

**City of Nashwauk  
October 14, 2025  
City Council Meeting**

Mayor Heyblom called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Heyblom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members present:** Councilor David Bruns, Councilor Tom Martire, Councilor Sheila Jensen, Councilor Terry Sullivan, Mayor Greg Heyblom.

**Also present:** Administrator/Clerk April Kurtock, Police Chief Lee Longoria, Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire, Officer Kyle Bloom.

**Public Comment**

Rhonda Woodman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street resident, said the Council all received an email from Kiersten Apel and wants the Council to read it and acknowledge it. She stated she also received an ordinance violation letter related to a tree within her boulevard, which is just branches growing out of a stump and doesn't understand why that would warrant a violation letter. Woodman also said the ordinance should be revised if there is an issue with flowers because the ordinance doesn't state anything about flowers not being allowable.

Valerie Ketola, 4<sup>th</sup> Street resident, said she was present because she received an ordinance violation letter, too, because she planted flowers in the boulevard. She said she wasn't notified of the ordinance change, so she wasn't aware of it. Also, she stated that flowers bring revenue to town because people look at them and then go out to eat.

Cheryl Gangl, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, also received a letter regarding her flowers in the boulevard. She stated her plants are far enough back and shouldn't affect anything when sidewalk maintenance is needed.

Councilor Jensen said people's flowers are beautiful and the ordinance wasn't adopted for the intention of being able to remove flowers. It was intended to prevent new trees from being planted in the boulevard, which cause damage to water and sewer lines as well as sidewalks. The sidewalks need to be functional and not have trees or bushes impeding on them as well as allowing the city crews to be able to complete the work they need to do.

**Adoption of Agenda**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to adopt the agenda of the October 14, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Notable Items**

Mayor Heyblom completed the swearing in of Jackilyn Mjolsness as a Patrol Officer for the Nashwauk Police Department.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

\*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a. Approve the minutes of the September 23, 2025, City Council meeting and minutes of the August 26, 2025, City Council Work Session.

b. Approve claim register #10142025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$115,052.73.

- c. Approve claim register #10142025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$4,253.50.
  - d. Approve April Kurtock to attend the Coalition of Greater MN Cities fall conference in Grand Rapids, MN on November 13-14, 2025, registration fee \$175.00
- Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### ***Small Cities Development Program***

There have been a few more applications sent out to interested parties.

#### ***East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update***

No update.

#### **Public Works Building Follow-up**

The preapplication with IRRRB has been completed and the application was moved on to completing the full application. JPJ Engineering will be helping with the full application. Mayor Heyblom also stated that he and Administrator/Clerk Kurtock met with Mesabi Metallic's lobbyist for tips and advice on how to secure a bonding request for the project.

#### **Hazardous Buildings**

Regarding 211 Central Avenue, Administrator/Clerk Kurtock said requests for demolition quotes have been sent out. 301 1<sup>st</sup> Street went tax-forfeit effective September 22, 2025, and new tax-forfeit laws adopted in 2024 require that the County must list them for sale within 6 months of forfeiture status. The County did not intend to clean up the property before listing it for sale and this is the first property they've dealt with in Lis Pendens status, so they asked for time to consider before the city moves forward with demolition plans. Regarding 324 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kurtock asked Attorney Borland if the property had been filed with the Court. As for 2 Platt Avenue, Council had received correspondence from Attorney Borland that the Council would need to start the process for probate if they wanted to continue pursuing the property. If not, the Council could issue blight letters. Councilor Sullivan said the family should start the probate process themselves and encouraged them to do so.

#### **Community Development July 2025**

There was a request to reconsider the July 2025 Community Development allocation from the purchase of cameras and radar signs to an allocation toward a police squad replacement. Mayor Heyblom had already reached out to Mesabi Metallics to see if they would be agreeable to the change, and they confirmed they would be. Councilor Bruns questioned if a new squad was needed, as he had wanted the radar signs for years. Police Chief Longoria said the 2019 squad should be replaced and outlined his plan for replacing the squad without having annual payment, as he would use his forfeiture funds, auction funds from selling the two oldest squads, and Mesabi Metallics funds, if approved. He emphasized the importance of having a plan for vehicle replacement so that we are not in a scramble if one died.

Councilor Sullivan stated he did not support the reallocation of funds. Councilor Jensen said that she supported securing the basics before purchasing gadgets because that is more important.

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve a reallocation of the July 2025 Community Development funds from radar signs and cameras to an allocation toward the purchase of a new police cruiser.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Mayor Heyblom. Nays: Councilor Sullivan. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

### **Bozich Lot Considerations**

Per Attorney Borland, the motion at the previous meeting regarding offering Bozich Lots to all full-time employees for free was not allowable, as Statute only allowed that for peace officers. He recommended the Council rescind the motion.

\*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to rescind the motion made at the September 23, 2025, City Council meeting to approve providing full-time employees who want to build a house in the Bozich Addition with a lot at no cost.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

\*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve providing full-time peace officers who want to build a house in the Bozich Addition with a lot at no cost and establishing that there is no requirement for residency if a house is built.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Councilor Sullivan asked why the July 2025 Community Development motion didn't need to be rescinded versus the motion that was just approved.

\*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns approve the request from Lee Longoria for Bozich Lot 100 to build a garage in the spring of 2026 and a modular home with an attached garage in the spring of 2027.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Kyle Bloom had a request for a Bozich lot, too, but rescinded his request, so Council did not address it.

### **PERA Resolution**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt Resolution 2025-15 a resolution in support of part-time Police Officers be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan (PERA).

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **DNR Overpayment of Rents & Minerals**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued overpayment of mineral rents and royalties revenue for FY23 through FY25 to the City of Nashwauk in the amount of \$205,076.69 and issued a demand for repayment.

\*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to pay the overpayment of mineral rents and royalties back to the DNR over 5 years; further providing Administrator/Clerk Kurtcock with the ability to negotiate the repayment down to over three years.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Utility Easement**

\*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to adopt Resolution 2025-16 a resolution of the City of Nashwauk to execute a utility easement agreement with ISD 319.

Roll call: Ayes—Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Councilor Sullivan, Mayor Heyblom. Resolution approved.

## **Department & Committee Reports & Requests**

### **Police Department**

Chief Longoria stated that the City of Calumet intends to cancel the police services contract, supposedly with an “effective immediately” termination. He stated this will impact the budget but also free up time for the department. Calumet will be billed for any hours that they have not been invoiced for yet.

Chief Longoria also shared that the Police Department participated with the Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Week event, which went well.

### **Street Department**

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire said the fence had been installed at the sliding hill and the solar lights had been set up.

### **Mayor and Council Updates**

Councilor Sullivan requested that the tree ordinance be placed on the next agenda for discussion, as it is confusing.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer