

City of Nashwauk
May 13, 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 & Utility Lead Jason Martire, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Marinaro, Fire Secretary Anthony Marinaro.

Public Comment

Ken Ricker was present to discuss the need for a grocery store and wants to raise awareness about having an empty grocery store building. He stated he was looking for an official letter, invitation to the surrounding grocery store businesses to come here and run a business. Greg agreed a letter could be sent. Ricker said he would also be attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting next week and recommended a collaboration.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt the agenda of the May 13, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

Beautification Committee members Jamie Engel and Vicky Harrington were present to discuss placement of benches. Jamie provided a map regarding proposed placement of the benches. She said she was told that the benches needed to be on city property but wanted to know how the Council feels about having benches on private property along Central Avenue. Councilor Bruns said that he had no problem with the Beautification Committee approaching property owners to consider installation on their property. Mayor Heyblom told them to work with the street department. For this year, the benches will be located at the city lot on Central Avenue. The Beautification Committee also stated there would not be flowers on the poles this year because they needed to be ordered in the fall and they were not ordered because there were not holders for the light poles.

Vicky Harrington also stated that there were two flag poles Veteran's Park that were leaning and wanted to know if the city could address the poles.

FUSIONTech LLC owners Justin Whirley and Josh Nelson were present to discuss options for a camera at the playground, as was requested by Councilor Sullivan. Justin Whirley said that he had contacted FirstNet for a camera option, which was about \$5,000 per camera. They'd located a different option for about \$1,300. It would be a cellular camera, with 12-volt power needs, and would be accessed through a cloud management portal. The monthly cost would be about \$35 for a sim card. Councilor Sullivan asked how the data was saved. Justin Whirley said it has a micro-SD that stores 1 terabyte of data. Josh Nelson said the City would need to create a retention schedule to regulate how long video needs to be retained. Councilor Sullivan asked about a camera within city buildings. Justin Whirley said that if a camera was within a city building, it likely wouldn't need a sim card because it could use the building Wi-Fi. Also, camera systems are regulated by statute, and special considerations need to be made for location and

placement. He noted that this discussion was just informational, and the city was not being asked to purchase cameras.

Mayor Heyblom applauded the services of FUSIONTech LLC. Councilor Jensen questioned where the funds would come from if they purchased cameras. Councilor Sullivan said that he was assuming that it would be another Community Development request. He said that the resident, Jerrilyn McAndrew, who wanted to pursue grants on behalf of the city was working on a grant for cameras specifically. Councilor Jensen asked who would be responsible for reviewing the camera footage. Councilor Sullivan said that it would be the police chief's responsibility. Councilor Jensen asked Chief Longoria if cameras were a priority. Chief Longoria stated that it was not his priority, but cameras are a nice tool when needed.

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 April 22, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #5132025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$87,336.90.
- c. Approve claim register #5132025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$11,141.57.
- d. Approve American Legion Post 307 to use the Rec building on May 26, 2025, as an alternative location in the case of bad weather for their Memorial Day program.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

More residential projects have been identified through the Day of Action canvassing. Councilor Bruns asked if the grant administrator was still struggling to get contractors to bid on the projects. It was confirmed that getting contractors to bid was still an issue.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

No update.

Public Safety Building follow-up

No update.

Community Development Discussion

Councilor Sullivan requested earmarking an upcoming community development request for the purchase of electronic speed signs. Chief Longoria shared a quote from a MnDOT approved vendor for speed signs but noted that permission needed to be received from the State and County before installation. He noted that the solar batteries last six years. Chief Longoria also stated a concern regarding where the funds would be coming from for the purchase, as it was not in his budget. Councilor Sullivan said it would be a Community Development purchase. Councilor Bruns stated a preference for three signs with one at each city entrance. Councilor Martire advised getting permission from the County and State before the signs are purchased.

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the purchase of three electronic speed signs contingent upon getting approval by the State and County, which would be a July 2025 Community Development request to Mesabi Metallica; also noting the purchase cannot be made until the funds are received from Mesabi Metallica.

Ayes: all present. motion carried.

Councilor Sullivan's original motion was to purchase the electronic speed signs with the June 2025 request; however, Councilor Jensen said that she had a problem with that because the fire department had requested use of the June allocation.

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Martire to earmark the June 2025 request as the fire department's rescue trailer.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Hazardous Buildings

On the May 12, 2025, hearing, the Itasca County judge upheld the City's Order regarding 206 3rd Street.

Day of Action

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve the request to close the clerk's office on June 13, 2025, for Day of Action so that staff can participate.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Baudeck's Storefront Loan Update

The owner of Baudeck's Daycare LLC had informed Administrator/Clerk Kurtcock that he was listing the building for sale. If it didn't sell, the bank would foreclose. The Nashwauk storefront loan was subordinate to the Bank's. If foreclosed on, Nashwauk would not receive anything. If it sells, the loan would be satisfied. Attorney Borland advised that the owner signed a personal guaranty, so the city could see action for nonpayment. The Council determined to wait to see if the building sells and if not, then pursue the personal guarantee.

New Business

Street Name Change Request

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to approve the request from ISD 319 School Board to rename the portion of Platt Avenue East that extends past Hillcrest to the school campus from Platt Avenue East to Spartan Way, if a street sign is requested, it will be at the School's expense.

Ayes: all present. motion carried.

Upstairs Kitchen Upgrade

Mayor Heyblom presented a quote for the upstairs kitchen upgrade, which would be replacement of all the kitchen cabinets. He stated that the cabinets smelled bad and were moldy. The quote for the work was from Delich General Contracting LLC in the amount of \$10,113. Mayor Heyblom stated that the Masons would pay \$5,000 toward the project. Councilor Jensen said she toured the upstairs kitchen, and it was not clean. She suggested the condition of the cabinets was not bad, but they needed to be cleaned and maintained. Councilor Martire asked where the funds would come from. Mayor Heyblom said it would come from the general fund.

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Martire approve the quote from Delich General Contracting LLC in the amount of \$10,113 and for the city to pay for half of the upgrade, as the Masons would pay the rest.

Councilor Bruns said he needed to do a walk through first and asked if Mayor Heyblom was willing to table the request until the next meeting. Councilor Jensen asked for a 2nd quote. The motion was withdrawn.

Red Rock Run Donation

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the donation of \$100 from the Nashwauk Community Fund for the 4th of July Red Rock Run, which would list the City on the run's t-shirt.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Clerk's Office Door

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the quote from Korpi Builders to install a 2nd exit door from the clerk's office in the amount of \$5,263.85.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Ambulance Service

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to accept the resignation of Paul Vraa from the Nashwauk Ambulance Service effective May 12, 2025.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Fire Department

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to accept the request from Joe Martire to end his leave of absence effective June 1, 2025, and resume the role of Fire Chief.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Councilor Jensen asked why the leave of absence request had changed because it was originally through the end of the year. Councilor Martire said Joe Martire can change it whenever he wants.

Street Department

Blacktop Quote

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire presented a blacktop quote from SBS Blacktop Service Inc. for the removal and placement of asphalt in two locations in the amount of \$9,200. One location was along Deering Avenue, which would be a temporary fix to the storm sewer heave in the amount of \$6,200. The other part of the quote is for the alley behind the post office in the amount of \$3,000.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the quote from SBS Blacktop Service Inc. for the removal and placement of asphalt in two locations in the amount of \$9,200.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Flagpole Holders

PW&UL Martire provided a quote from Graybar Electric for flagpole holders and potted plant hangers in the amount of \$8,160. He noted the quote did not include Christmas decoration holders. Because the Beautification Committee would not be putting up flowerpots this year, the Council decided not to order those holders yet.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the purchase of the flagpole holders in the amount of \$4,080 from Graybar Electric.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Councilor Sullivan recommended the Beautification Committee make a request toward the end of the year for beautification efforts for the next year.

Logging in Industrial Park

PW&UL Martire made the recommendation for the logging of city lots along Platt Avenue East. Councilor Bruns asked if it would be the city paying a logger or getting revenue from the sale of timber, as he doesn't think it should be a cost to the city. The Council directed PW&UL Martire to have a conversation with a logger.

Zoning Permit Application

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to approve the zoning permit application for Louis Clark to build a 22'x24' garage at 511 1st Street.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Commission & Committee Updates

Personnel Committee Recommendation Regarding Fire SOG Document

The Personnel Committee made a recommendation related to the revision of section 2.5 within the Nashwauk Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines & Policy document, which is to replace section 2.5 in its entirety with zero-tolerance language related to alcohol and drug use.

Councilor Martire said that the proposed revision needs to be relooked at because he does not agree with the language within that related to the employees being on "unofficial" duty.

Anthony Marinaro said the fire department should be able to look at the proposed revision before adoption. He stated language needed to be cleaned up regarding alcohol consumption at trainings which had been approved by the department. Councilor Sullivan said that the policy language was from the League. He noted that the acting Chief had called before the meeting and confirmed that the language was fine for consideration.

Brenden Johnson said he understood the zero tolerance but the policy needs clarity on off-site trainings. The last one he attended was at a brewery. The current language eliminates the department's ability to have alcohol at retirement parties, picnics.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the recommendation from the Personnel Committee related to the revision of section 2.5 within the Nashwauk Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines & Policy document, which is to replace section 2.5 in its entirety with zero-tolerance language related to alcohol and drug use, striking the 3rd bullet point, which stated participation in any other activities where the firefighter is serving as a representative of the Fire Department, either officially or unofficially.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Bruns said Necia Nunn requested the placement of the library kiosk to the pavilion. Administrator/Clerk Kurtock suggested its placement at city hall, as it would be more visible.

Councilor Martire shared his discussions with Chief Longoria related to the ATV ordinance. They determined to reroute the ATV trail around town and purchase more signs. Chief Longoria stated a preference for a 10-mph speed limit. Mayor Heyblom asked them to come forward with a recommendation for Council consideration.

Councilor Bruns shared a 4th of July update. There will be a veteran's display at the pavilion.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer