

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Greenway Snowmobile Club
Tuesday January 20, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Mayor Mike Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mike Troop called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Troop, Councilmembers Dan Strand, Barbara Banks, Steve Serich Absent: Nick Porter. Also present: Clerk Serich, Treasurer Mary Garner, Public Works Superintendent, Street Maintenance worker Rusty Richards and Librarian Melenie Lefebvre.

Motion by Troop to approve the agenda with the additions of Western Mesabi Minne Planning Board 2026 dues \$600, MN DNR non-renewal of Lease, and LMCIT Liability Waiver, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve December regular meeting minutes with one change where Troop made motion and seconded, seconded by Serich, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on loan balance, city projects and John Deere balance.

Motion by Strand to approve the December Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$221,899.61, Disbursements \$196,728.28, Investments \$1,413,914.72 and total checking balance \$442,591.02, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the transfers as follows: Transfer \$20,000 (Blandin Grant) from the General Projects Fund to the Library Community Garden Fund; Transfer \$5,000 from the Library Fund (Sunshine/Friends Fundraising for Library upgrades) to the General Projects Fund; Transfer \$12,524.62 from Water Fund to the General Debt Service Fund; Transfer \$12,524.63 from the Sewer Fund to the General Debt Service Fund; Transfer \$16,699.50 from the Radio Tower Fund (Street Project Loan) to the General Debt Service Fund and \$64,039.31 from the Radio Tower Fund to the General Debt Service Fund for the city hall project, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

GUESTS: Jaime Mjolsness from Itasca County Habitat for Humanity, Tracy Hensley & Jessica Pellinen from CEDA and Kim Smith & Molly Hiipakka from United Way of 1000 Lakes shared information and ideas for Day of Action 2026 in Calumet. They can do up to 20 projects with up to 150 people volunteering. They want the council to support it and help with the projects. The projects will need to be prioritized for readiness. We will help canvas people to see who needs projects done. Habitat can pay for some supplies for those who qualify, or residents can purchase materials for their exterior projects to be done. Some of the ideas for projects are cleanup yards & blight, raking, painting, park enhancements, trail cleanup, garden pavilion assembly, painting inside and outside of city buildings, and clean out and replant the city hall flower garden bed. Possibly they would be able to tear down a small garage for a resident if they get their own dumpster. A waiver of liability will need to be signed, and residents will need to have homeowners' insurance also. The city will provide some of the tools needed like shovels, rakes, safety vests and a city representative will need to be on site for city projects. The group would like to meet every 2-3 weeks to plan and prioritize projects with May 15th as the cutoff date. Motion by Troop to commit to the Day of Action Wednesday June 17 and rain day June 18th from 9-3, seconded by Serich, all in favor, motion carried. Dan Strand said he would barbecue pork for sandwiches for lunch.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Board: Strand stated that the front doors should be in next month.

MCWW: Banks stated that the new committee will start meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in Marble. Wastewater Committee opened a special checking account, and we will need to sign a contract after the attorney looks at it.

WMMPB: Serich reported that Jim Bougalis gave a speech about Calumet Reclamation.

Cemetery Bd: no report.

Department Reports:

Library Report: Library Director Melanie Lefebvre stated that the Library Board needs a new member, and the board suggests Wendy Chupurdia be approved. SAIL exercise classes are now being held upstairs. It's Love your Library month and there will be an Open House and Soup Supper Wednesday February 11th from 3-6 and soup will be served 4:30 – 6 free will offering. There are teen and adult book clubs going on. There are Gardening Classes being held periodically. Elder Circle did a tour in Cohasset. At the Community Garden meeting, Evan Petz stepped down from the committee because he is too busy with his new job. Shana Perry volunteered to take over and is very active. The council approved the city workers to help with garden related items. Shana will contact Clerk Serich about purchasing the beds mid-April. The information will be brought to the next council meeting for approval.

Public Works Report: Public Works Superintendent Bill Berger stated that they have been doing odd jobs to stay busy. Council said streets look good and they are doing a good job.

Resolutions & Ordinances: Motion by Troop to approve and adopt Resolution #26-01-20 a resolution to delegate retail registration of cannabis businesses to Itasca County, seconded by Serich, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks & Serich. Opposed: none. Absent: Nick Porter. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Unfinished Business:

Utility Shut Offs: 9 door hanger shut off notices were posted.

Update on the city hall/library project: The contractors are finished for now. The brick work will be done in the spring.

Update on land sale for senior housing: The attorney is working on an agreement and the rules that need to be followed for the sale of land.

New Business:

2026 Board and Committee Appointments:

Official Newspaper: Scenic Range News Forum

Legal Council: Brian Bengtson, John Licke, Aaron Michels and Itasca County Attorney's Office

City Engineer: Bolten & Menk Engineering, Alan Johnson

City Depositories: Park State Bank, First National Bank of Coleraine and LMC 4M Fund

Insurance Agency: Itasca Reliable and LMC

Mayor Pro-Tem: Dan Strand

Greenway Joint Powers Fire Board: 1. Steve Serich 2. Barbara Banks Alt. Nick Porter

Library Board: Barbara Banks Also appointed: Wendy Chupurdia 2-yr. term

Cemetery Board: Barbara Banks Alternate: Nick Porter

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board: 1. Mayor Mike Troop 2. Steve Serich

Alternate: Barbara Banks

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board Hwy #169 Committee: Mayor Mike Troop

Weed Inspector: Mayor Mike Troop Assistant Weed Inspector: Bill Berger

Greenway Recreation Board: Dan Strand Alternate: Mayor Mike Troop

Blight Committee: 1. Bill Berger 2. Rusty Richards 3. Mayor Mike Troop Alternate: Dan Strand

Building Inspector: Andrew Sharpe Township and Range

Marble-Calumet Joint Wastewater Board: 1. Dan Strand 2. Barbara Banks Alternate: Steve Serich

Motion by Troop to approve the 2026 Board and Committee Appointments, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Mike Troop left the meeting for a fire call. Mayor Pro-Tem Strand took over the meeting.

Motion by Banks to approve Saiger's Steam Clean for cleaning the carpets in the library for \$342.20, and in the council room and hallway for \$397.30, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the 2026 RAMS dues \$556, seconded by Banks, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 LMC dues \$607, seconded by Serich, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 Worker's Comp \$3,722, seconded by Strand, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 MMUA dues \$225, seconded by Serich, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 MRWA dues \$450, seconded by Serich, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Banks to approve the Minnesota Mayor's Assn dues \$30, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 US Hwy 169 Gateway Coalition dues \$500, seconded by Serich, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Banks to approve the Scenic Range News Forum 2026 legal rate \$8.75 per column inch for 1st run and \$7.75 for subsequent runs, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Banks to approve the 2026 WMMPB dues \$600, seconded by Serich, all in favor, m/c.

Discussion about the Gun Shop being sold and the new owners wanting to have a pawn shop as well as a gun shop. There are state rules that need to be followed. It will be brought up again at the next meeting when more information is available.

Motion by Strand to approve the LMC Liability Waiver form as does not waive, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about the pavilion that needs to be moved at the former Mine Park because the DNR is not renewing our lease. Clerk Serich will check if we need to post that it is surplus if it is just demo.

Motion by Strand to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Mike Troop, Mayor