

City of Nashwauk
June 10, 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, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Marinaro.

Public Comment

Kathy Nelson, 3rd Street resident, asked if there was any conversation regarding spot fixing sidewalks. Mayor Heyblom said that balance needs to be considered and affordability and fiscal responsibility. Councilor Bruns said the city discussed making an inventory of sidewalks.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to adopt the agenda of the June 10, 2025, City Council Meeting, with the addition of adding Jerilyn McAndrew to the agenda under unfinished business with a topic of security cameras.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

North Memorial Health

Kevin Lee, North Memorial Health, provided an update on the ambulance service and taxing district. He summarized his report that was within the packet. Regarding staffing, Kevin made the recommendation to hire a 6th full-time employee so that the schedule is fully staffed.

North was awarded the subordinate service district by Itasca County; however, they intend to take over the ambulance service effective September 3, 2025. They would continue to manage the ambulance service until September 3, 2025, through renewal of the management contract. They have already posted full-time positions for North Memorial team members. They're working through the process and will be hiring the existing staff, assuming they apply. The ambulance license would be transferred to North Memorial on September 3, 2025. They will be using North team members and North equipment effective September 3, 2025. Additionally, North Memorial made a request of Nashwauk for two ambulance bays plus the request to use the facility rent-free for three years. The Council had previously approved one bay for free and rent free for one year.

Eric Villeneuve, Itasca County Health and Human Services Director, said that the information that was within the RFP was what was previously approved by the Council. The contract would be drafted with Council-approved language. So, if Council approved new language, the updated language would be updated in the contract, too.

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, Councilor Bruns to approve North Memorial Health to use two bays within the Safety Complex and three years of use at no cost.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Mayor Heyblom and the Council thanked North Memorial and Itasca County for their assistance and leadership throughout the process of establishing a subordinate service district.

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the posting for a full-time EMT.
Ayes: all present. motion carried.

ISD 319 Request

Superintendent Dr. Rae Villebrun, ISD 319, was present to discuss a request from ISD 319 for the City to take ownership of Spartan Way and plow it as a part of the city plowing route. She stated the District didn't have equipment to plow the street and the parking lot. Mayor Heyblom asked for clarification if it included plowing the parking lot. Villebrun said that if the City is willing to plow the street, then she hoped the City would consider a contract to provide services for plowing the parking lot. Mayor Heyblom asked Jason Martire for his position on the request; Martire said that plowing the street is not a big deal; however, the parking lot is a large time commitment and suggested the school contract with Bougalis. Villebrun said she would share the plans for the parking lot, which is two separate parking lots with a sidewalk between them. Councilor Sullivan said there is a cost impact and said it wasn't fair that the city of Nashwauk is covering the cost of plowing when the District has a larger tax base than the City. Mayor Heyblom said the District was the largest utility customer aside from Mesabi Metallics. Councilor Martire said clearing the parking lot of snow would be a large impact to the Street Department's time. Councilor Jensen said she was agreeable to considering plowing the parking lot but it needed to be an agreement whereby the school is paying for the plowing of the parking lot.

Councilor Sullivan wanted to know the legal liability for taking ownership of a road on private property. Mayor Heyblom discussed the legalities. Councilor Sullivan asked about when the road needs to be replaced and who does that fall to regarding maintenance. He questioned the value of owning the road if the maintenance then fell to the city and no other taxing authority within the district was picking up the responsibility for those expenses.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to maintain the road/ take ownership of Spartan Way.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Mayor Heyblom.

Nay: Councilor Sullivan.

Abstain: Councilor Jensen. Motion carried.

Ambulance Bill

Cheryl Gangl stated she was assaulted at the community garden and the ambulance was called. She received a bill of \$350 and wanted the bill waived, as she did not call the ambulance. She was treated but not transported. Because she was not transported, insurance wouldn't cover it.

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve waiving the invoice charged to Cheryl Gangl of \$350 for an ambulance call.

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 May 27, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #6102025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$85,319.43.
- c. Approve claim register #6102025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$8,219.62.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

Some of the Day of Action projects had too large of a scope and were referred to the Small Cities Program to see if they could potentially qualify.

Public Safety Building

Administrator/Clerk Kurtz stated that she had asked ICS if they had been asked to provide cost estimates for repurposing the school gym for city or school use and they stated they had not been asked to provide these cost estimates. Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire had met with JK Mechanical to get a cost estimate, but the costs were not known yet.

Community Development Request

Mayor Heyblom provided information from Mesabi Metallica related to the unpaid community development amounts. They issued four checks in the amount of \$15,000.

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve up to \$15,000 toward the purchase of a rescue trailer for the Nashwauk Fire Department, not making a purchase until the funds are received from Mesabi Metallica.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Hazardous Properties

Administrator/Clerk Kurtz stated she had spoken with the sister of the property owner for 324 3rd Street, who was trying to get assistance for her sister, but she cannot have assets, and the property is considered an asset. Council said they would review the building inspection report and then start a discussion with the property owner.

Day of Action

Day of Action will be June 13, 2025. There will be approximately 200 volunteers within the City. There is rain expected; however, they are still moving forward with the Day of Action.

Security Cameras

Jerilyn McAndrew spoke with Police Chief Longoria regarding applying for grant funding toward the purchase of cameras. Longoria referenced the discussion with FusionTech and the cost of the cameras will be based on how many cameras are wanted and electrical needs per location. Jerilyn suggested prioritizing the need and location of cameras because the grant award amount, if one is awarded, can be prioritized. Councilor Jensen said that cameras wouldn't be her priority. Jerilyn said that she's pursuing a grant through IRRRB.

New Business

Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Assessments

Mayor Heyblom called for public comment during the public hearing section of the meeting regarding proposed assessments for unpaid utilities in the amount of \$31,854.74 for the property 202 2nd Street. No one from the public elected to speak during the public hearing.

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 Certifying Unpaid Charges for the property located at 202 2nd Street, Nashwauk, parcel 95-410-0305, in the amount of \$31,854.74.

Roll call: Ayes—Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Councilor Sullivan, Mayor Heyblom. Resolution approved.

4th Street Playground

Administrator/Clerk Kurtz stated that she had applied for a Blandin Foundation grant earlier in the year and Blandin had awarded \$150,000 to the City for 4th Street playground renovations. The grant parameters were broad but did callout the replacement of the fence, specifically. Councilor Bruns stated he would like to see basketball hoops outside the playground. PW&UL Jason Martire said he would be doing a site survey with a playground vendor to see what kind of upgrades would fit within that budget.

United Way Food Program

United Way is looking for volunteers for the Meet Up and Chow Down food program throughout the summer.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Fire Department

Leave of Absence

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve a leave of absence request extension for Tiffany Bodin.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Firefighter Rate

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve paying firefighters at a rate of \$21.50 after two hours of work when they are on DNR wildland fires.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried. Abstain: Councilor Jensen.

Resignation/Retirement

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to accept the resignation/retirement of Ben DeNucci from the Nashwauk Fire Department effective May 16, 2025.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Police Department

Chief Longoria provided proposed language changes for the ATV and snowmobile ordinance. Council reviewed and Councilor Bruns stated a preference that the speed by 15 mph for said traffic.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to post the ATV and Snowmobile ordinance with the revised language.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Councilor Martire asked Chief Longoria for an update regarding blight and people parking over sidewalks. Chief Longoria said that each officer had been assigned blight in a city—Nashwauk, Marble, or Calumet. Officer Kyle Bloom was enforcing Nashwauk blight, and it had been going well. He suggested he could have Officer Bloom attend a meeting to provide an update, too.

Street Department

Blacktop Quotes

PW&UL presented the Council with two quotes from Hawkinson Construction to blacktop certain areas within the City. One quote was for the 800 block of 1st Street and the other quote was for the alley behind City Hall. Regarding the 1st Street quote, the stretch of blacktop would go the length of the Sinclair Express Mart. Councilor Sullivan questioned why the City would blacktop a street that was not publicly owned, as all sections of that block were private property. Mayor Heyblom said the city has road authority and if it has been plowed and maintained for 7 years, then it is the City's.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the quote from Hawkinson Construction for the blacktopping of the 800 block of 1st Street in the amount of \$23,562.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Mayor Heyblom.

Nay: Councilor Sullivan. Motion approved.

Council discussed the quote for blacktop behind City Hall and elected to budget for next year for the alley blacktop. For now, the area would be cleaned up with class 5 and back bladed.

Tables & Chairs

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to clarify that the City does not rent out tables and chairs but they come with the rental of the Rec Center.

Ayes: all present. motion carried.

Trees Ordinance

The Council reviewed a proposed ordinance regarding regulation of trees.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve posting of the Trees ordinance, with the addition of adding bushes and overhanging branches for consideration, too.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Zoning Permit Application

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the zoning permit application for Jennifer Salinas at 16 3rd Street to install a handicapped ramp onto the existing deck in front of the house.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer