Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday December 19, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro-tem Tim Zaren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-tem Tim Zaren called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Pro-tem Tim Zaren, Councilmembers Dan Strand and Amanda Hernesman, Mayor John Tuorila was present by phone. Absent: Councilmember John Vaudrin. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal, Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger, Engineer Alan Johnson, Benchmark, and Nashwauk Police Chief Kurt Metzig.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the agenda with the additions, approve and adopt Resolution #23-12-19 a resolution approving and accepting donations for the year, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the November regular meeting minutes with correction- MCWWTP received a Bolten&Menk estimate for drilling not a bill, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the Nov. Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $18,584.83, Disbursements $59,847.51, Investments $7,840.48 and total checking balance $399,522.71, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Ordinance #123, an ordinance adopting a schedule of fees and charges for various services, licenses and permits for the City of Calumet, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Vaudrin.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Ordinance #124, an ordinance repealing parts of Chapter 52 of city code and establishing the basis upon which water customers will be charged for water services, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Vaudrin.

Motion by Hernesman to approve and adopt Resolution #23-12-19, a resolution approving and accepting donations for the year $15,807.95, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Vaudrin. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The franchise fees were tabled.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that the new compressor cost $22,000. The power went out and they lost the ice. 1st & 2nd grade basketball sign ups were 30.

Cemetery Bd: no meeting.

Greenway Joint Fire Board meeting: Zaren reported that the new fire truck will be coming in August 2024. The legal fees for the fire truck were discussed and the fire department is requesting that each city pay the $2,500 in fees. Motion by Tuorila to not bill the fire department for the $2,500 legal fees for the new fire truck, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried. The city will pay this time but next time, the fire dept. should pay because the city contributes our fair share to the fire department.

Strand reported that nobody from the fire department showed up at the Taconite Legion meeting to ask for a $200 donation.

WMMPB: Zaren reported that they are pumping the pit water again.

Police Services Report: Nov. balance=3 hours owed by the city. Nashwauk Police Chief Kurt Metzig discussed the Nashwauk Ambulance Service issues and meetings that are going on. They don’t get enough money in payments to cover the cost of the ambulance runs. It is very difficult to get and keep paid volunteer employees. Zaren reported that he attended a meeting and stated that the legislators make rules but don’t provide the funding to implement them. They discussed the possibility of a taxing district but that is voluntary. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 27th at 5:30 p.m. Kurt stated

that he has 4 criminal citations ready for court and some others are still in the court system. He will contact Gary Scherf about the cars in his parking lot with flat tires.

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal reported that they got the sander back in the truck. There are some sewer issues by the fire hall on 9th Ave. The main lift station needs a new ball valve and air relief valve.

The light at Julie’s Jungle Park is nice and bright. An oil sample will be taken on the track loader. They need pictures of the water service lines in houses to see if they are still lead or copper. They will put up the door hangers with the information on the lead service lines at each house.

Gary Street County Project Update: Engineer Alan Johnson reported that the city did receive a grant from the IRRR for $325,000 for the Gary St. & 2nd Ave project. The cost for Gary St. = $361,000 for water and sewer, Gary St. from 2nd Ave. to Mesabi Ave. = $100,000 for paving and sidewalks, and 2nd Ave from Morgan St. to Delich S.t = $165,000 for surface repairs, no sidewalk back in and culvert on north side. The county will be repaving, replacing sidewalks and streetlights on Gary St. as well as replacing sidewalks and removing trees on 2nd Ave. to Hwy #169 on Morgan St. Discussed possibly getting ARPA funding from Itasca County for the 2nd Ave to Mesabi Ave. project.

Motion by Strand to approve Engineer Alan Johnson to move ahead and start getting specs in soon and get bids ready for the Gary St., 2nd Ave to Mesabi and 2nd Ave to Delich St. projects, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

The East Itasca Joint Sewer Board wants to have a meeting with Marble, Calumet and Greenway Township about joining. Lone Pine is coming onto the system.

**Unfinished Business:**

Update on the old Park State Bank building: Brian discussed the future billboard on city property. DOT regulations would be followed. They want the city to work in good faith down the road with them. $3,000 was agreed for legal fees. They ask that we do not sell the building to any other bank or financial institution. Motion by Strand to approve the payment of $3,000 to Park State Bank for legal fees on the building and approve the clerk to sign the conveyance agreement and Quit Claim Deed, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Utility Shut-offs: 17 shut-off letters were sent. Some must pay with cash or be shut off after Christmas.

Update on Blight: 1020 Gary St. has furniture in their back yard.

Discussion about 9th Ave by the fire hall. The road needs patching. This is in the City of Marble. Hernesman will attend a Marble council meeting and ask to have the road repaired.

**New Business:**

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #23-12-19-2, a resolution approving and adopting the 2024 Final Property Tax Levy $226,526 and Budget $472,505, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, upon vote taken, for: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, and Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Vaudrin. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the prosecution agreement with the Itasca County Attorney’s Office for $1,000 for 2024, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the 2023 mileage reimbursement $467.67 for Treasurer Mary Garner, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion about the Blandin money projects. Clerk Serich needs to set up a meeting with Sarah Carling to go over the projects and grants available.

Mayor Pro-tem Zaren adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m. Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk Tim Zaren, Mayor Pro-Tem