

**City of Nashwauk
February 10, 2026
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, Attorney Jackie Simon.

Public Comment

Vickie Harrington had a question regarding storing the wooden Christmas trees that the Beautification Committee created. Jason Martire said they could be stored in the abandoned bathroom in the basement of city hall.

Itasca County Commissioner Casey Venema said Scenic Range NewsForum was approved by the board as a publication of the County. Also, the Range Gateway Coalition 169 is actively working on their initiative, and he discussed the progress the organization has made. Councilor Martire asked about the stretch of highway by Mud Lake through Marble. Venema shared some options the organization has been proposing and cited their focus has been on safety.

Commissioner Venema also said the County had completed land reclassification and up to 3,000 acres of tax-forfeit land will be listed for auction soon. Additionally, he shared an update regarding how the County is reevaluating jobs and reconsidering positions as people retire as part of their commitment they made to taxpayers during their truth-in-taxation meeting.

Councilor Sullivan asked about the ambulance taxing district levy, as he did not see it as a separate line item on the tax statements for 2026. Venema said he wasn't sure why it wasn't listed, but it might be on the statements in the spring.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to adopt the agenda of the February 10, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register # 2102026 Claim 1 in the amount of \$24,634.91.
- c. Approve the annual donation of \$250.00 for First Call for Help 211.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

No update.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

No update.

Public Works Building Follow-up

Mayor Heyblom said Mesabi Metallica told IRRRB they are committed to being a partner with the City regarding the public works building.

Hazardous Buildings

For 211 Central Avenue and 302 1st Street, there was still no response regarding the Commercial Redevelopment grant. Administrator/Clerk Kurtock told the Council that in the application, she shared with IRRRB that if there was only funding available for one building, to prioritize 211 Central Avenue, as it was abutting and crumbling on to city property. Regarding 206 3rd Street, a quote for asbestos has been obtained. Access to the property has been requested of the property owner so that the asbestos testing may be completed. Demolition and asbestos abatement quotes are still needed. A separate application to IRRRB's Residential Redevelopment grant will be needed. For 324 3rd Street, the Order has been filed with the Court. The City is waiting for it to be scheduled for a court date. If it is a quick turnaround, this house could be added to the Residential Redevelopment grant application with 206 3rd Street. Regarding 2 Platt Avenue, Council had previously voiced preference that the family address issues of probate themselves versus the city taking that on. It was unknown if the probate process had started.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Fire Department

Gas Monitors

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the quote from MacQueen for gas monitors in the amount of \$3,327.02.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fire Department Apparel

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the quote from Central Ave Design Co. for apparel in the amount of \$3,632.00.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Police Department

Chief Longoria said that he has broken furnishings in his department and asked for up to \$5,000 to use toward office updates. He noted that he had submitted a \$5,000 request to the Fire Relief for the updates, but if they didn't award something toward it, he would need to shuffle expenses around in his budget. Mayor Heyblom asked if the updates will secure the offices as well. Chief Longoria confirmed it would be taken care of.

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to approve up to \$5,000 toward office upgrades for the Police Department.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Mayor Heyblom asked about jake braking signs on Highway 65, as they used to be up and the noise in the morning is significant. Chief Longoria stated he would ask MNDOT if they could be put back up.

Street Department

School Water Line Break

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire provided an update on the water line break within the old school. He stated the room where the fire suppression lines came into the building was not being heated and that was where the break was. When they entered the building, there were broken water lines all over in the buildings. He noted that approximately 300,000 gallons of water were lost due to the break. He said he'd been asking the school since October when they would be shutting the water off because he didn't want it freezing, but the school administration said water was needed for asbestos abatement, so they left the water service on. Because abatement was currently happening in the building, Martire noted that they're being served by a water hose to use for that purpose. Councilor Bruns said Nashwauk has been a good partner in this City/School relationship, but the school's actions were negligent regarding not properly heating the building. He suggested an ordinance be drafted regarding empty buildings that don't have sources of heat and requiring the utilities to be shut off. Mayor Heyblom suggested a conversation or correspondence with the school regarding the cost impacts this had on the city. PW&UL Jason Martire said he updated school leadership regarding the incident and told them what the Street Department did during the incident to mitigate the issue. He also noted that the City was not paying for the expenses related to the callout. Mayor Heyblom commended Jason Martire and the Street Department for how they handled the incident. Mayor Heyblom asked for a meeting with Councilor Martire, PW&UL Martire, the Administrator and school leadership.

Councilor Sullivan asked what emergency services were paged out. Jason confirmed that Fire was paged out and then Fire got in contact with the Street Department, despite Dispatch having Jason's number for utility related issues. Sullivan asked why the Police Department wasn't paged out. Chief Longoria stated it wasn't a call that Police typically would have been paged for. Fire was dispatched and cleared scene as soon as the Street Department showed. Sullivan said he disagreed and the Police Department should have been paged out. Sullivan asked if Dispatch called someone from the school. Jason Martire said he called people from the school to gain access to the building. Councilor Jensen asked about the extent of damage to the building. Jason said there was 5' of water inside the room that housed the fire suppression system and there was 5" of water all over the gym floor. Councilor Bruns affirmed the need for an ordinance to address empty buildings. Councilor Martire said the City also needed to address other issues related to cold weather risks like when people plow their boulevard and consistently drive and park over waterlines and shutoffs.

PW&UL Martire noted that the Rec would likely be closing this week due to the warm weather.

4th of July

Rick Denne was present to see if the car show could be expanded, as he has more commitments from car owners this year. He stated a preference to extend the car show down 2nd Street. Council agreed and asked him to work with the Street Department. Councilor Bruns requested the Street Department build more parking barriers; PW&UL Martire agreed. Councilor Bruns asked about the hold harmless agreement that a member of the 4th of July Committee had been making people sign before participating in the parade. Mayor Heyblom said it was pointless and asked Administrator Kurtock to send a note to her saying the hold harmless agreement wasn't necessary.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.
