

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Calumet City Council Hall
Tuesday April 21, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Mayor Mike Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mike Troop called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Troop, Councilmembers Dan Strand, Steve Serich, Nick Porter & Barbara Banks by phone. Also present: Clerk Serich, Treasurer Mary Garner, Librarian Melenie Lefebvre, Public Works Superintendent Bill Berger & Public Works Street Maintenance worker Ray Richards Jr. Guests: Dewey Prinzing from KLM and Tracy Hensley from CEDA.

Presentation by Dewey Prinzing about the 15-year water tower maintenance agreement with KLM since 2016. The water tower was built in 1999 by Maguire Iron. The inspection report was reviewed, and the tower is going to need painting in a few years. The city should save approximately \$300,000 for the painting project. Councilmember Strand stated that the city needs to build a new wastewater system with the City of Marble for \$21 million soon. This is not a concern right now. The next time it does get painted, a darker color can be put on the bottom, so it won't show the dirt as much. MN Rural Water does have loans.

Tracy Hensley from CEDA gave us a report on the Calumet building survey that she conducted. There were about 20 responses. She discussed the Day of Action projects in the city as well. Some of the sponsors are Paul Bunyan, MN Power and the Calumet Saloon is sponsoring playground equipment \$2,000. 8 residents have signed up for projects to be done so far. Councilmember Strand requested that Clerk Serich contact the owner of the rental on the highway to possibly have the stumps and wood pile removed. Some other possible projects are Steve Rajala a stump to be removed, Library sign installed on the highway, warming shack painted (council said city workers will tear the siding off and put tin on the roof) and community garden pavilion construction. The wooden picnic tables should be washed and painted. There will be dumpsters for garbage, clean-up, scrap and one for Habitat for Humanity on Day of Action. Councilmember Strand will be providing and cooking pork sandwiches and beans. Mari Jo Anderson from the Hematite will be providing pasta salad and United Way will provide chips, water and snacks. Tracy talked about moving the Depot building and mining equipment. After a lot of discussion for or against it, Motion by Troop to approve moving the Depot building to the former bank building area, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Porter thanked all for helping.

Nathan Erickson, owner of Lock, Stop and Pawn Shop discussed his plans for the former gun shop owned by Dale Worth who passed away recently. He wants to have a gun shop, pawn shop and 24/7 online store. He talked about repainting the store front. Possibly Day of Action volunteers could do this. The City of Calumet would issue a license for the pawn shop according to the MN State guidelines and a fee would be paid to the city. He is hoping to open in June or July and he is also looking to purchase rentals in town.

Motion by Strand to approve the gun shop with manufacturing and a pawn shop following the MN Statutes for a \$300 fee per year, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk Serich will check with the LMC and City of Hibbing for a form to use.

Brianna and Brody Nelson could not attend the meeting to request the purchase of the hazardous building at 754 7th Ave from Amberley Schneider and get city approval for the fees to be waived the same as the JBS agreement that the city already approved. JBS Holdings is no longer able to purchase and fix this hazardous building.

Motion by Strand to approve the same agreement with Brianna & Brody Nelson as with JBS Holdings-Jason Shieman to purchase and repair the hazardous building at 754 7th Ave. with the date of completion as November 1, 2026, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried. If there is a need for more time to complete the project, they will come to the council for approval closer to the date.

Motion by Troop to approve the agenda with the additions of JK Mechanical change order \$18,916, North Country change order \$3,800 and Portable John porta-potties, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Porter to approve March reg. meeting minutes, seconded by Strand, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Strand to approve the March Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$26,592.86, Disbursements \$383,774.70, Investments \$1,014,284.05 and total checking balance \$177,903.15, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried. Put \$400,000 investment into checking & paid off bond for approx. \$330,000.

Comments/complaints: Clerk Serich received complaints about garbage all over by 251 2nd Ave.

Department Reports:

Public Works Report: Rusty did blight checks. The council said to put Calumet Public Works on the nuisance notice forms for blight. Clerk Serich will give them copies of the ordinances. After the time is up for removing the blight, it will be brought to the council meeting for the next step to send to the attorney for prosecution if it is not abated. Discussion about a letter from Marble Mayor Eric Staydohar concerning the wastewater license. One of Calumets employees needs to sign up for training and get a license. Discussed a new flow meter and MN Rural Water has funding for pigging the lines. Bill Berger stated that the cost of replacing the fire hydrant that was damaged by the former church is going to be \$1,550. Clerk Serich will contact Charles Nelson about paying for the damaged hydrant. Rusty got the mower going and will start tomorrow.

Motion by Strand to approve Green Again Lawn Service to do 2 applications a year at the ball field, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Porter to approve the purchase of tracks for the Skid steer from Pomp's Tire Service, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried. Discussion about cleaning out the ditch on 9th Ave. There are branches under trees on the south side of 9th Ave. and if they can take out the bushes along city hall before Day of Action.

Library Report: Library Board President Mary Garner stated that we are setting up for the annual Tea Party Fundraiser for the Library being held Saturday.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Board: Strand stated that the front doors look nice. They are ordering a new condenser. They have some funding and are looking for more.

MCWW: no report.

Greenway Fire Board: no report.

WMMPB: Banks

Cemetery Bd: Porter reported that they need a new lawn mower and they will be hiring summer workers 16 years or older.

Resolutions & Ordinances: Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #26-04-21 a resolution approving and accepting donations received from Greenway Township \$5,000, \$4,000, 1,073.39, seconded by Troop, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks, Porter & Serich. Opposed: none. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Unfinished Business:

Utility Shut Offs: 8 late notices were sent out.

Update on Hazardous Building: It will be sold to Brianna & Brody Nelson to fix up.

Update on Blight: Clerk Serich will check on the zoning permits for Lee Ramsey and the one on Buckmaster Road and will bring the information to the next meeting.

Update on the City Hall Roof: The MN Dept of Education needs to have an inspection report for the roof before payment for the project. We are still waiting for the brick repair to be completed also.

New Business:

Motion by Troop to approve food safe pest control spray for the former bank building, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the estimate from Eck Design for the sign by the former bank building and to add the name of the building as The Calumet Square for \$881.50, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Porter to approve Paul Bunyan internet to be installed at The Calumet Square building, seconded by Serich, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the Library Clerk I position \$16 per hour Jessica Wilcowski, and Clerk II position \$17 per hour Kimberly Pfeifer, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve employee computer training by MarTech Mary Garner for all employees, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the JK Mechanical change order for HVAC system updates \$18,916 at The Calumet Square building, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Porter to approve the North Country change order for new insulation \$3,800 at The Calumet Square building, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Porter to approve Portable John handicap porta-potties for the ball field for 2 months and Take a Five Park, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Strand didn't want one at Julie's Jungle Park because last year kids threw toilet paper all over & he cleaned it up.

Motion by Strand to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Mike Troop, Mayor