Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday June 20, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Mayor John Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present: Mayor John Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand, and John Vaudrin. Absent: Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Public Works Maintenance Worker Bill Berger.

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions approve the Kid’s and Cars in the Park event Saturday August 26th 9-4, use of property, liability insurance, etc. approve the Calumet Saloon to hold a beer garden at the park, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the minutes of the May regular meeting and two special meetings, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the May Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $25,237.44, Disbursements $73,606.42, Investments $8,334.52 and total checking balance $275,453.76, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried. Note: The disbursements were higher because there were two sewer & NPD bills plus the two mowers were purchased.

**Ordinances:** Discussed the MN Basic Code of Ordinances update and fee schedule update. We need to conduct a public hearing if any zoning changes are made. Tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #23-06-20 a resolution approving the loan from Woodland Bank for $250,000 for a new fire truck, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Strand, and Vaudrin. Opposed: none. Absent: Hernesman. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that they are still waiting to hear back on the grant money. Compressor is running great. Richard Antonovich from Calumet is one of the 8 from Itasca County killed in Vietnam and will be included in the dedication at the door of the arena Sept. 23.

Cemetery Bd: June 28th is the meeting.

WMMPB: Tuorila reported that the pit water has warmed up and they quit pumping. There is $8 million to come up with a plan to get rid of the water. The Hill Annex is up 10 ft. 5-10 years to overflow. Hwy #169 Project received money to continue the next study phase.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:**

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal reported that Thein Well is checking the drawdowns. The aquifer is up 10 ft.

MN Dept. of Health & MPCA reseeded the old spur station lot and took out a monitoring well.

It’s been pretty dry and the grass is turning brown all over and they can’t burn the burn pile.

Discussed the cameras being installed at city hall but they are still waiting for the ones to be installed at the city shop. Clerk Serich will bring the router back to T-Mobile since the shop has wireless internet from the city hall now.

Police Services Report: May 20 hrs. 2.5 hrs. over. NPD Chief Kurt reported that they sent out letters to several residents and a few citations. Amberley Schneider’s house 754 7th Ave. burned down in Dec. of 2022 and nothing has been done about cleaning it up or rebuilding. The council would like information from the insurance company about what’s going to be done. Kurt will work will Clerk Serich on blight and if the building inspector needs to be called. Clerk Serich will check on the ordinance. Dan Mellen 733 7th Ave. was ticketed for cars and grass. Steve Kluck 913 Gary St. has had loud music, motor bikes on the streets. Kurt said to call 911 for that kind of issues. 217 2nd Ave. garage apron is full of debris. Chris Niedelzelski 941 Gary St. his mom called and said she got the property back in pro-bate and asked if they could have more time to get rid of the vehicles behind the house and she plans on selling the property.

Discussed the Bourman rental 733 7th Ave. a letter needs to be sent stating that they are in violation of the rental ordinance and if we need to get the attorney involved it’s approved. Clerk Serich will request police reports.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut offs: 16 shut off letters were mailed.

Blight/Nuisance Notices: Discussed under police services report.

**New Business:**

Motion by Strand to approve a zoning permit for Matt Rothstein 824 8th Ave. for a wood fence along the north alley 82 ft. x 8 ft. high and wrap around the corner on the west side alley inside the existing chain link fence, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Bruce Tholen from Samaritan Transport and CareCab North discussed buying the old fire hall property. He is working with Deerwood Bank and the loan should be done by July 1. He will let the city know by July 3 what’s going on. He will be at the July meeting. Discussed the balance of the existing loan on the John Deere track loader. Clerk Serich will check the balance owed. This will need to be paid off when we get the money from the old fire hall sale.

Discussed the Radio Tower offers and sale.

Paul Bunyan offered $250,000 for the tower leases. The council stated that’s not an acceptable offer.

Everest Infrastructure gave us three options. Option 1- $1,835,000 at closing. Option 2- $2,055,000 ($411,000) in five annual installments. Option 3-$2,440,000 ($244,000) in 10 annual installments. Motion by Zaren to sign an exclusivity period agreement for 90 days to Everest Infrastructure Partners, Inc. seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried. Other items of discussion were the cameras, star & cross, survey, risk, etc. Mayor Tuorila will let them know of the council’s decision on the exclusivity agreement.

Discussed the lawn mowing procedures. A letter should be sent for long grass (over 12 inches), they have one week to mow or the city will mow and it will cost them $50. A bill will be sent out and if it’s not paid then it will be assessed to the property taxes.

Markovich’s property on Hwy #169 is being mowed by the neighbor, Branden Brown. The city still mows the boulevard 8ft on the highway and Morgan St.

Jamsa rental 740 7th Ave. the city mowed the very long grass and will bill the owner.

The Habitat property does not need to be mowed by the city. Hoshal property 739 7th Ave. does not need to be mowed by the city as well as Markovich’s. LaFond mows his own property.

Darland property 211 2nd Ave. needs to get a letter for long grass.

A boat parked by the old Roadway lot is too close to the highway and is blocking the view from Co. Rd. #12. Strand needs help moving it back out of the way. Bob & Bill will help him move it.

Discussed a letter of understanding with AFSCME LOCAL 81 to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday. Motion by Tuorila to sign the LOU to approve the addition of June 19th as a holiday to the agreement because the State of MN made it a holiday, seconded by Strand, upon vote taken as follows, For: Mayor Tuorila, Councilmembers Strand, and Vaudrin. Opposed: Councilmember Zaren. Absent: Councilmember Hernesman. Motion Carried. LOU does not open the contract. In the next contract (2026) the holiday can be negotiated. Mayor Tuorila contacted the LMC and they stated that most cities are going along with June 19th as a holiday.

Motion by Strand to approve the mileage reimbursement for Mayor John Tuorila for $176.85 for meeting attendance, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the annual Mn Association of Small Cities dues for $268.95, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve a zoning permit for Lee Ramsey 632 6th Ave. for a fence between his house (12.5 ft. x 40 ft.) and Mike Troop’s house (12.5 ft. x 40 ft. 6 ft. high) and on the east side of Lee Ramsey’s house to the garage (40ft. x 12 ft.) Also approve to cut out the curb in the front yard for a driveway. He needs to contact the Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal when he is ready to do the curb because he needs to have it done properly, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

KLM inspected the water tower and gave a report. It needs to be inspected again in 3 years. The tower is 23 years old. It will need to have structure modifications and paint in the future. The estimated cost is $300,000. We would need to get a bid 9-12 months before the project would start.

A thank you was received from the Day of Caring kids.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the Calumet Saloon beer garden at the Mine Park for the Kids and Cars in the Park event August 26, 2023, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the city sponsoring the Kids and Cars in the Park event on Saturday August 26, 2023, by providing insurance for the event and allowing the use of city property, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk Serich will contact the LMC to get it added.

Note: the RAMS dues will be increasing this year.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor