

City of Nashwauk
April 14, 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, Attorney Jaclyn Simon, Operator Lance Hopke, Fire Chief Joe Martire.

Public Comment

None.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to adopt the agenda of the April 14, 2026, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

A rep from Verkada, a company who specializes in camera systems, was present to discuss camera options. The cameras are a cloud-based platform and can be added anywhere there is internet. They are also scalable and can be customized to each location. Features on each camera will make the price vary. Data is stored locally and then broadcast up to a cloud service, which is heavily encrypted. The picture quality is high depending on the camera system chosen. Councilor Sullivan asked if the cameras need electricity. They do need electricity, but there are solar options. There are cellular connection options, but it is cheaper to install where there is already internet. Councilor Jensen asked for prices. The rep said that four cameras on a cellular system for five years will cost approximately \$47,000, which includes the monthly cell service. If used where there is already internet, it would be \$2,500 per camera per year. Councilor Sullivan listed places he would like to have cameras placed, including in the Rec, city hall, playground, community garden, plus any area the Police Chief would like cameras. Chief Longoria said that he didn't need cameras anywhere because he had already placed cameras within the department where he needed them. Councilor Sullivan asked that everyone submit opinions to the City Administrator regarding where cameras should be placed and then it can be discussed again.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #4142026 Claim 1 in the amount of \$92,396.35.
- c. Approve Kristina Tunink to attend the MN Municipal Clerks Institute on May 4-8, 2026, in Brooklyn Center; course fee \$640 (\$100 scholarship received), mileage, lodging, meals.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

No update.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

Administrator/Clerk Kurtock said that during a phone call with the MPCA the previous week to discuss the wastewater permit renewal, the MPCA stated they were not convinced the Lone Pine Township project had been awarded funding. Until it could be confirmed with the PFA, the bids for the Lone Pine project were delayed.

Public Works Building Follow-up

There was a meeting on April 1 with DSGW and JPJ Engineering to go over the project. There will be a follow-up meeting on April 20th. Mayor Heyblom said that he joined Senator Klobuchar last week for the Mesabi Metallics tour and he had an opportunity to discuss the project with her. Senator Klobuchar asked that Mayor Heyblom reach out to her staff for more recommendations for funding and she would submit a letter of recommendation for funding with whatever funding sources were applied to.

Hazardous Buildings

Administrator/Clerk Kurtock said that there was asbestos identified in the building at 206 3rd Street. The testing results had been sent out to the abatement companies with a request for abatement quotes.

City Hall Improvements Update

Administrator/Clerk Kurtock shared the news that the Blandin Foundation had awarded \$150,000 to the project. An application to the IRRRB has also been submitted for the project, which could be up to half of the cost.

New Business

Bozich Lot Purchase

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the request from David and Amber Haugen to purchase Bozich Lot #110 for \$5,500 and install a modular home on a poured foundation and an attached garage.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the request from City Administrator/Clerk Kurtock to hire Heather Kepler as Administrative Assistant effective April 27, 2026, with a rate of pay of \$20/hour.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Fire Department

Fire Truck Purchase

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve signing a purchase agreement for a Pierce Freightliner Responder Pumper from MacQueen Group in the amount of \$696,906.00, which is Sourcewell Consortium Pricing, Member ID 172090.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Bedliner Quote

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve a bedliner quote for the 2026 GMC Sierra from Joe's Garage in the amount of \$1,198.13.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Equipment Updates

Fire Chief Martire requested to expend up to \$5,000 from the fire equipment fund for updates on the J5 and GMC truck. He said it would include painting the truck. M&M Auto is going to paint it for the cost of the paint. This \$5,000 doesn't include the bedliner expenses.

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the request from Fire Chief Martire to expend up to \$5,000 from the fire equipment fund for updates on the J5 and the GMC truck.
Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Police Department

Police Chief Longoria shared recognition for Officer Corey Bloom who had responded to a call while on his way to work. Per Chief Longoria:

"I would like to take a moment to formally recognize and commend Officer Corey Bloom for his exceptional performance in response to a critical incident that occurred on Easter Sunday involving a young child.

On that day, Officer Bloom was one of the first to arrive on scene after a 5-year-old boy had fallen into an icy creek following his courageous efforts to save his younger brother from the water. Upon arrival, Officer Bloom was faced with a life-threatening situation requiring immediate action. With assistance from the Itasca County Sheriff's Department, he immediately initiated lifesaving measures, including CPR, and continued those efforts while expediting transport to the emergency room.

I would also like to extend sincere gratitude to all first responders and assisting agencies who responded to this incident. Their coordinated efforts, professionalism, and dedication played a critical role in providing the highest level of care during this emergency.

Officer Bloom's quick response, composure under pressure, and unwavering commitment to preserving life exemplify the highest standards of our profession. His actions not only reflect great credit upon himself, but also upon our department and the community we proudly serve.

This incident is a powerful reminder of the vital role our officers and emergency responders play in moments of crisis, and I am proud to acknowledge this outstanding display of professionalism, courage, and dedication."

The Council and audience applauded Officer Corey Bloom's response and performance.

Blight Update

Chief Longoria stated that blight enforcement will begin now that the snow is melting. He advised the Council that cases are progressing through the Court system very slowly. Some of the department's 2024 criminal cases are just now being reviewed.

IT Physical Audit Update

Chief Longoria stated that the department passed their IT Physical audit. There were some changes required in their policy language, which will bring it to alignment with the State.

Noise Law Enforcement

As follow-up from a previous meeting when the Council had asked about signage posted at the north city entrance, Chief Longoria stated that he had a conversation with MNDOT regarding jake breaking

signage. There was already signage along the entrance stating regulation of noise laws and they don't offer any other signage type.

Street Department

Zoning Permit

Council considered a zoning permit for the property located at 201 Central Avenue, which consisted of the installation of (4) 5'x10' self-supporting decks for the upstairs apartments. The lowest part of the balconies will be 12' above the sidewalk. Councilor Bruns expressed concern for the anchors, as it was unknown if they would be strong enough to support the decks.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns to approve the permit with the assurances from Scott Smith that the structures will be anchored securely enough.

Councilor Sullivan argued that he didn't think the Council could require that. Councilor Bruns withdrew his motion if that condition couldn't be added. The Council asked for more information of the property owner regarding the anchors for the decks.

Lawn Mower

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the Street Department to purchase a lawn mower in the amount of up to \$18,149.00.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Lawn mower quotes received were: L&M Supply for a Gravely in the amount of \$17,699 and a Stihl in the amount of \$18,499. Denny's Lawn & Garden for a Toro in the amount of \$16,870.30; a Gravely in the amount of \$16,305.60; and a Ferris in the amount of \$18,149.

Sidewalk Inventory

Lance Hopke said the sidewalk inventory is ongoing.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Martire asked about the house demolition that was happening at the top of 4th Street. Police Chief Longoria shared the conversation he had earlier that day with the homeowner. Councilor Sullivan asked how long the property owner will be allowed to have with the building in demolition status as the building is blight.

Closed Session

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Jensen to convene to closed session at 6:20 p.m. as permitted by Minn. Statute 13D.03.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to convene from closed session at 7:08 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk