterson suggested contacting Minnesota Power to capture meter data to understand more about what happened. Lance Hopke said that he contacted Minnesota Power, and they did not see any indicative data to provide information. Joe Peterson offered to attend the meeting for discussions. Then it would possibly be turned into insurance as a claim. The aerators are running non-stop and the three VFDs alternate but are running non-stop with the aerators. Commissioner Anderson questioned if the VFDs are supposed to run like that or if something could be modified to run more effectively.

Sewer Availability Charges

The wastewater permit is in the renewal stage, and the MPCA wanted the permit to be amended to include Phase II of the project, which consisted of Lone Pine Township and Keetac. Phase II project costs only included expenses for connecting property owners within Lone Pine Township. It is anticipated that the property owners within Goodland and Greenway Townships would want to connect to the system.

Commissioner Anderson said there are about 45 residences in Goodland Township that may want to be hooked-up, and Lone Pine Township knows that there are people in the Greenway township that want to connect. Anderson stated that Lone Pine Township has been trying to get a confirmation from Itasca County if they will continue to grant septic permits if there is a sewer line that runs through that area. April Kurtcock said that Itasca County shouldn't be able to unilaterally require people to connect to the wastewater system because the Nashwauk wastewater permit has discharge and gallons-per-day limits. If people wanted to connect to the wastewater line running through Greenway and Goodland Townships, it needed to be approved by both Nashwauk and Lone Pine. Lone Pine would need to approve connections because their township was the one funding the project. Nashwauk would need to approve it because Nashwauk only had so much excess capacity on their wastewater permit. As such, if the demand was great, not everyone that wanted to connect could be connect. The Commission extensively discussed selling excess capacity within the Nashwauk wastewater permit and that more information would be needed.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

The final 2025 Intended Use Plan was published, and the 3rd Street project did not make it to the fundable range on either the Clean Water or Drinking Water revolving loan fund lists.

Water System Follow-up

The 2025 Intended Use Plan also did not list the water storage project in the fundable range. John Jamnick said it could be a stand-alone project. He said sizing of the storage tank would need to be determined. Chairman Latvala said he spoke with a County employee who reported that the County hasn't had any issues with water pressure at the County garage since the new pump was installed. Latvala recommended to wait and see if it would be sufficient.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson stated he was working with Mesabi Metallics and Steve Sherner on the power agreements and that the efforts were moving forward. At the Mesabi Metallics campus, their capacity is low so they will need relay changes.

Regarding the new school, Joe Peterson said they haven't indicated if they're ready for the transformer to be energized.

Peterson shared that he attended the IRRRB meeting, which discussed the Department of Energy grant that they are trying to secure a regional project for to be more competitive. There would be a follow-up meeting in January, and he thinks there is a good chance at funding. He said the timeframe would be good as there were lead times on many materials.

Rate Discussions

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve rate increases of 10% for sewer, 1% for water, and electric meter fee charges from \$10.00/month and \$15.00/month for 3-phase meters to \$14.00/month and \$20.00/month, respectively; these changes equate to the following rates, which will be effective for the bills generated in January 2025:

Sewer	Residential 1 EDU	\$26.00
Sewer	Commercial 1 EDU	\$26.00
Sewer	Commercial 2 EDU	\$45.50

Sewer	Commercial 3 EDU	\$64.90
Sewer	Commercial 4 EDU	\$84.40
Sewer	Commercial 12 EDU	\$240.00
Sewer	Commercial 18 EDU	\$356.70
Sewer	Commercial 40 EDU	\$1,041.90
Water	Residential 1 EDU	\$34.57
Water	Commercial 1 EDU	\$34.57
Water	Commercial 2 EDU	\$47.96
Water	Commercial 3 EDU	\$61.36
Water	Commercial 4 EDU	\$74.75
Water	Commercial 12 EDU	\$181.89
Water	Commercial 18 EDU	\$262.25
Water	Commercial 40 EDU	\$1,382.89
Water	Bulk Water/5,000 gallons	\$46.80
Electric	Meter Connect Fee	\$14.00
Electric	Meter Connect Fee 3-Phase	\$20.00

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

New Business

Garbage Ordinance Revision

The Commission reviewed the proposed garbage ordinance revision. They would not be able to adopt the ordinance changes but would need to forward them to the Council for recommendation or adoption.

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to recommend the proposed garbage ordinance revision be referred to the City Council for consideration and adoption.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

MMUA Service

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Marinaro to approve the Safety Management Service Agreement with Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for a tier-1 compliance program in the amount of \$12,039.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fund Transfers

*Motion by Commissioner Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Marinaro to approve the transfer of \$105,000 from water savings account 0420 to water fund 602 and a transfer of \$105,000 from water savings account 7270 to water fund 602 for the purpose of balancing the fund.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Marinaro to approve transfer of \$99,500 from Electric Fund 601 and \$99,500 from Sewer Fund 603 to the General Fund 100 for the purpose of employee wages and benefits related to utility activities.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

*Motion by Chairman Marinaro, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary