Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday November 21, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro-tem Tim Zaren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-tem Zaren called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Pro-tem Tim Zaren, Councilmembers Dan Strand and John Vaudrin, Amanda Hernesman arrived at 2:20 p.m. Mayor John Tuorila was present through Zoom. Also present: Clerk April Serich, and Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger.

Motion by Vaudrin to approve the agenda with the additions, discuss wastewater, special assessments and MRWA membership, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the minutes of the October regular meeting and the Nov. 9th special meeting to discuss & adopt MN Basic Code of Ordinances #121, Sign Ord. #122 and other Ordinances, review applications and hire cleaning person, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the Oct. Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $24,319.59, Disbursements $48,437.38, Investments $6,940.48 and total checking balance $448,148.46, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #23-11-21 a resolution designating the polling place for the City of Calumet for the regular election as Itasca County courthouse and for special elections as the Calumet City Hall council room, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, Vaudrin and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that one of the compressors went out.

Cemetery Bd: Vaudrin reported that at the meeting the union agreement for Jan.2024-Dec.2025 was discussed.

WMMPB: Zaren reported that there was discussion about lobbying force with the legislature. The pay scale for the secretary/treasurer was raised to $20.00 per hour. The pumping in the pit will start again when the temperature goes below 41\*.

Police Services Report: Oct. balance=4 hours owed by the city.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:** Dave Olson from Red Rock Auto was on the agenda to discuss the issue of unlicensed vehicles on his property. Dave stated that business is good, and he has a lot of cars to fix. He wants to get to know and get along with the community, customers and the city council.

The Nashwauk Police Department issues blight tickets if vehicles are not licensed and inoperable. One of the vehicles was brought to him to fix and the customer couldn’t pay for it so he will need to get the title for it so he can scrap it. He can’t do anything until he gets the title. It was stated that according to Mn Basic Code of Ordinances 92.20 inoperable motor vehicles, it is blight. Another vehicle sat so long the grass was growing up around it. Dave stated that that was his plow truck, and he was not licensing it because it doesn’t leave his property.

Gary Larvingson interrupted the conversation with Dave Olson. Gary said the NPD came over about long grass and a boat on his property (old Roadway) that was unlicensed and obstructing the view of County Rd. #12. He was issued a ticket and had to go to court and pay a fine for the long grass and the boat. He stated that he was selling the boat for someone else. There was no for sale sign on the boat. He stated that he doesn’t want anyone plowing snow on his property. The City of Calumet does not plow snow there. There is State of Minnesota Right of Way along the highway and they plow snow there. Gary was very loud and disruptive at the city council meeting. The librarian came in and stated that the library was disrupted because of the yelling. Clerk Serich directed her to call the NPD. Gary Larvingson was told that he needed to be quiet for the council meeting and that he could not disrupt a public meeting like that.

The council went back to talking to Dave Olson about unlicensed and inoperable vehicles. Dave stated that he leases the property across the highway from Gary Scherf and has one unlicensed vehicle parked there waiting to be repaired so he can sell it. The council stated that he cannot have a junk yard in town. He needs to get the vehicles licensed, keep them in an orderly manner on his property, and fix them in a timely manner. Dave stated that he runs an auto repair shop and there will be inoperable vehicles parked there. Dave stated that Gary Scherf was going to bring all his 40+ vehicles out onto his parking lot across from the old Calumet Chev.

After a heated discussion, Dave Olson stated that he was going to get an attorney and they left.

A deputy sheriff and the Keewatin police arrived at city hall. They talked to Gary Larvingson in the hallway. They came in and asked if everything was okay and then they left.

Kathleen Wirkus discussed the issue of the fire department getting into the HRA apartment building for emergencies. She stated that she is not comfortable with the situation of having to break down the door to get into an apartment where a resident fell. She has medical issues and is concerned about timely response. Dave the HRA director of maintenance was in attendance and stated that MN State statute requires background checks for anyone with access to a master key for the building. Also, HRA cannot purchase boxes on the buildings, only fire or police can. The residents could give their key to someone in the building also. The council stated that this is not a city issue. They could go to the next fire dept. meeting on Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the matter with them.

Dan Strand left the meeting at 3:05 p.m. because he was not feeling well.

Gary Street County Project Update: Engineer Alan Johnson said the application has been submitted to IRRR for the project next summer. Discussion about the WW project. The cost for joining the NKSB is $12,500 a yr. split for administration clerk and insurance. They would need another facility plan and get permitted to potentially allow Calumet and Marble to join.

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal reported that they need to look for maps to do the lead and copper reports that are required by the State of Minnesota. We will try to get maps from previous engineers. Discussed the property damage around town. The old park area, at the east end of 3rd Ave., Gary St. next to Staydohar’s and the Depot parking lot again. They think it is Matt Staydohar, the same person responsible for it as before. We couldn’t see anything on the cameras for those areas.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 10 shut-offs

Update on Blight: Amberley Schneider 754 7th Ave. and Dan Mellen 733 7th Ave. are both in the court system now.

Update on Radio Tower Leases: Mayor Tuorila stated that there is nothing more taking place. Clerk Serich sent the DNR lease to Spencer Davis and has not heard anything back from emails on the 3rd Amendment to the At&t lease.

**New Business:**

Amand Hernesman stated that she will be the backup cleaning person and Bailey Smith will be the main cleaning person.

Motion by Zaren to sign the LMCIT Insurance coverage as does not waive monetary coverage, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Hernesman to approve the 2024 liquor license for the Calumet Saloon, LLC at $100 Off-Sale, $400 On-Sale and $100 Special Sunday On-Sale for a total of $600, seconded by Vaudrin, Zaren Abstained, Tuorila, Strand, Vaudrin and Hernesman in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the 2024 RAMS dues of $540, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the 2024 WMMPB dues of $450, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve and pay the mileage reimbursement for Mayor John Tuorila $163.55 and Clerk April Serich $180.13, seconded by Vaudrin, Tuorila Abstained, Zaren, Strand, Vaudrin and Hernesman in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve joining the LMC RSGP Safety Training group with the fees divided by how many communities join, approximately $100, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Vaudrin to approve the 2024 Health Insurance renewal with MHC Northeast Services Cooperative $967.78 single coverage and $2007.16 family coverage, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the MCWW bill $24,120 to Bolten & Menck for soil borings behind Mud Lake, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to remove $640 in water & sewer fees from Chris Niedzelski’s property charged since his death if the uninhabitable trailer house is removed from the property, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to certify the 2024 special assessments to the property taxes if they do not pay by Nov. 27th, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Vaudrin to approve the MRWA 2024 dues $420, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Zaren adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk Tim Zaren, Mayor Pro-Tem