

Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Calumet City Council Room
Tuesday September 21, 2021
2:00 P.M.

Mayor 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, Larry Pitts and John Vaudrin. Absent: Councilmember Dan Strand. Also present: Clerk April Serich

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions of the city needing to find a new building inspector and approve the 2022 BC/BS insurance renewal through Northeast Services Coop, seconded by Pitts, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Pitts to approve the minutes of the August regular meeting with the correction of changing the spelling of the word fire, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the August Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$21,104.62, Disbursements \$42,781.19, Investments \$15,986.67 and total checking balance \$362,974.24, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Bd: No report.

Cemetery Bd: No report.

MCWWTP: No report.

WMMPB: Zaren reported that Johan Grobler of Prairie River Minerals is applying for permanent resident status in the US and asked for a letter of support, copies of a draft letter were distributed and approved. Representative Igo spoke about energy, mining and logging issues. The board priority items did not advance through committee in the legislative session but there is a possibility of a special session. Hwy #169 survey results show support for expanding Hwy #169 from a two-lane to four-lane highway between Taconite and Pengilly. A letter will be drafted about the importance and need for the major improvement of the Cross Range Expressway.

Greenway Joint Powers Fire Board Meeting: Tuorila and Zaren reported that the department sent two guys and a truck per day for several days to help out with the fires by the Isabella area. They will get some compensation from the DNR. They were given the okay to look at new fire trucks and sell the #1 2003 Freightliner truck as long as the department can make the payments without coming to the cities for money.

Police Services Report: August 45 hours used, Balance owed to them = 54.5 hours. Discussed increasing the hours. Mayor Tuorila met with Joe Dasovich Nashwauk PD about collaboration and funding sources. The cost of full time police services is too high for our budget but increasing hours is still an option.

Comments and Requests from the Floor:

Discussion about an enclosed trailer stolen from an alley between 2nd and 3rd Ave. The Sheriff's department is involved.

Thomas Paul said he has water in his basement again and his steps are sinking in. The DNR has put in 6 monitoring wells in town. The levels are flowing out of the pit into Calumet. The DNR quit pumping the water in the pit in 2007. He has been having trouble for the last five years with sand coming into his

sewer pump. Mayor Tuorila will contact the DNR and have them call Mr. Paul about the situation at 823 8th Ave.

Mark Costellano and Mike from AE2S operations for the MCWWTP discussed the new company Advanced Utility Solutions that Eric Applewick will be starting. They have the contracts for the Wastewater plant. It should all stay the same just a name change. There will be a meeting with Bolten & Mink in October.

Alan Johnson from Benchmark Engineering gave a presentation to the council. There are no mileage charges. The company has a lot of history and files on Calumet. Budget planning for projects is free of charge. They would be interested in working with Calumet again.

Department Reports:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal & Bill Berger were not present because they were working on a valve. Discussion about the burn pile mess. It is not cleaned up. The guy was ticketed but we will have to have it cleaned up and send the information to the judge so he can add it onto the ticket. Maybe the fire department can burn it where it is if Bob & Bill push it into a pile or add it to the existing burn pile. Also discussed closing the burn pile or moving to a new location and cleaning the old one up completely.

Library: Clerk Serich updated the council on the Take A Five Rest Area project. Discussed adding power to the garage at 916 Gary St. so we can put a camera up there next year. So far we have not received an estimate for the cement work or the water fountain installation. We are having a free event at the rest area on Wednesday. The Kona Ice truck will be there along with a story stroll and free books.

Update on sidewalk work: Ryan Sutherland said that KGM Contractors are behind and they will not be coming to Calumet this year. They will have to come back in the spring.

Unfinished Business:

Utility Update: 17 residents are behind. Shut off notices were sent out.

Update on Hazardous Buildings: Bougalis, Inc. is scheduled to start tearing down the building at 241 2nd Ave on Sept. 27th. We are still waiting on the eviction process before we can proceed on the other two houses at 211 2nd and 739 7th Ave.

Blight Update: There were complaints about a dog running loose that belongs to the Jamsa rental at 740 7th Ave. Clerk Serich will check on the dog license and told them that they could call the Sheriff's department on dogs running at large. There was a black lab running loose and bit someone at Care Cab. Owner is unknown.

New Business:

After a discussion about increasing police service hours, the council agreed that the city can't afford full-time police services but we do want to increase the hours per month.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt the 2022 Proposed Tax Levy (0% increase over 2021) and Budget \$623,454 including additional police service hours in the general fund levy, seconded by Pitts, all in favor, motion carried.

After a discussion about purchasing tax forfeited parcels from the county and sell them to Habitat for Humanity, Motion by Tuorila to approve the purchase of parcel #87-410-0330 Block 3 Lots 22-27 (the former Hicks property) and sell it to Habitat for Humanity for \$500, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve a zoning permit for Retta Zufall at 734 7th Ave for a 110 ft. x 90ft. wood privacy fence with 30ft. chain link in the front(with the possibility of a temporary fence installed also), seconded by Pitts, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the LMC dues \$517 and the Mayor's dues \$30, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Pitts to approve the purchase of mini splits (heat/air) for the Clerk's office \$2,700, Mayor's office \$2,700, back storage room \$2,850 and the library and upstairs \$6,300, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the 2022 insurance renewal through NESC @ \$867.08 single and \$1,798.29 family coverage, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

A thank was received from Grace House and Itasca County Historical Society.

Discussed the SBA possible buyout. Council said to tell him to get back to us next year.

Bob joined at 3:50 p.m. Discussed MN Pump Works had to come and fix a pipe that rusted through and too strong of pumps blew the pipe out. Bob reported that there are 12 water boxes left to clean out. The rest throughout town have been cleaned of sand. They will paint all the boxes. One valve had to be dug up. He found four boxes not on the map. Now the city should be in compliance with the MN Rural Water. They will put the program on the city lap top and show Bob how to use it. It will tell how many turns, how deep, if it is bent. The fire hydrant shut offs will be color coded with paint by size so the fire department will be able to tell which ones to use. Bob will update the maps with TKDA. Discussed the trees at 241 2nd Ave. Bob said they could take down the box elders and leave the maple. Clerk Serich will post a notice for hydrant flushing the first week of October.

Discussed the Casper bill. No one got back to Clerk Serich. The said not pay the bill and call again.

The cost of the electric for the city sign is \$9,055 and will be sent to the county for funding through the T.E.D. funding.

Clerk Serich received information on the MN Dept. of Administration Cooperative Purchasing Venture. This could be used for purchasing a future truck.

Bob stated that Gladen will be hauling black dirt and Friday they will be blacktopping. The cement is in and ready.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

John Tuorila, Mayor