

**City of Nashwauk
March 25, 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, 2nd Fire Chief Mark Marinaro, Fire Chief Rob Coughlin.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to adopt the agenda of the March 25, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #3252025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$39,156.98.
- c. Approve claim register #3252025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$10,445.83.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

No update.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

Councilor Martire said that nothing much had changed regarding the Wastewater project. There were issues at the wastewater plant with the VFDs; however, that issue was resolved.

Community Development Request

Chief Longoria presented a request to purchase a 2022 Ford Explorer Police Cruiser from the City of Bovey, with a fair market value of \$40,000, which included the equipment, lights, and sirens.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to purchase the 2022 Ford Explorer Police Cruiser from the City of Bovey in the amount of \$40,000, further citing that the funding would be the April and May Community Development requests from Mesabi Metallics and the unfunded portion would be funded by auctioning the 2016 squad and forfeiture funds.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Public Safety Building Follow-up

Two design options for the proposed public safety complex were in the packet. ICS submitted the designs stating that the one with the larger floor plan was likely exceeding the pricing of the Grand Rapids facility. Mayor Heyblom stated that we need a starting point and wanted to let the fire department and ICS work through the plan and then if the Council thinks it is too much then it needs to be reconsidered. He stated he wanted to know the cost estimates of each design option. Councilor

Martire stated they need a design that doesn't get out of hand like the previous \$10-12 million design. Councilor Bruns said that the Council rejected the overpriced project, and the budget needed to be kept in mind. Fire Chief Rob Coughlin refuted the comment that it would be near the size of the Grand Rapids fire hall, as the Nashwauk project included the ambulance, fire, and police department. Councilor Martire asked if the City would be housing the ambulance service forever. Councilor Jensen stated that during the meeting with ICS, it was suggested that the ambulance service could stay within the existing safety complex. They discussed keeping the existing garage for storage for the street department. Coughlin said they would have discussions in-house to reconsider the plan. Councilor Jensen questioned what the project budget was, as Councilor Bruns and Mayor Heyblom stated the project needed to stay within the budget, but no budget numbers had ever been established. Councilor Martire said that we wouldn't know what the budget was until we knew the cost of the proposed building.

Hazardous Condition Buildings

Regarding 211 Central Avenue, Mayor Heyblom asked for the property owner to be contacted and inquire about the balance of the mortgage. Councilor Bruns asked if the bank could be directed to address the issue with the building or force the issue to see if the bank will release the mortgage. Councilor Sullivan pointed out that Park State Bank is also the City's bank and the issue with the building is infringing on the city's parking lot.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2025-02

Administrator/Clerk Kurtz stated that Attorney Borland drafted an Ordinance regulating cannabis use. It was titled Cannabis Use within Public Places. Councilor Jensen says the title doesn't entirely contain the description of what is within the ordinance and suggested a renaming. Council decided on renaming it to Cannabis Regulation. Hours within the proposed ordinance were odd and the Council discussed a revision; however, Attorney Simon reviewed the statute and stated it was very specific and doesn't allow much variance, so Council determined to leave the proposed hours of allowable operation.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to establish the fees at \$800 across the board for all licenses within the cannabis ordinance.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to post the cannabis ordinance with the stated revisions.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Baudeck's Daycare Storefront Loan Concerns

Councilor Bruns said a storefront loan was issued to Baudeck's Daycare at 113 2nd Street; however, the building hasn't been developed to its intended use and now a cannabis store is operating within the building. He stated that was not the purpose of the storefront loan and the papers say you cannot change the nature of the business without permission. Bruns requested a letter be sent to them asking for documentation regarding the use of the storefront loan funds and an explanation of what is going on with the building.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Ambulance Service

Itasca County shared their draft RFB, which they would consider for publication at their April 8th meeting. Administrator/Clerk Kurtz stated that during discussions with North Memorial Health, the

organization stated that if they were awarded the bid, they would like two vehicle bays within the safety complex. They would also consider requesting a transfer of the ambulance license prior to January 2026. If that were to happen, Kurtcock advised it may be wise for the Council to determine the fee for the 2nd vehicle bay now prior to the RFB being released. She asked if Council was willing to waive the 2nd vehicle bay fee for 2025. The Council agreed to waive the fee for 2025.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to establish a fee of \$1,000 for the 2nd vehicle stall for the year 2026.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fire Department

Councilor Sullivan stated he had a conversation with the League's Troy Walsh who recommended a small Committee be created to review the SOG document. Sullivan recommended the committee be the Personnel Committee and the three fire chiefs. Coughlin said he was open to the discussion.

Street Department

MPCA Commendation

The MPCA issued a Certificate of Commendation for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and its staff in recognition of exceptional compliance with its MPCA NPDES/DES wastewater permit during the 2024 review period. Mayor Heyblom recognized Jason Martire for his accomplishment.

NPU Commission

Mayor Heyblom asked for an update for the 3rd Street project from the NPUC. Councilor Martire said that funding hadn't been awarded, so the project was likely not happening in 2025.

Public Comment

Lisa Kautto, 3rd Street, said 3rd Street is in tough shape. She asked if there was a contingency plan if the sewer failed. She asked if Fern Avenue was included for replacement and wanted to know if the street would be widened. She stated she recognized that the city has more short- and long-term goals.

Kautto also noted that she has worked with North Memorial Health and had good work experience with them.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Sullivan asked if the Public Comment section on the agenda could be placed at the beginning of the meeting. Council determined to move it up to after the pledge.

Councilor Martire discussed that 2nd Street was a dedicated ATV trail. Chief Longoria stated that people can drive on all streets, with mph regulations. Longoria volunteered to work toward a solution with Councilors Sullivan & Martire. Signage needs to be updated because some of it contradicts the ordinance.

Adjourn

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer