

City of Nashwauk
May 6, 2025
Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Heyblom called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Nashwauk City Hall.

Members present: Councilor David Bruns, Councilor Sheila Jensen, Councilor Terry Sullivan, Mayor Greg Heyblom.

Members absent: Councilor Tom Martire.

Also present: Administrator/Clerk April Kurtrock, Police Chief Lee Longoria, Fire Chief Rob Coughlin, Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Marinaro.

Project Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss city projects. Mayor Heyblom presented the projects and invited Councilor discussion. The projects were the public safety building, public works building, Rec Center renovations, high school renovations, and the 3rd Street utility project.

Councilor Sullivan asked if the quote in the packet for the Rec Center renovation project was inclusive. Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire said it would have made the building move in ready for the Street Department. The building would still need other things done, like gutters and roofing improvements. Councilor Sullivan said he went to the rink frequently during the winter and he did not see it being used that much for hockey, especially. Each time he visited, he saw 4-5 kids on the ice. If there was outdoor ice, he furthered, it could likely be ready 2-3 weeks sooner and could be used whenever anyone wanted to use it. Councilor Bruns stated he was not willing to give up the Rec without the installation of an outdoor rink. PW&UL Martire confirmed that the first month of ice was busy, but by February it slows down. Martire also confirmed that the Zamboni can be used on an outdoor rink. Mayor Heyblom stated that if the Council is going to consider using the Rec as the Street Department garage, then the quote needs to be updated and fine-tuned to include gutters, roofing, a warming shack within the building, and an outdoor rink. Councilor Jensen expressed frustration because when the Council reviewed the Rec quote originally, they were ready to vote, but then at the next meeting, the project moved on to a proposal for a brand-new public works building.

Regarding the potential high school renovation project, Councilor Jensen said it pains her to consider demolition of the building but was not of the position that the city needed to take it over. Councilor Sullivan said that the district had released videos of the school prior to the referendum, which outlined that the buildings were not easily updated and that would be an issue for the city if the buildings were assumed. Councilor Bruns said that everything the city has heard up to this point is that renovation of an old building is going to cost more than a new building. Regarding the newer part of the buildings, the city has not received cost estimates for making them a stand-alone building. Mayor Heyblom said the figures need to be received on that said that reportedly ICS was working on getting the figures together. Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire said there is water/sewer to the building coming in from Roberts Avenue and he noted that HVAC would likely be needed. Councilor Sullivan asked who ICS was working on the quotes for—the city or the school? Mayor Heyblom said they were doing it on behalf of the city. Administrator/Clerk Kurtrock said she would reach out to ICS. The Council discussed that if the Rec Center was used for the street department, the high school gym could be the new community center and discussed its potential

uses. Collectively the Council agreed that when considering moving the Street Department in the Rec, it makes sense to consider using the high school as a community center.

Regarding a new public safety building, Councilor Bruns asked about the building and needs within the fire department. Fire Chief Coughlin said the Council needed to do what is in the best interest of the community. Councilor Jensen said she was in favor of using the Rec and high school gym for a community center over considering a new public safety building; further, she advised about the optics of not fixing 3rd Street but pursuing a public safety building. Assistant Fire Chief Marinaro said that the department would have enough space if they built a lean-to.

Mayor Heyblom said the City needs to determine priorities and compare wants versus needs.

For an action plan, Council determined that information regarding the high school renovations would be needed, an updated Rec Center cost would be needed to include all aspects of the project. PW&UL Martire and Administrator/Clerk Kurtock would work with Engineer Jamnick for an entire quote package regarding putting the street department in the Rec and installing an outdoor rink.

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer