

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
February 17, 2026

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 Mike Anderson, Commissioner Brian Ekholm and Commissioner Mark Marinaro were present via Microsoft Teams.

Members absent: None.

Also present: John Jamnick, April Kurtock, Jason Martire.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adopt the agenda of the February 17, 2026, 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 January 20, 2026, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

*Motion by Commissioner Anderson, 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

At the East Itasca Joint Sewer Board meeting, the Board learned that the Lone Pine project is funded. The next step will be going out for bids. Lone Pine will not be putting the project to a vote. Bids need to be submitted prior to June 1 to PFA. Commissioner Anderson asked about where the Lone Pine force main will connect to the Nashwauk system. John Jamnick said it would connect to the 30" force main near the bridge by Sierra Road. Commissioner Anderson asked about changes to the Nashwauk system when Lone Pine connects. John Jamnick said some additional aerators will need to be added.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

Nashwauk received confirmation from Congressman Stauber's office that \$1,061,000 was granted toward the 3rd Street project for the water infrastructure. April Kurtock said she had a discussion with financial consultant Mike Bubany regarding the award. It was being administered by the EPA and the EPA said they would reach out within a few weeks, but no contact has been received. Bubany said we needed to determine how the EPA would be allowing Nashwauk access to the funds because if it was strictly on a reimbursement basis, temporary financing may need to be put in place. The overall project was \$2.4 million, so the Commission discussed funding of the remaining \$1.4 million, as the PFA did not include the 3rd Street project on their 2026 IUP. The application for the 2027 PPL was within the packet and the Commission discussed applying but also asked if temporary financing could be obtained and then use PFA funding later. Kurtock said funding options will be on the next agenda, assuming the EPA has reached out and provided a clear answer.

Joe Peterson Updates

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to approve the budgetary proposal from Ampetek regarding fuses for Mesabi Metallica substations in the amount of \$73,240.00.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

New Business

Franchise Fee Ordinance

Notice was provided to the Commission that the City adopted an Ordinance regarding establishing a large industrial service customer and a 2% franchise fee for such customers.

High School Water Line Break

Jason Martire provided an update regarding the water line break within the old high school. The school failed to heat the building and their water suppression system valve cracked in half causing approximately 300,000 gallons to be lost. Jason said that the contractors still needed water to the building so that they could continue with asbestos abatement, so a residential water service with a garden house remains for their use. Commissioner Martire expressed frustration with the school because it wasn't an accident; the school failed to properly heat the building and was asked multiple times before winter and during winter what they were going to do with the water service, as Jason Martire was concerned about waterline breaks. April Kurtock said that she had contacted JK Mechanical, as they were the contractor that was called out for the incident, and asked if they intended on invoicing the City or the school for the call out. JK Mechanical confirmed they would be billing the school directly. April Kurtock said that there was nothing currently in place that would allow her to bill the school for this issue. She said that City Councilor Dave Bruns did suggest adopting an ordinance that would address issues with abandoned or vacated buildings and how utilities needed to be addressed. The Commission discussed this option and asked that April Kurtock work with the attorney to draft an ordinance for the Commission's consideration and then they would ask the Council to adopt it.

Adjourn

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Martire to adjourn at 1:51 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary