

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Calumet City Council Room
Tuesday March 19, 2024
2:00 P.M.

Mayor John Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor John Tuorila called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand, John Vaudrin and Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal, Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger, Engineer Alan Johnson, Benchmark

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions-Northern Natural Gas will help with restoring cover to shallow pipeline, First Call For Help Services agreement \$250, LMC Safety & Loss Control workshop in Virginia April 10th \$20 lunch included, Build Mesabi, Build Itasca April 3rd Day at the Capitol bus, Discuss vacant water fees where no water is available because pipes are broken, and MNDOT sign seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Hernesman to approve the Feb reg. meeting minutes, there was a question about the KLM invoice-it was not covered by the contract, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the February Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$58,827.29, Disbursements \$100,212.73, Investments \$9,841.77 and total checking balance \$382,723.10, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried. The debt service payment, LMCIT payment and the engineering made the disbursements higher.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #24-03-19, a resolution approving the resignation of John Vaudrin from the council member position effective March 20, 2024, and declaring a vacancy (his term ends Dec. 31, 2024 so the council does not need to hold a special election or fill the vacancy right away), seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Abstain: Vaudrin. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that they are waiting on parts for the roof. There were 95 in the skating show.

Cemetery Bd: Vaudrin reported they need to make room for a space force flag at the cemetery. Elections stayed the same.

Greenway Joint Fire Bd: Tuorila reported that the city only had 5 calls this quarter. They hired 3 more people. The new truck will be ready by August 2024. They discussed EMS Services. They are doing very well financially. They are trying to get the warning light back on the highway by the fire department.

WMMPB: Tuorila and Zaren reported that Mike Liljegren, DNR provided an update on both areas having pit water issues. Calumet Reclamation Co. project, Jim Bougalis gave a presentation on the process of scam mining in Calumet as well as pumping water out of the pit. It will be like a portable gravel pit with conveyor belt to the rail load out. The company currently holds mineral leases for approximately 150 million tons, from which they would process 9 million tons per year with 4 ½ million tons of finished product that will be shipped by rail to a plant in North Dakota for further processing. The Calumet project is fully funded; permitting would be completed in 2024 and operations would begin in 2025 using heavy media technology. This scam mining project involves a 20 sq. mile radius around Hill Annex Mine. They have identified 800 million tons of stockpile resources. 150 jobs would be created. There were three project plan maps on the wall from Calumet Reclamation, Cleveland Cliffs and Mesabi Metallics. Mesabi Metallics did not get any of the leases that were given to Cleveland Cliffs, but they are

still continuing to build their plant and use the leases that they do have. Tuorila was contacted by Channel 6 News and Northern News Now and gave an interview about mining in Calumet. Hill Annex Mine State Park, Joe Henderson, DNR spoke about relocating several pieces of historic mining equipment from a part of the park now inaccessible to visitors to a more central and visible location in Calumet, which would cost about \$50,000. There was also discussion regarding preserving the museum and viewing stand. Bills were introduced in the state legislature to abolish the Hill-Annex Mine State Park. Mayor Tuorila stated that the City of Calumet cannot afford to spend that kind of money when we have a big project on Gary St. this year. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Bougalis both indicated their interest in working together on this matter although no specific plan was discussed or agreed. The Hwy. #169 route planning is ongoing. The DNR is still pumping the pit water until it reaches 48* for 4 days because of the zebra mussels.

Public Works Report: Hoshal reported that he gave Mayor Tuorila the maintenance reports for the Radio Tower that were requested by Clerk Serich to send to Everest for the tower sale. Bob and Bill trimmed branches and trees where needed around town. Discussed ordering new banners. We will need to wait until we have the light poles installed to see what type of brackets are needed. Discussed the curb stops on Gary St. Only one service is needed between 3rd and 4th Ave. Other curb stops will have to go back in the sidewalk. The streets need some cleaning done. Discussed the burn pile. Bob stated that it cannot be burned yet. They will need heavy equipment to move the piles across the bike trail. Greenway Township could maybe help. Bob will have Schwartz give an estimate on the project.

Gary Street County Project Update: Benchmark Engineer Alan Nelson reported that the county made the final edits on the plans. The sidewalk from the RR to Hwy#169 on Morgan St. are not in the plans. Sarah Carling had called Clerk Serich and said that the ARP money from the county could be used for the city hall roof instead of the street from 2nd Ave to Mesabi Ave. on Gary St. The council decided to use the \$65,000 for the Gary St. project.

Update on the old bank building: Discussed whether the city would move to the old bank building or stay in the city hall. The council wants to stay in city hall, and we can plan on renting out the bank building in the future. Rick Troumbly looked at the safes in the old bank building and is interested in buying them. Clerk Serich is putting an ad in the paper for bids on surplus inventory and the bids will be opened on April 16th at the council meeting.

Comments and Requests from the Floor:

Unfinished Business:

Utility Shut-offs: 17 shut-off letters will be sent.

Update on Blight: discussed the Amberley Schneider property at 754 7th Ave. Clerk Serich will contact The State Building Inspector Andrew Sharpe inspected the property at 754 7th Ave. and he sent a letter to Clerk Serich stating that the burned property must be repaired or removed. Clerk Serich will send a certified letter to Amberley Schneider and if nothing is done then the attorney will need to contact the homeowner. Discussed the possibility of IRRR grant to help with demolition. We will keep sending blight notices and giving tickets as well. Clerk Serich will send a copy of the letter to Attorney Brian Bengtson. Kluck's house on Gary St. has a trailer full of garbage on the north side of the house and in the yard. Danielson on Gary St. has unlicensed vehicles. He will be ticketed. Scherf on the highway has vehicles with flat tires. They need to be licensed and operable. Boorman rental on 7th Ave still has vehicles, etc. Send letter to landlord.

Update on Radio Tower: Mayor Tuorila has been having ongoing communication with our attorney and Everest's people. Clerk Serich will send the maintenance information to Everest. Discussion on the possible sale of the tower. If the tower is sold and the money is properly taken care of it should provide the city with yearly money for 30 years. If half of the money is put into a safe investment, we will make money on the interest. We can pay off the loan payments and put some money into checking or savings.

Update on the Projects for using the Blandin grant: The council wants to meet with Sarah Carling about the grants for the ballfield and parks. Strand is not happy that we can't use the money for fixing up our ballfield. They have burned and put chemicals on the infield and there are still weeds growing. We may need to have a professional fix it. Strand will contact Pat Guyer about rejuvenating the ballfield and get an estimate.

New Business:

Motion by Tuorila to increase the LMCIT deductible to \$1,000 with a premium of \$19,359 instead of the current deductible of \$250 with a premium of \$20,578, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

The council decided not to purchase signs for Vehicle Noise Laws at \$1,508 per sign from MNDOT.

Discussed the dogs continually barking on 5th Ave. and some people burning garbage in fire pits. A newsletter will be sent out soon.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and sign the LMC Regional Safety Training Group agreement, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussed that the AED battery needs to be replaced on the unit in the library. Ask Baich for a new AED?

The council decided that they do not need the youth group to clean up the highway. Bob and Bill will. Motion by Strand to approve a zoning permit for a fence at 731 Morgan St. Stacie Davis, a 6' high wood privacy fence approximately 180' long, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Tabled a zoning permit for a fence at 522 5th Ave Diane Schuster Rental, a 5' high chain link type fence because more information is needed because of plowing in the alley.

Discussion about the Joint Powers Ambulance board. Tuorila and Zaren will attend the next meeting.

Discussion about the possibility of having a community garden. Tabled.

Northern Natural Gas has a high-pressure pipeline south of 9th Ave. The State of Minnesota made them cut trees and some areas were shallow. We need to call them, and they will help restore the cover.

Motion by Strand to approve the First Call for Help agreement \$250, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, MC The council approved Bob, Bill and April to attend the LMC Safety & Loss Control workshop in Virginia April 10th at \$20 per person, lunch included. Clerk Serich will check with Mary too.

Discussed the vacant fees on property with no water access because of broken pipes, etc. Motion by Tuorila to approve not charging Don Herges a vacant fee on his property Dec. to March and not charge in the future, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried. Schneider, Warmuth & Niedzelski.

Clerk Serich will send a letter to Julie Warmuth asking what her intentions are for her trailer house.

Mayor John Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

John Tuorila, Mayor