

**City of Nashwauk  
August 26, 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:** Attorney Jaclyn Simon, Administrator/Clerk April Kurtock, Police Chief Lee Longoria, Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire, Engineer John Jamnick, Officer Kyle Bloom, Fire Chief Joe Martire.

**Public Comment**

Matt Ollestad, 4<sup>th</sup> Street resident, asked what the Council saw at the 2 Platt Avenue property after the last Council meeting. Councilor Bruns noted the conditions were not great. Ollestad said it has been five years since the Order for repairs was issued and voiced support that the Order be enforced.

Chris Kennedy, Platt Avenue resident, shared what he has dealt with over the last few years regarding the neighbor at 2 Platt Avenue. He voiced support for enforcement of the Order.

Andrew Elj, 4<sup>th</sup> Street resident, provided an update from the last meeting regarding the property at 2 Platt Avenue and he apologized for his behavior at the previous meeting. He stated the building had more damage than they anticipated and the family plans on working on the building over the weekend. He asked for time to complete the repairs. He stated the garage will come down by October 1, 2025.

**Adoption of Agenda**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to adopt the agenda of the August 26, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Notable Items**

Chuck Ball, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street resident, was present regarding a zoning permit request at 131 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to build a 22'x32' garage on a 25' lot. The zoning ordinance states there needed to be a setback of 2' on each property line. Ball stated that he needed to build that size because the alley configuration was creating issues for being able to turn into the garage.

\*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the zoning permit application for Chuck Ball at 131 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to build a 22'x32' garage, further stating that the eve drip line of the garage needs to be on his property.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Councilor Sullivan said ordinances are in place to protect the neighbors and neighborhood and disagreed that the updated zoning standards were disregarded.

Anthony Marinaro, 1<sup>st</sup> Street business owner, was present to express concern about the Police Department not using local vendors. He stated he has been watching the claims paid by Council and the Police Department has been using vendors that are not in Nashwauk when there are vendors in Nashwauk that can do the work, like TJ's Auto for oil changes. Marinaro stated he called TJ's to ask if

they have been contacted to do oil changes and Marinaro said they have not been contacted. Additionally, there was a tow completed recently and M&M Auto was not given opportunity to do the tow. He stated that he had only been called once this year and that was by Councilor Bruns to clear a call during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Marinaro stated the Police Department has been specially requesting another towing company. Councilor Sullivan asked if the City would receive a bill for a tow because he had heard that some towing companies do not charge the City for tows and some do. Councilor Martire asked Marinaro when the City would get a bill for a tow. Marinaro said they would bill the owner of the vehicle and that he has not billed the City for those tows.

Police Chief Longoria rebutted stating that he has used TJ's Auto for various vehicle repairs. He had just called them to have an oil change completed and was told they could not get him in for two weeks, so he called a company in Grand Rapids who said they would fit him in that afternoon for an oil change. Regarding towing, Chief Longoria had a printout of claims paid to M&M Auto over the past 10 years and he listed expense details about M&M Auto charging the city for multiple tows. Chief Longoria stated that Marinaro's concerns should have been brought to him directly versus being presented to the City Council during a public meeting because it is something they could have resolved among themselves.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #8262025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$3,961.59.
- c. Approve claim register #8262025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$25,392.14.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### ***Small Cities Development Program***

The grant extension was approved by DEED, so the Small Cities Development grant will be open through September 2026.

#### ***East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update***

There was no meeting held in August. The East Itasca Joint Sewer Board will meet in September.

#### ***Public Safety Building Follow-up***

The Council will hold a work session following this meeting to discuss projects.

#### ***Hazardous Buildings***

Administrator/Clerk Kurtcock stated that she was working with the Street Department to get specs for the demotion quotes.

Regarding the Order issued for 2 Platt Avenue, Councilor Sullivan says enforcement of the Order keeps the clock ticking, and it does not thwart what the family is going to do to the home in terms of improvements.

\*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Jensen to enforce the Order issued for 2 Platt Avenue.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Andrew Elj stated there was a lien on the 2 Platt Avenue property and if the City razes the building, it'll be responsible for the lien. He grieved the validity of the inspection report and Councilor Bruns stated that the family can hire their own building inspector to inspect the building if they disagree.

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to enforce the Order for 324 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.  
Ayes: all present. motion carried.

### **Community Development Request**

Two quotes were presented to the Council for consideration as part of the August 2025 Community Development request. Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire shared details about the quote for the fence that would be placed around the sliding hill. Additionally, Police Chief Longoria presented a quote for active shooter response equipment.

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the quote from Iron Oakes Fence in the amount of \$6,346.00.  
Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

\*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the quote from Unit Solutions for active shooter response training kit, force on force rifles, and associated protection gear in the amount of \$9,714.68.  
Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Storm Sewer & Platt Avenue Discussion**

Engineer John Jamnick provided a cost estimate for Platt Avenue in the amount of \$693,227.52 but he noted that spot repairs would also be an option for the road. Councilor Martire noted that the Street Department did sawcut out one problem area on the road earlier that day and that blacktop would be put down on Friday. He noted that just a few spots were bad and advocated for spot repair.

Engineer Jamnick discussed storm sewer issues, drainage issues, ditching issues, ditching work that was completed in 2021, and shared a few solutions including addressing a few catch basins. Councilor Martire said that people needed to have working backflow valves in their basements. Also, if they have sump pumps in their basements, they should not be connected to the sanitary sewer. If people are getting flooded, then they need to address the issues within their homes that are failing like backflow valves, installing gutters on their house, and sump pumps that pump water out through a drain field, not to the sanitary sewer. Councilor Martire said the maintenance needs to be kept up with storm drains, and the street department needs to walk the ditches and see what the issues are. They need to make a check list and do it yearly.

### **New Business**

#### **Deputy Clerk Hire**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve the hire of Kristina Tunink as Deputy Clerk effective September 8, 2025.  
Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

## **Department & Committee Reports & Requests**

### **Police Department**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the quote from Insight for a computer and docking station in the amount of \$2,025.60.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Street Department**

#### **Surplus Declaration**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve the surplus equipment declaration for the old Central Avenue streetlights with an estimated fair market value of \$100 each.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Electrical Upgrades**

\*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the quotes from JK Mechanical and Electrical Contractors for electrical changes in relation to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events: New Band Stand service in the amount of \$3,265 and food vendor area service in the amount of \$4,226.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Mayor and Council Updates**

Councilor Jensen shared an update from the most recent WMMP meeting where sulfate issues were on the agenda. There is a meeting in Virginia on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is a public hearing held by the MPCA. Keetac will potentially be the first organization that the sulfate standards are imposed on, and the costs are astronomical. She noted the sulfate standards will also be enforced against municipalities.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

---

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer