Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday February 20, 2024

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, John Vaudrin and Amanda Hernesman,

Absent: Mayor John Tuorila (later was present by phone). Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal, Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger, Engineer Alan Nelson, Benchmark

Motion by Vaudrin to approve the agenda with the additions, approve the KLM Water tower work for $5,040, Approve and adopt Resolution #24-02-20 a resolution approving the reconstruction plans for Co Rd 84-Gary St, approve and adopt Resolution#24-02-20-2 a resolution approving the NO Parking ban on CSAH 84 from 50’ S of the RR bridge to 4th Ave at all times, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Hernesman to approve the Jan. reg. meeting minutes, seconded by Strand, all in favor, M/C.

Motion by Strand to approve the January Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $23,574.51 Disbursements $116,006.67, Investments $9,841.77 and total checking balance $432941.97, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the transfer of $11,945.92 from the Water Fund to the General Debt Service Fund, $11,945.93 from the Sewer Fund to the General Debt Service Fund, and $15, 927.90 from the Radio Tower Fund to the General Debt Service Fund for the $39,819.75 SE Street Project payment, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Resolution #24-02-20, a resolution approving the reconstruction plans for Co Rd 84-Gary St project, seconded by Hernesman, all in favor, upon vote taken, for: Zaren, Strand, Vaudrin, Hernesman. Opposed: none. Absent: Mayor Tuorila. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #24-02-20-2, a resolution approving the NO Parking ban on CSAH 84 from 50’ South of the Railroad bridge to 4th Ave at all times, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that they are putting in new flood lights in the parking lot and security cameras inside. They gave the Robotics team a donation of $500. There are hockey tournaments coming up and the skating show is in March.

Cemetery Bd: meeting Wednesday.

Library Bd: Hernesman reported that they discussed the budget and year end reports. The Tea at Two Tea Party fundraiser is being planned they are looking for donations.

Strand reported that he can’t do the cleanup of the highways anymore and suggested that the council donate to a group to do the cleanup. Maybe the Kids and Cars in the Park group would want to earn $500. A community cleanup week was discussed and adopting a highway for the Fire Dept. or Snowmobile Club. Clerk Serich will check with some groups about cleaning up in early May along Co Rd #12 to Hoshal’s and along the highway from the Red Lake Road to Mud Lake for $500 and the city will provide the garbage bags and gloves to use along with some grabbers.

WMMPB: No report.

Ambulance meeting: Zaren reported that the City of Nashwauk would like to form a joint powers board with the townships and cities within the Nashwauk Ambulance Service Area. An example agreement was given out and there is about $125,000 worth of debt that will need to be shared. If it is by population and all entities agree then the City of Calumet will participate otherwise, we would negotiate. Another meeting is planned for March. They would like to set up a board with a participant from each entity and then the board would continue the work of the ambulance service.

Police Services Report: no report.

Motion by Strand to approve the Benchmark design bill for $9,267.50 for the Gary St. Utility Project, taking the money from the Radio Tower Fund, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Gary Street County Project Update: Benchmark Engineer Alan Nelson reported that in early March the bids will be ready to go out. We will meet with Alan Johnson on the project before we meet with Ryan Sutherland Itasca Co. to discuss any changes needed. The 2nd Ave project was discussed, and they might need to change the curb to have the water flow on the right side of the street. Trees need to be removed on Morgan St. as well as sidewalks replaced. Add the water fountain at the Take a Five Park.

Public Works Report: Hoshal reported that Christine Hamlin’s (566 5th Ave.) fence and other scrap was pushed across the alley in a huge pile onto Bruce Tholen’s property. He will have to deal with that.

Discussed the load Jake brakes being used by the semi-trucks going through town on the highway. Clerk Serich will check with MNDOT to request signs. Strand stated that Bob Hoshal should make a list of STOP signs and any other signs that need to be replaced or straightened out. The lead and copper signs were put on all houses and people will send photos of their service line to the city. The City Hall roof is leaking again. Bob and Bill will try to put a sleeve in it this time. We should look for funding for a new roof. Clerk Serich is going to order LED light bulbs for the city hall, shop and water tower if needed. There was a discussion about the fire hydrant by the old Calumet Chev building and other 4-inch water lines left. Mn Rural Water will help with the hydrant. The council approved the KLM Contract to replace the vent on the top of tower for $5,040. This is not part of the current agreement.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:**

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 15 shut-off letters will be sent. 16 Statements will be sent to those who did not pay the increased rate of $90 per month.

Update on Blight: discussed the Amberley Schneider property at 754 7th Ave. Clerk Serich will contact the State Building Inspector Andrew Sharpe to inspect the property again and see what he suggests the city does next. He can also inspect the rental at 207 Buckmaster Rd., David Estey at the same time.

Update on Radio Tower: Mayor Tuorila has been having ongoing communication with our attorney and Everest’s people. There is a new agreement with all the bases covered so if the attorney thinks it’s satisfactory then the city can accept the offer and start the process with Everest’s due diligence. They only want to buy the property that the towers sit on not the 11 acres. The lease with the DNR for access to the tower road could be a hold up. The current offers for the main tower and the lease for the small tower are as follows: 1. $1.85 Million-Everest, 2. $1.7 Million-Tower Point and 3. $1.55 Million-SBA. Clerk Serich will need to get all the tower maintenance records all together.

Update on the old bank building: No decision has been made yet on whether the city/library should move into the building or rent it out. The council approved the removal of filing cabinets, chairs, etc. to city hall. Bob and Bill can help move the items.

Update on the DNR equipment: Discussion about the cost of preparing the land for the equipment to be moved to city property. The Benchmark estimate is $55,000. Bob stated he doesn’t think the city should put it on city property when we need a new roof on city hall. The council decided to have Clerk Serich contact Jordan DNR to let him know the city doesn’t have the money to continue with the project.

Update on the Projects for using the Blandin grant: Clerk Serich will be meeting with Sarah Carling on Mon. Feb. 26th @ 9:30 a.m. to go over the projects and grants available. The council said to ask about using some money for the bank building.

**New Business:**

The Arrowhead Library System Budget for 2024 was received.

The council approved the Public Works employees to attend the MNRWA water testing and training on May 8th. Clerk Serich will register them.

Clerk Serich will set up a Special Meeting/work session with Ryan Sutherland It. Co. and Alan Johnson Benchmark to discuss the Gary St. project plans and other projects for March 7th if that date works for everyone and then let everyone know of the time.

The city received the Itasca County Highway 5-year plan.

Mayor Pro-tem Zaren adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor