

**City of Nashwauk
September 9, 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 Terry Sullivan, Mayor Greg Heyblom.

Members absent: Councilor Sheila Jensen.

Also present: Administrator/Clerk April Kurtz, Police Chief Lee Longoria, Attorney Jackie Simon.

Public Comment

Peggy Hagen shared that there is a potluck this Thursday from 4:30 -6:00 p.m. at Nashwauk City Hall.

Andrew Elj was present to share an update regarding the property at 2 Platt Avenue. He stated the family determined that they would not be tearing down the garage because they would end up losing a 2nd exit for the house. He said the family will continue to clean up the property.

Itasca County Commissioner Casey Venema was present to share an update about what the County has been working on. Veteran Services is looking to move their location. He also noted that the County is going to create a committee to determine what to do with County owned property. He said he was looking for someone from the district to join the committee. Venema also said the County is actively working on their budget. Councilor Sullivan asked for a library update. Venema said the County created a committee to work with the City of Grand Rapids. They've reallocated \$50,000 to help the library for now. Councilor Bruns asked about funding for the Nashwauk library. Venema said he hasn't received affirmative confirmation regarding funding allocations for the library, and the Nashwauk library is unique in that it is within the high school.

Councilor Sullivan thanked Commissioner Venema for his support in getting the taxing district established for the ambulance service and taking it over.

Adoption of Agenda

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to adopt the agenda of the September 9, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Notable Items

Tricia Voigt, Chamber of Commerce Treasurer, was present to discuss the Halloween party the Chamber will be organizing. She requested a donation of \$1,000 from the City and to keep the curtains up after the Boo-tique event so they can be used during Halloween, too. She noted they were looking for a united community event with emergency services versus separate events like last year. Voigt noted she attended a Fire Department meeting and requested their participation. Councilors Bruns and Sullivan stated support in having one event.

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to allow the Nashwauk Chamber of Commerce to hold the Halloween event in the Rec and contribute \$1,000 toward the celebration.

Ayes: Councilor Bruns, Councilor Sullivan. Nays: Councilor Martire, Mayor Heyblom. Motion failed.

Councilor Martire and Mayor Heyblom noted they wanted to know what the Fire Department was doing before committing funds to the Chamber.

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 August 26, 2025, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve claim register #992025 Claim 1 in the amount of \$48,883.58.
- c. Approve claim register #992025 Claim 2 in the amount of \$11,817.58.
- d. Approve the layoff of Kaydence Bodin, Teegan Bodin, Dixie Marsters, Avaline Gangl, and Cohen Johnson, as summer casual laborers effective September 9, 2025.
- e. Approve the recommendation from City Administrator/Clerk Kurtock to layoff all ambulance service employees effective October 3, 2025. Ambulance employees to be laid off and placed on unpaid administrative leave are as follows: Christian Cappo, Rikki Ciatti, Gayle Goule, Lea Deroissart, Richard Nelson, Emily Nelson, Aryssa Sirjord, Alyca Woodman, Tisha Gayhart, Alexia Marx, Paul Vraa, Eva Turner, Cadense Nelson, Tamira Morse, Ariel Morse, Julia Knapper, Jeremy Karnes, Amber Jackson, and Candy Grunke.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Small Cities Development Program

No update.

East Itasca Joint Sewer Board Update

No update.

Public Works Building follow-up

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve Resolution 2025-12 Authorizing the City to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Public Works Grant Program.

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

Hazardous Buildings

Regarding the property at 2 Platt Avenue, Councilor Sullivan emailed Attorney Borland a few questions and the responses to the questions were within the agenda packet. Attorney Simon explained the responses in a bit more detail saying the property hasn't been probated, so no one has any legal authority to do anything with the property. Andrew Elj questioned the attorney statement that the City couldn't attempt to serve the property owners because they were deceased. He asked if the enforcement needed to stop until the right actions had been taken. Attorney Simon said yes, the city needed to decide if they want to start a probate and get someone from the family appointed to be served the order.

Community Development Request

Mayor Heyblom said because Mesabi Metallica wants to see something with a more material and significant done with the Community Development requests, he wanted to earmark the next twelve

months' worth of requests for the Public Works building project. He said he spoke with Mesabi Metallics leadership and they're agreeable to the request.

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Bruns to commit the next 12 months of Community Development requests for the Public Works Building project.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

New Business

Affidavit of Fact

*Motion by Councilor Martire, seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve execution of an Affidavit of Fact regarding satisfaction of property improvements made to real property at Lot 4, Block 4, Nashwauk, Industrial Park, which was conveyed to Ross Home Center LLC by warranty deed on October 25, 1999, and allow the mayor to sign.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Clerk's Office Carpeting

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve the estimate from Ross Home Center to install carpet tile within the Clerk's office in the amount of \$3,055.00.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Medicare Renewal

BlueCross BlueShield Minnesota provided a renewal for the retiree Medicare plan, but they also provided an alternate plan that would be a savings of \$10 per person per month. Councilor Sullivan noted the retirees' copays would increase significantly with the alternate plan. Councilor Bruns said the alternate plan would be cutting benefits and did not feel that was fair to the retirees.

*Motion by Councilor Sullivan, seconded by Councilor Bruns to approve the group Medicare renewal for retiree benefits with a 4% premium increase at \$358.50 per month or person.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Health Insurance Renewal

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Mayor Heyblom to approve the 2026 health insurance renewal with Minnesota Health Care Consortium with an 8.2% premium increase at \$2,618.52 for family plans and \$1,030.04 for single plans.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Bank Account Signatory

*Motion by Councilor Bruns, seconded by Councilor Martire to approve adding Kristina Tunink as a signatory to the Park State Bank accounts.

Ayes: all present. Motion carried.

Department & Committee Reports & Requests

Ambulance Service

Administrator/Clerk Kurtsock stated that the transfer of the ambulance service license was effective September 3, 2025, to North Memorial Health. She shared recognition and appreciation for the ambulance service employees' years of dedication and service.

North Memorial Repair Requests

North Memorial Health submitted two requests for repairs to the Public Safety Building, which were venting of an air conditioner to the outside of the building and removal of a wooden shelf and restoration of the wall once it is removed. Mayor Heyblom requested that quotes be obtained for the work for Council's consideration.

Fire Department

Kevin Bodin was present to discuss the fire department joining the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter PERA plan. The Fire Relief Association reviewed the PERA analysis and determined they would like to join the PERA plan. Joining the plan takes the responsibility for investments, filing, and audits off the association. The fire chief would take over on the paperwork side of reporting versus the relief association. The City would still need to make requests for State Aid, but the funds would go directly to PERA. The plan does vesting differently, but PERA had matched their plans closest to what the Association currently does. The City would also need to approve the Association joining the plan. If that happens, the Relief Association would dissolve completely or restructure to be just a gambling association. The current investments would go directly to PERA. The funds held by PERA would be strictly the Relief's money, not in a shared pot of funds. PERA will do a cost analysis report annually and provide options for consideration in relation to pension increases. Bodin said PERA allows up to a 6% return, which will help offset the city's contribution. Councilor Sullivan noted that the request from the Relief Association also included an increase in pension contributions from \$2,000 per year of service to \$2,500.

Resolution 2025-13

*Motion by Mayor Heyblom, seconded by Councilor Brunts to approve Resolution 2025-13 opting to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan.

Roll call: ayes—Councilor Brunts, Councilor Martire, Councilor Sullivan, Mayor Heyblom.

Resolution approved.

Police Department

Chief Longoria shared that in-service training starts this week for the department and continues through October.

Mayor and Council Updates

Councilor Sullivan said he spoke with Jerilyn McAndrews about the camera grant that she is working on and she stated she was trying to work with Fusiontech, but they said the cameras they'd initially shared as an option were no longer available. She said she wants to work with a different vendor.

Councilor Sullivan also said the Council needs to have a discussion regarding the Platt Avenue property because there are unanswered questions. The Council needs to come up with a plan. To pursue it, the City needs to probate the property. Council considered the benefit of paying for the family's probate, especially if the conditions are remedied because the city wouldn't be able to recoup the funds spent on probate. Alternatively, Attorney Simon stated that tickets could be issued for the blight at the property.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer