

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting  
Calumet City Council Room  
Tuesday February 18, 2025  
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, Barbara Banks and Steve Serich. Absent: Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Librarian Melanie Lefebvre. Guests: Commissioner Casey Venema, Sarah Thompson Itasca County Land Dept. Forest Rec. Specialist and Greg Chambers from Run a Muk ATV Club and other club members.

Mayor Troop read a Conflict-of-Interest Statement: Mayor Mike Troop is going to be the fire chief, and he knows he cannot be on the Joint Powers Board, and he will not vote on any pay increases for the firemen that would benefit him. Council member Steve Serich is married to Clerk April Serich, and he will not vote on any pay increases or benefits for her that would benefit him.

The Code of Conduct will follow the same as in the past.

The council meetings will be the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the council room.

Motion by Strand to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing a possible Itasca County strike and if the city would plow snow, discuss the tower survey mistakes, and Bougalis water line thawing bill for \$832.50, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Serich to approve the January reg. meeting minutes, seconded by Banks, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the January Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$271,074.63, Disbursements \$239,558.30, Investments \$11,602.86 and total checking balance \$241,359.41, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried. Transfers and Gary St. project payment to the county included.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports:**

Greenway Recreation Board: Strand reported that Pee Wee A regionals will be in Cloquet. The skating show will be mid-March.

Library: Librarian Melanie Lefebvre reported that there will be painting classes coming up, an Open House for Love Your Library Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 11-3 & soup supper at the snowmobile club on Wed. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> @5.

Cemetery Bd: Meeting is Wednesday.

WMMPB: Serich reported that copies of the information from the meeting were handed out to all council members. Discussion about the items from the Hill Annex Museum. The Hwy #169 Coalition representative is Mayor Mike Troop, alternate is Dan Strand. Meetings will be set at a later date.

MCWWTP: The next meeting will be Wed. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Marble Council Chambers.

Public Works Report: Bob Hoshal stated that they do not need to renew their water licenses until next year, so they do not need to go to the training that was listed on the agenda this year. Discussed the water line freeze up at 101 Shipka St. The city portion of the Bougalis bill is \$832.50. Motion by Troop to pay the Bougalis bill for \$832.50, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Comments and Requests from the floor: Sarah Thompson Land Dept. Recreation Specialist and Greg Chambers from the Run a Muk ATV Club discussed the proposal for an ATV trail connection from Pengilly Albarn trail into Calumet and beyond. It would not cost the city anything. If there is a dust problem the club will spray once a year as needed. Motion by Banks to approve and adopt Resolution #25-2-18 a resolution authorizing an ATV trail within the city limits of Calumet including providing dust control, seconded by Serich, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks and Serich. Opposed: none, Absent Hernesman. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #25-2-18-2 a resolution in support of Itasca County accepting conveyance of the City of Nashwauk Ambulance Service effective January 1, 2026, seconded by Banks, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks and Serich. Opposed: none, Absent Hernesman. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #25-2-18-3 a resolution Authorizing City of Calumet Membership in the 4M Fund, seconded by Banks, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks and Serich. Opposed: none, Absent Hernesman. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 25 letters were sent out.

Update on Blight: discussed the need for a prosecuting attorney. Casey Venema stated that John Dimich cannot appear in court because he lives out of state. Schafer backed out of doing it. Todd Webb is retiring from the county and he put a bid in for the City of Grand Rapids and then he would do all the other cities in the county as well. Bob Hoshal stated that there is a vehicle on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave by Co. Rd. 12. Bob can call and have it removed because it is in the way of snowplowing. The County is going to put snow from Co. Rd. 12 in the parking lot by the railroad tracks and bring a load of salt sand.

Update on Radio Tower: The deed was signed, and we are waiting for SBA to make a payment. The attorney sent a letter to Alan Johnson about the mistakes in the surveys. They have been corrected. Mayor Troop will talk to our attorney.

Update on Bank Building: Clerk Serich put an ad on Facebook and the city website that we are leasing the bank building. She was contacted by Blandin about a grant for fixing up the building. Motion by Strand to apply to the Blandin Foundation for a grant to fix up the bank building to get it ready to lease, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Bob Hoshal will talk with Jolene from MNRW about the OSHA grant for a snowblower at the meeting in March for the Wellhead Protection Plan.

Motion by Troop to approve the security cameras and server \$12,350.46 for the pumphouse that is a part of the wellhead protection plan, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried. The council stated that we will charge for the use of our equipment, and they would like an email confirming this is the newest and most up-to-date equipment being installed. IT Tech Mary Garner will verify.

**New Business:**

Motion by Banks to approve the 2025 RAMS dues \$556, seconded by Troop, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the 2025 LMCIT property/casualty insurance premium \$17,167, seconded by Banks, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussed the Itasca County possible strike and if the city employees could plow snow if needed on Co. Rd. 12. The council approved it but after further discussion it was determined that the city employees could not do the plowing because they are also in the AFSCME union.

Information was given about the Itasca County Five-Year Transportation Plan.

Engineer: Adam from Bolten & Menk discussed the city projects that are on the PPL list and if we want to move them to the IUP. The council tabled it until the next meeting.

Council member Banks discussed the need for a personnel policy, and she has reviewed the policy documents that were handed out to the council. The council will work on getting the policy finished.

Casey Venema talked to the council about the County Solid Waste Fees needing to go up. They are working on getting Keewatin permitted as a full garbage facility so the county can bring the waste there. Casey and Terry Schneider are going to meetings for the permitting. He talked about File #1245 and IGO is going to shut it down. Amanda Lamppa is replacing Sarah Carling at CEDA. Lisa Randall is also working part-time, and they will go through all the projects in each city.

Motion by Troop to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2025, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Mike Troop, Mayor