

City of Nashwauk
August 12, 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 and Utilities Lead Jason Martire, Patrol Officer Corey Bloom, Fire Chief Joe Martire.

Public Comment

Matt Ollestad, 4th Street resident, was present to state frustration with recent events involving another resident that lived near him at 2 Platt Avenue. He shared details related to the resident's conviction record and asked that the City Council pursue enforcement of the Order that was issued on the house in 2020.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt the agenda of the August 12, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

Peggy Hagen was present to discuss the Community Garden and said that the gardeners will be having an open house next Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. They'll put up signs for advertising and Mayor Heyblom requested it be advertised on the City Facebook page.

Andrew Elj, 4th Street resident, asked for an update regarding the 4th Street storm sewer issues. The City engineer will be at the next meeting to discuss storm sewer. He also said he had an unfulfilled data request and wanted the information.

Elj also spoke to the Order that was issued for 2 Platt Avenue in 2020 and wanted to know why it was on the agenda suddenly. Mayor Heyblom stated that the Order was issued in 2020 for repair of hazardous conditions, a letter was received in 2020 stating repairs would be made, but repairs hadn't been made. Elj argued that work had been done, and he asked Council not to take action on enforcement of the Order so the family could figure out what they needed to do. Councilor Sullivan said that he has received numerous comments from other community members regarding the blighted condition of the house. He stated that the city has been pursuing blight properties consistently but not simultaneously. Elj argued that the house at 2 Platt Avenue wasn't that bad.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the July 22, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #8122025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$209,894.73.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

The grant extension has been submitted but no confirmation has been received yet.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

There will not be a meeting in the month of August.

City Projects and Prioritizing

Mayor Heyblom summarized the projects that the city is currently considering and asked the Councilors to provide their input on how they would prioritize the projects. Councilor Jensen said that she put priority on the infrastructure projects. Councilor Bruns stated that he did not support keeping the school gym because the city is not in a position to have it or operate it when the Street Department can't take on more to maintain. Councilor Jensen said the school gym is a one-time opportunity that should be considered; however, she wanted the School District to explain the wellness center and the how the building would be accessible to the public. Councilor Sullivan said that he was told the wellness center would be run through community education. Mayor Heyblom said the superintendent should be contacted for discussion. Councilor Jensen said she would contact the superintendent.

Regarding city projects, Mayor Heyblom said some are wants and some are needs. He prioritized infrastructure and the public works building. Councilor Martire asked if the ambulance service would be accommodated if the city built a new public safety building. Mayor Heyblom said the service would be there for at least three years. Councilor Martire said that Chisholm got their public safety building project all paid for and it was hard to commit until the funding levels were known.

The Council extensively discussed the 3rd Street project and asked that it be communicated to the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission that the 3rd Street project needs to be prioritized.

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to send a letter to the NPUC asking that the 3rd Street project be prioritized and bid.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

The Council agreed to a work session to continue the discussion.

Hazardous Buildings

There were two quotes for asbestos abatement in the packet. Administrator/Clerk Kurtsock stated that the Council would not be asked to approve the quotes at this time because the quotes were needed first to request funding from IRRRB. However, quotes were also needed for demolition, and she indicated she would need assistance from the Street Department to draft the specs for the demolition quotes.

Council considered the Order issued for 2 Platt Avenue in 2020. Councilor Bruns asked for opportunity to go look at the property before making a decision. Councilor Sullivan said that it doesn't hinder the process the Elj family wants to do if the city moves forward with enforcement of the order.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to table consideration of the Order for 2 Platt Avenue until the next meeting.

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

Nays: Councilor Sullivan. Motion carried.

Community Development Request

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve a Community Development project for August 2025, which would be installation of a fence around the sliding hill to prevent vandalism.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

New Business

Banking Accounts

*Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve removal of Amber Goss from the city bank accounts and credit cards.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Ambulance Service

The Office of EMS approved the request that the ambulance license be transferred to North Memorial Health effective September 3, 2025.

Fire Department

No update.

Police Department

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the recommendation from Chief Longoria to hire Jackilyn Mjolsness as a part-time patrol officer, contingent upon a pre-employment investigation.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Police Department Update

Chief Longoria shared an update regarding what the department has been focusing on, which included enforcement of parking over sidewalks, ATV traffic stops, animal ordinance enforcement, and blight enforcement. Longoria noted that the department's body cam audit results came back as passing with a recommendation for minor changes to the policy. He provided the number of calls for service year-to-date, which was 987 and noted the department was on track to double the calls for service from previous years.

Resolution 2025-11

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve Resolution 2025-11 a resolution approving the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Nashwauk on behalf of its attorney and Police Department.

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

Street Department

Zoning Permit Application

Council reviewed a zoning permit application for 131 3rd Street to build a 22'x32' garage on a 25' lot. Councilor Sullivan questioned the setbacks from the property lines, as he questioned if the request met the newly adopted zoning code rules. Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire said he would double-check the setbacks in ordinance.

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the zoning permit for Charles Ball at 131 3rd Street to build a 22'x32' garage, contingent upon it meeting the setback requirements.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Electric Upgrade Quotes

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire presented two quotes from JK Mechanical for upgrades to the electrical meter and band stand service for the 4th of July. Both areas where the equipment would go were not on city property. Council requested confirmation from the owner that the equipment would be allowed to be installed in that location.

Mayor and Council Updates

The Council determined they would hold a work session following the next Council meeting regarding discussion of city projects.

Councilor Martire expressed a concern regarding a property in the New Addition that was being used as a facility for a person who had been running around the ballfield undressed. Administrator/Clerk Kurtz said the house was licensed through the State for one child under 18 with full-time, live-in staff.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer