

**City of Nashwauk
March 24, 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.

Members absent:

Also present: Deputy Clerk Kristina Tunink, Police Chief Lee Longoria.

Public Comment

None.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt the agenda of the March 24, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #3242026 Claim 1 in the amount of \$53,409.42.
- c. Approve a one-day liquor permit for Keewatin American Legion in the Nashwauk Rec on April 11, 2026, for a bingo event.
- d. Approve an off-site gambling application for American Legion Post 452 in the Nashwauk Rec on April 11, 2026, for a bingo event.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

The Small Cities grant is subject to an audit by DEED. Nashwauk's grant administrator, Jessica Pellinen, will be here on June 11 to go over the files that DEED has requested to review. It is customary for the mayor to receive notification of the audit and an invitation to attend and ask any questions.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

There was not a meeting this month due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Works Building Follow-up

At the previous meeting, Council approved engagement with DSGW for architectural services. The architect, engineer, and city staff will meet on March 31 to discuss the project.

Hazardous Buildings

Asbestos testing for 206 3rd Street has been completed but no testing results have been received.

New Business

Itasca County HRA & Community Land Trust Update

Councilor Sullivan, Deputy Clerk Tunink and City Administrator/Clerk Kurtz did a tour of the Itasca County HRA Land Trust buildings that have been built in Grand Rapids. They shared information related to the tour, the buildings, how the land trust works, and HRA's interest to continue the initiative in Nashwauk. Mayor Heyblom asked that the discussions continue so that this can be a possibility for Nashwauk.

Administrative Assistant Resignation

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, second by Councilor Martire to accept the resignation of Lisa Mlakar as Administrative Assistant effective March 19, 2026.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Fire Department

Fire Truck Discussion

Fire Chief Martire said he didn't have any new information but shared the proposal for the fire truck again. He reminded the Council that Fire Relief committed to contributing \$100,000 toward the purchase of the vehicle, which would be around \$675,000. He said if this was purchased, the department would not need a new truck until 2041. Councilor Sullivan asked about Fire Relief gambling funds being used toward the purchase of the truck. He also asked about the Nashwauk Township contributing toward the purchase and requested that a meeting be arranged to discuss that with the Township. Mayor Heyblom said he would like to keep moving forward with the discussion and asked that the topic stay on unfinished business.

Surplus Fire Truck Agreements

The MN DNR offered the Nashwauk Fire Department the option to purchase surplus equipment from their organization. The surplus equipment was a J5 with a trailer and a 2016 GMC 3500 HD Crew Cab. Chief Martire said the purchase of this equipment would come out of the fire equipment fund. The J5 is a trackable bombardier for wildfires and Chief Martire said he believes the department could make good revenue from the use of it. The department would have the ability to be on standby for the DNR and shared the rate of \$70 per hour on-call for the J5 plus \$21/hour per firefighter. He asked that revenue from use of the equipment be placed back in the equipment fund.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the surplus fire truck agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, which is a cooperative agreement that allows Nashwauk to purchase a 1988 J5 vehicle and a FT 10 Trailer in the amount of \$6,800, and shall use the equipment for the suppression of wildland fires at the request of the DNR, with the purchase to be paid for out of the Fire Equipment Fund.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the surplus fire truck agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, which is a cooperative agreement that allows Nashwauk to purchase a 2016 GMC 3500 HD Crew Cab vehicle in the amount of \$18,400, and shall use the equipment for the suppression of wildland fires at the request of the DNR, with the purchase to be paid for out of the Fire Equipment Fund.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Martire stated that the Fire Relief agreed to pay for the wrapping of the GMC from Statt Wraps.

Police Department

Police Chief Longoria stated that he was working with FusionTech to get the cameras hooked up in his office that he had purchased.

Mayor Heyblom asked about the engine braking signs. Chief Longoria suggested the speed limit zone could be moved further north to mitigate this as well.

Street Department

Fire Rings for RV Park

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire provided a quote for fire rings for the RV Park.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the quote from Park Tables for the purchase of 12 fire rings for the RV Park in the amount of \$4,899.43.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

PW&UL Martire shared that he was getting quotes for paving of the alley behind city hall. He also shared that the new playground equipment should be delivered next month. The area will be closed off while the installation is happening. He said he will share the exact date of closure closer to the date.

Mayor Heyblom inquired about fixing sidewalks. PW&UL Martire suggested replacing the sidewalks a block at a time. Councilor Bruns suggested a plan in place to maintain new sidewalks, ex. 3rd street. Councilor Sullivan suggested a shared cost with the homeowners. Mayor Heyblom suggests putting together a plan so we can start moving forward with updating sidewalks. Mayor Heyblom would like the sidewalks discussion to be added to unfinished business.

Commission and Committee updates

Councilor Sullivan asked about an update for the library board. Councilor Bruns informed them that the Board is looking for a librarian and said that the library is open and is being staffed by school staff.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Sullivan inquired about property taxes regarding Mesabi Metallica. Production tax is based on what they produce, not what they sell. Mayor Heyblom said he will investigate it.

Councilor Martire thanked Scott Smith for rehabilitating one of the city's old buildings. Scott was present and discussed the improvements that were made to the upstairs. Scott would like to put businesses downstairs but will make it residential if there is no business interest. Scott is willing to build suites to needs for business interest.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer