

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting  
Calumet City Council Room  
Tuesday August 20, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

Mayor John Tuorila led the Pledge of Allegiance for the last time as mayor.

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

Present: Mayor John Tuorila, Councilmembers Tim Zaren, Dan Strand, Nick Porter and Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Sarah Carling CEDA and Loren Benchmark Engineer.

Motion by Strand to approve the agenda with the additions-Approve and adopt Resolution #24-08-20-2 a resolution to apply to and accept a grant from Mn Dept. of Health for cameras at the pump house, discuss the need for a streetlight at the Depot parking lot, seconded Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the July regular meeting minutes and two special meeting minutes, seconded by Porter, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the July Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$260,291.35, Disbursements \$267,437.79, Investments \$9,847.05 and total checking balance \$510,445.06, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried. There was a \$200,000 payment for the Gary St. project.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #24-08-20 a resolution approving the resignation of John Tuorila and declaring a vacancy in the mayor's position at 4:00 p.m. August 20, 2024, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, For: Zaren, Strand and Porter, Opposed: none, Abstain: Tuorila. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports:**

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that roller skating completed activities with 80 participants. The roof and the floor are completed. The budget is \$380,000 with \$560,000 total revenue. The Mn Power lighting bill increased to \$120,000 a year.

Cemetery Bd: meeting is on Wednesday.

WMMPB: Tuorila and Zaren reported that they discussed the DNR Hill Annex Mine inventory. Jordan wants to find an entity to control the equipment distribution. They discussed the Hwy#169 project and that Commissioner Venema wants someone from Calumet to be on the coalition.

Benchmark Engineer Loren gave an update on the project. It is almost complete. They will be putting topsoil by the sidewalks. The 1<sup>st</sup> layer of pavement will go on Gary St. from 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave to Mesaba Ave with a smaller crew. The final pavement will be after Labor Day. They will be sweeping the streets on Friday before the Kids and Cars in the Park car show.

Public Works Report: The council stated that Bill Berger is doing a good job by himself. Bill reported that Bunes needed to pump out the sewer lift station. He has about half the burn pile moved across the bike trail. The flagpole came in today.

Library: The Kids and Cars in the park event will be on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> 9-5 up at the Mine Park area. There will be lots of activities, games, food, prizes and cars.

**Comments as complaints from the floor:**

Donald and Barbara Banks had many complaints about Red Rock Auto. They have 16 vehicles, debris piled up against the building and tires in pickups. They say they have seen critters around there too.

Gary Scherf moved more vehicles out on his lot. Clerk Serich will check with the Community Service Officers if tickets were issued. There was a complaint about 3 and 4 wheelers driving all over town. People should call the cops.

Discussion about city attorney John Dimich retiring at the end of the year. We will need to find another attorney for the criminal cases and the cost will most likely increase. Clerk Serich will contact Nashwauk about their attorney.

Council member Nick Porter left the meeting.

Sarah Carling requested a letter of support to keep the CEDA program that provides services to communities in a variety of ways.

Motion by Strand to approve the letter of support for CEDA and to keep the services they provide, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, Absent: Porter, motion carried.

Discussion about identifying a 4-wheeler trail to set for riding on and not a free for all in town. They want connectivity from Grand Rapids to Keewatin.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 14 shut-off letters were sent. A few got door hangers with a \$25 fee.

Update on Blight: Community Service Officers are checking on LaFond for an unlicensed car on his lot. Blight notice was issued for grass blown on the streets. Amberley Schneider 754 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. hazardous building issue will be going to court because nothing has been done there.

The Nashwauk Police Department wants to continue the contract we have for police services beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Reminder: officers should tell people that Habitat for Humanity will take vehicles for scrap.

Discussion about leasing a piece of city property to a resident of an apartment for a trampoline to be used by an autistic boy. Clerk Serich will contact the city attorney about liability.

Send a blight letter to Kristi Serich that the junk derby cars need to be removed from her property.

### **New Business:**

Motion by Zaren to approve a purchase agreement with Goodland Township and a Bill of Sale for \$70,000 for the 2004 Kenworth Fire truck, taking possession around September 15, 2024, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, Absent: Porter, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve a donation of \$250 to Grace House the Itasca County Historical Society, seconded by Porter, motion carried.

Motion by Hernesman to approve a zoning permit for Megan Bickman to put up a galvanized fence with wood braces around her front and side yard, seconded by Strand, opposed: Zaren, Absent: Porter, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #24-08-20-2 a resolution approving to apply for and accept a grant from MN Dept. of Health for security cameras at the pumphouse, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Hernesman & Strand, Opposed: none, Absent: Porter. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Tuorila to approve MN Power to move a light from Julie's Jungle Park to the Depot parking lot if not too expensive or put a new light in, seconded by Strand, all in favor, Absent: Porter, motion carried.

Mayor Tuorila said he thinks the city should seriously consider adding franchise fees to the gas and electric bills.

Check the rebate for LED streetlights.

The following have filed for Candidacy for the 2024 election: Mayor 2 yr. term-Mike Troop, 2- Council member 4-yr. terms-Barbara Banks, Evan Petz and Steve P. Serich.

Mayor John Tuorila will be leaving on Wednesday August 21<sup>st</sup> for Maine. They sold their house. He thanked everyone for working together on the council for 18 years. Zaren thanked him for all the years working together on the council even though they didn't always see eye to eye. He stated that John always had Calumet in his best interest.

Clerk Serich will check on dates for a budget meeting with Bonnie Sterle.

Council member Tim Zaren will be Mayor Pro-Tem until December 31, 2024. No appointment to the mayor's vacant position at this time. The election is November 5, 2024.

Council member Strand told Sarah Carling that he wants to plan for fixing up the ball field. The roofs on the dugouts need replacing, the fence needs fixing. The approximate cost is \$10,000. Sarah stated that we need to discuss this in a work session. We will plan a work session meeting October 1<sup>st</sup> with Engineer Alan Johnson about the ball field and the other projects on our priority list.

Mayor Pro-Tem Zaren adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Tim Zaren, Mayor Pro-Tem