Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday February 21, 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, John Vaudrin and Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk Serich

Motion by Vaudrin to approve the agenda with the additions discuss the Park State Bank building, approve 2022 mileage reimbursement $163.80 for Mayor Tuorila, and approve the Greenway Snowmobile Club to use the ballfield for youth snowmobile training in March, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the minutes of the January regular meeting with the corrections of adding John Vaudrin as the third person on the blight committee and Amanda Hernesman as the alternate for the Cemetery Board, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve a transfer of $39,323.75 to General Debt Service Fund for the SE Utility Project payment, from Water $11,797.12, from Sewer $11,797.12, from Radio Tower $15,729.51, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the January Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $40,058.73, Disbursements $99,265.36, Investments $8,609.17 and total checking balance $426,860.97, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve and adopt Ordinance #116, an ordinance granting nonexclusive franchise to Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative D/B/A Paul Bunyan Communications to provide open video system services in the City of Calumet, Minnesota, seconded by Hernesman, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand and Hernesman, Against: none. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #23-02-21 a resolution approving the Calumet Presbyterian Church to conduct an off-site gambling activity at the Greenway Snowmobile Club on April 20, 2023, seconded by Tuorila, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, Vaudrin and Hernesman, Against: none. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that they are trying to get money for the compressor project and roof. Squirt tournament this weekend and PeeWee B in Feb.

Cemetery Bd: Charlie Howat is the sexton. Don Hanson will be retiring and there will be pizza and cake on Tuesday, February 28th at 12:00 p.m. at the cemetery office. The next meeting is March 15th at 4:00 p.m. in Marble. They will be discussing the hiring of a new full-time helper.

Greenway Recreation Board: Strand reported that they are still trying to get funding for a compressor. They will be sending out letters requesting donations. They need a new defibrillator and the Baich Foundation might give a grant for it. Mini-might Tournament Feb 25-26. Skating Show March 18-19.

MCWWTP: No report.

WMMPB: Zaren reported that there was discussion on the rising pit water. They are pumping until it reaches 40 degrees then it will stop because of zebra mussels.

Greenway Joint Fire Board: No report.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:**

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob got a call from KLM and they will be coming May 16th to clean the tower and it will be drained.

Police Services Report: January 11 hrs. 2.5 hrs. over.

Utility Shut offs: 10 shut off notices were posted.

Engineer Alan Johnson from Benchmark discussed the county project on Gary St. The total city project cost is $361,857.90 for sewer & water. If 2nd Ave to Mesabi Ave. is added it would be $100,000 more. We will need a resolution to apply to the IRRRB for grant funding soon. Alan will also submit a grant request to Pete Stauber for federal funding.

Librarian Melanie Lefebvre reported that there will be a Tea Party Fundraiser on Saturday April 15that 2 p.m. The Cherry Greenhouse will be speaking about coordinating a vegetable garden. The library is having a bike day on May 20, 10a.m.-1 p.m. at the Take a Five Park. Get Fit Itasca will be bringing bikes for kids to use and there will be free giveaways. Also, the Kids and Cars in the Park Event will be Aug. 26.

Blight/Nuisance Notices: Discussed the property that had a house and garage fire. Clerk Serich will send a letter requesting information on what is going on as far as cleanup. Discussed a semi-truck parked at the Old Calumet Chev parking lot for a long time.

Motion by Tuorila to designate the east side of the city hall to be reserved for hall parking and others will be towed at the owner’s expense, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk Serich will order a sign to be posted on the fire escape steps.

**New Business:**

Motion by Zaren to approve the termination proposal for Sprint on our tower as of June 30, 2023, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Paul Bunyan rep. Steve Howard asked a few questions about the city possibly selling the tower & leases. A. Why selling the tower? Need the money. B. Do we have a copy of the DNR easement? Yes. C. What is the timeline for selling? Soon in 2023.

Discussed the Itasca County 2023 land classification of new forfeitures in Calumet. Terry Rutherford Etal, Don & Lori Hoshal, and Keith and Jane Orazem. No action taken.

Possibly the Orazem property would be of interest to Habitat for Humanity next to their property.

Motion by Strand to approve the First Call For Help Services $250, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, Motion carried.

Discussion on a policy on seasonal campers (five months a year) on property with water & sewer. They would pay $40 a month snowbird fee when gone for the winter. Mayor Tuorila will discuss it with our city attorney Brian Bengtson.

Discussed the request from the Fire Department for money to purchase workout equipment. Both Mayor Tuorila and Tim Zaren don’t remember being asked at the meeting. Tuorila will talk to Ladd Finke.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the Greenway snowmobile club to use the ballfield for youth training in March, seconded by Strand, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the 2022 mileage reimbursement of $163.80 for Mayor John Tuorila, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on the Park State Bank building. They would like to possibly donate it to the City of Calumet for a possible community center. We talk with Sarah Carling about this. We will meet with Brian Haedrich and Mary Gillson at 1:00 p.m. on February 23 after our special meeting with Sarah Carling to discuss the city projects and getting additional funding for those projects.

Clerk Serich discussed the annual summary of Wellhead Protection efforts.

Motion by Tuorila to approve up to $2,000 for a new or upgraded printer for the clerk’s office, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussed the need for a new light and plug in the Clerk’s office storage room and a new light in the Mayor’s office.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor