

**City of Nashwauk
February 11, 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, Attorney Jackie Simon.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to adopt the agenda of the February 11, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

Shyanne Dibb, Nashwauk Area Chamber of Commerce President, was present to request use of the Rec Center on May 18, 2025, to hold a Kids Spring Fling event. Dibb asked for the fee for use of the Rec Center to be waived.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the request by the Nashwauk Area Chamber of Commerce to use the Rec Center on May 18, 2025, to hold a Kids Spring Fling event and to waive the rental fee.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #2112025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$43,858.91.
- c. Approve claim register #2112025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$17,445.87.

d. Approve any member of the Council to attend the Itasca County Public Hearing on February 25, 2025, which is not a meeting of the City Council, but a quorum of Council members may be present and engage in discussions which are related to City business.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

No update.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

The East Itasca Joint Sewer Board meeting would be held the following Tuesday.

Mesabi Metallics Amicus Brief

No update.

Public Safety Building

Department heads met with ICS on February 6 to discuss each department's needs. The next meeting will be March 5, 2025.

Hazardous Conditions 211 Central Avenue

At the Zoom Hearing held February 3, 2025, Notice of the Order for Judgement was approved by the District Court, affirming the City of Nashwauk Order, and allowing for it to be enforced.

Hazardous Conditions 302 1st Street

There is a Zoom Hearing to be held on February 18, 2025, regarding a request for the District Court to affirm the Order.

Hazardous Conditions 206 3rd Street

Councilor Sullivan requested the property at 206 3rd Street be on the agenda. The City issued an Order of repair for Hazardous Conditions in April 2020. Sullivan acknowledged that enforcement of the Order had been paused due to the city's poor financial condition at that time but stated that was no longer the case and the property shouldn't be ignored.

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to file the Order regarding 206 3rd Street with the Court, requesting enforcement of the Order.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with the demolition of the properties but did not decide on an action.

New Business

Mayor's Office Updates

A quote to install carpet in the Mayor's office was in the packet. Councilor Jensen questioned why the room needed to be carpeted. Mayor Heyblom said it would look more professional, and the floor currently gets dirty quickly.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve the quote from Ross Home Center, LLC for carpet to be installed in the mayor's office in the amount of \$2,482.00.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Sullivan, Mayor Heyblom.

Nay: Councilor Jensen. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 2025-01

Council reviewed the proposed ordinance amending Nashwauk's City Ordinance by adding a chapter entitled "Community Garden" and associated provisions and penalties. No revisions were requested.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to post the proposed Community Garden ordinance for the required number of days so the City can move forward with approval.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

City Hall Upgrades

Two quotes were received for the city hall upgrades, which consisted of a bathroom remodel and clerk's office cabinetry installation. The quotes received were Korpi Builders in the amount of \$48,617.48, and JK Mechanical & Electrical Contractors in the amount of \$50,660.00. Administrator/Clerk Kurtcock said

that she reviewed the quotes with Jason Martire and Lance Hopke. They noted that it wasn't clear if Korpi Builder's quote included installation of electrical outlets, which was clearly outlined in the JK Mechanical quote. She said she called Korpi and confirmed the quote did include the electrical. Based on their review, they felt the quotes were very comparable. Council discussed the glass window at the clerk's customer service window and asked if it was safety glass. It was unknown if it was. Mayor Heyblom asked for follow-up on the glass.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to accept the quote from JK Mechanical in the amount of \$50,660.00 to complete the city hall upgrades of a bathroom remodel and clerk's office cabinetry installation, citing acceptance of the higher quote as JK Mechanical is a business located in Nashwauk.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Ambulance Service

Notice was shared that Itasca County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, to consider the creation of Subordinate Service District for the Nashwauk Ambulance Primary Service Area.

EMT Refresher Training

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve the training quote from Minnesota North College for EMT Refresher Training throughout the remainder of 2025 in the amount of \$1,375.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Surplus Equipment Declaration

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the surplus equipment declaration for the MTS Power Load, MTS PowerPro Cot, and Lifepak 15 V4 monitor/defibrillator with a fair market value of \$12,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000, respectively; further approving them as eligible for sale or auction.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fire Department

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve the request from Joe Martire for a leave of absence from the Nashwauk Fire Department beginning 2-11-2025 through December 31, 2025.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Councilor Sullivan.

Abstain: Mayor Heyblom. Motion carried.

Nashwauk Fire Chief

In his letter of request for a leave of absence, Joe Martire provided recommendation regarding who should be appointed to the Fire Chief position. Councilor Sullivan asked if others in the department should be offered the position, too. Councilor Martire disagreed and said the position should go to the next in line. Councilor Bruns noted that it was an interim appointment, as Joe Martire did not resign. Rob Coughlin was present and said that the Department met and discussed the situation. If Martire comes back sooner, then the department leadership would go back to the existing arrangement.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to appoint Rob Coughlin as interim Fire Chief, and promote Mark Marinaro to 1st Assistant Chief and Kevin Bodin to 2nd Assistant Chief.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Police Department

Chief Longoria stated that he didn't have an update for the department. Mayor Heyblom commended the department stating that he has heard numerous reports of positive feedback.

Street Department

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire said MnDOT wants to clear snow from 1st Street, which they will perform next week. He said he will work with Police Chief Longoria to get the proper postings out, and the road may be closed during that time. Martire stated that ice in the Rec Center is going well. The sliding hill is very active. Mayor Heyblom complimented the Street Department on keeping up with cleaning of City Hall.

Negotiation Committee

Resolution 2025-05

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve Resolution 2025-05 approving the tentative agreement between the City of Nashwauk and AFSCME Council 65 representing the EMS Employees Bargaining Unit for calendar year 2025.

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

Public Comment

Jerrilyn McAndrew, 4th Street, was present and wanted to discuss helping to apply for grants for the City for whatever the needs may be. She also stated she is not familiar with all the organizations that provide grants so will need guidance. Councilor Sullivan suggested he be a liaison and assist.

Brenden Johnson, 3rd Street, was present to discuss his frustration with what happened at the previous meeting, citing a need for better communication and resolution of ambulance issues.

Councilor Sullivan requested a work session to discuss the ambulance service.

Dennis Blomberg, 4th Street, commended the efforts of the Nashwauk Beautification Committee.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Sullivan suggested that the Council look at upgrading the recording equipment for the meeting, as the meetings were not being recorded properly.

Adjourn

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer