

City of Nashwauk
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
September 16, 2025

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Nashwauk City Hall.

Members present: Chairman Milt Latvala, Commissioner Tom Martire, Commissioner Brian Ekholm, Commissioner Mike Anderson.

Members absent: Commissioner Mark Marinaro.

Also present: John Jamnick, April Kurtock, Joe Peterson, Lance Hopke.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to adopt the agenda of the September 16, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting, with the addition of discussing late fees on a claim.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims

Commissioner Ekholm asked about the late fees on the claim for the Department of Revenue and asked if it was a common. April Kurtock said it was a result of the Deputy Clerk resigning and she had processed the bills but forgot to process that claim last month.

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the claims and file the claims register as official record.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Old Business

East Itasca Joint Sewer Project Update

John Jamnick said he received a request from the City of Marble Engineer regarding potentially discussing their connection to the sewer system. Jamnick said he would provide an update after he met with their engineer. Commissioner Martire asked about the addition of Calumet and Marble and how large this project would be allowed to get. When the representatives from Calumet and Marble were attending the EIJSB meetings, they were told they needed to adopt a resolution to ask for inclusion in the project. Once they presented that commitment, then the cost estimates would be considered. The EIJSB would need to determine if other entities could join the Board. The NPUC would need to determine how large they were willing to allow the wastewater system to get.

3rd Street Utility Project Update

The City received correspondence from Senators Smith and Klobuchar that the 3rd Street project has been included in the Senate Appropriation Committee's project list and funded at \$1,061,000. However, funding wasn't guaranteed as it needed to be included in the final Appropriations bill passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President.

Commissioner Ekholm shared concern that the Commission wasn't addressing raising rates with all the projects that they had to work on. He expressed frustration with the delay in getting it addressed. After much discussion, they determined they would meet with the financial advisor after the audit was complete and discuss projects and rate increases.

Joe Peterson Updates

Joe Peterson shared an update regarding the grant application, which was still being worked on. If awarded, it will be an 80/20 split. The overall project was likely \$5 million, with \$1 million out of pocket if a \$4 million grant award was received. The project would be a full rebuild with installation of lines underground. He shared the issues faced with Lumen and ownership of poles.

Regarding Mesabi Metallics, Peterson shared that they're moving forward on the electric front. They have 5 transformers energized. They'll take service from the Calumet substation versus the temporary solution that they're currently fed from. He said they were optimistic about getting their electrical needs met soon. They're getting specs for additional transformers, if needed.

New Business

Water/Sewer Rate for School

A rate had not been set for the new school for water and sewer.

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Martire to establish a temporary rate of 40 EDUs for both water and sewer until the capacity of the new school was determined and a permanent rate would then be established.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Public Water Supply Fee

*Motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Martire to approve the increase for the public water supply fee established by the Department of Health, which takes effect January 1, 2026, from \$9.72 to \$15.22 per year per water user.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Storage Containers

*Motion by Commissioner Martire, seconded by Chairman Latvala to approve the purchase of a storage container up to the amount of \$6,942.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Lance Hopke stated that the new water pumps were up and running.

April Kurtcock was asked to reach out to the School District and ask what their plan for the old building was because if utilities needed to be disconnected, it would be better to know before winter.

Adjourn

*Motion by Chairman Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to adjourn at 2:06 p.m.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Secretary