

**City of Nashwauk  
September 23, 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 Jackie Simon, Administrator/Clerk April Kurtock, Police Chief Lee Longoria, Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire, Fire Chief Joe Martire.

**Public Comment**

Vickie Harrington asked when the bathroom in the Legion would be completed and wanted to know when the floor would be redone.

**Adoption of Agenda**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt the agenda of the September 23, 2025 City Council Meeting, with the addition of speed limit signs at the new school road.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Notable Items**

Beautification members Vickie Harrington and Jamie Engel stated they wanted to order hanging baskets for next year and needed a watering solution. They also asked for storage space to store wreaths and other seasonal items.

Andrew Elj was present to discuss 2 Platt Avenue. He stated the garage was cleared out and wanted to know all the items that needed to be addressed on the property. The detailed list is in the inspection report. Elj said the property shouldn't remain on the agenda because he's addressing it. Councilor Bruns clarified that items on the old business agenda stayed there so Council didn't lose track of them.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #9232025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$84,047.45.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

***Small Cities Development Program***

No update.

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

Councilor Martire stated there was a meeting, but the Board didn't take action on anything. Lone Pine Township's project is in the fundable range, but the MPCA stated there are not enough funds to fund all the projects in the fundable range. So, Lone Pine Township, unless other communities step aside, won't have funding in 2026.

### **Public Works Building Update**

Administrator/Clerk Kurtock stated she was actively applying for the grant through IRRRB for the project.

### **Hazardous Properties**

No updates.

### **New Business**

#### **Halloween Donation**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve a donation of \$1,000 to the Nashwauk Chamber of Commerce for the Halloween event in the Nashwauk Rec.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **Bozich Lots Discussion**

Mayor Heyblom stated in interest in offering the Bozich residential lots to city employees who may want to move to city limits and build. Councilor Martire supported doing something with the lots. Councilor Jensen said the lots were affordable enough and she was hesitant to reduce the costs.

\*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve providing full-time employees who want to build a house in the Bozich Addition with a lot at no cost and establishing that there is no requirement for residency if a house is built.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **Accessible Parking**

\*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Jensen to approve the accessible parking space for the residents at 16 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **Ambulance Rooms**

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve the quote from JK Mechanical for new duct and return air duct connection for the ambulance rooms in the Public Safety Complex in the amount of \$2,579.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **Resignation**

\*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Bruns to accept the resignation of Joe Dasovich and terminating the leave of absence from the Nashwauk Police Department effective September 22, 2025, further processing the severance payout per the collective bargaining agreement terms.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

#### **Speed Limit Signs**

Chief Longoria received a request from the school regarding installation of speed limit signs along Spartan Way. He recommended 10 mph for the whole stretch of Platt Avenue. Council asked that signs be ordered for the road.

#### **2026 Budget Presentation**

City Administrator/Clerk Kurtock presented the 2026 budget. Regarding revenue, the proposed budget reflected a 10% general fund levy increase, stagnant LGA increase, and reduction in small cities aid.

However, the largest impact on revenue was regarding the Mineral Rents & Leases. Kurtcock shared that she spoke with Itasca County's Auditor/Treasurer Austin Rohling who stated that the DNR had miscalculated payments made to the County, municipalities, and schools over the past 5 years, which meant that they had overpaid the city by approximately \$200,000 over the past 5 years. The DNR is supposed to be reaching out to cities directly with confirmations of this information. It is very likely that they'll be looking to recoup those funds directly from the City or by withholding amounts for future years until the overage is remedied. Rohling confirmed that funds for Mineral Rents & Leases had not been received this year, as the DNR had withheld them. The City had budgeted \$150,000 in expected revenue for 2025, which would not be received. Rohling cautioned against budgeting funds for 2026, too.

As for expenses, ISD 319 had requested a cost for a School Resource Officer. So, in case they committed to an officer, an SRO had been budgeted for. The reimbursement of use of an officer was also in the revenue budget. The Police Department was also looking to replace a squad and had the revenue determined to offset the cost. Fire Chief Martire had an increase in operating supplies and a request to increase the base wage for firefighters from \$12.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. The Clerk's office reflected staffing changes, which consisted of the Deputy Clerk being full-time and the addition of a part-time Administrative Assistant. The Street Department was looking to purchase a new mower and replace a work truck. The budget as presented reflected a \$340,000 deficit.

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve Resolution 2025-14 establishing the preliminary levy at \$772,890.00, which was an 8.5% increase over the 2025 levy.

After discussion, Councilor Bruns withdrew his motion, as the Council reconsidered if they were comfortable with an 8.5% increase with such a drastic reduction in revenue.

\*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Jensen to adopt Resolution 2025-14 with a 15% overall increase from the 2025 levy, establishing the preliminary levy at \$818,890.00.

Roll call: Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Martire, Councilor Jensen, Mayor Heyblom. Nays: Councilor Sullivan. Resolution adopted.

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

### **Police Department**

Police Chief Longoria stated that he was waiting for one more document to come through and then the part-time hire would be ready to start.

Councilor Jensen shared frustration with the crosswalk in front of city hall, as people frequently would speed through the area and rarely stop for pedestrians.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Martire announced a fire prevention week event on October 9 from 5-7 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex.

Mayor Heyblom asked Chief Martire if the Togo work crew could refinish the floor in the Legion room. Martire stated it depended on the skill level of the currently incarcerated inmates.

### **Street Department**

Public Works & Utilities Lead Jason Martire presented a proposal from St. Croix Recreation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street playground upgrades. The equipment to be replaced would be the 5–12-year-old playground set. Then it would be installation of a zipline, adding a sandbox, and a spinning feature. The existing 2–5-year-old structure would stay. Martire noted that the company advised the 5-12-year-old structure to be decommissioned this year as there were safety concerns.

\*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the proposal from St. Croix Recreation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Playground in the amount of \$161,696.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

### **Mayor and Council Updates**

Mayor Heyblom recognized Barb Kalmi from ISD 319 who was present in the audience. Barb Kalmi asked if she could address the Council and Mayor Heyblom welcomed her comments. Kalmi thanked the Council for taking on maintenance of Spartan Way. She asked if Jason Martire would connect with Superintendent Villebrun to see if she would like additional speed limit signs for around the building. The district would reimburse the city for the signs. Kalmi stated frustration about commentary that had been held during Council meetings that was not true. Specifically, that the building was the “school’s deal and not the city’s” in relation to people wanting the gym to be saved. She stated that when voters voted for the referendum for a new school, they knew the old school would be demolished. She understands the passion to keep the buildings, but no one can afford to keep the buildings. She also said the voters approved the referendum for a community wellness center, not a Nashwauk community center.

Mayor Heyblom confirmed that the City stated their official position regarding the school buildings and vacant land in official correspondence issued to the District in March of 2025, which was that the City wanted to accept conveyance of the property after all buildings were razed.

Kalmi also shared that the District has not determined the hours of the walking track yet and that the wellness center will open to the public when they’re ready.

Councilor Jensen commended Ken Ricker for his letter to Super One Foods, which was in the packet.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

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City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer