Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday July 18, 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 and John Vaudrin.

Absent: Amanda Hernesman. Also present: Clerk April Serich, Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Public Works Maintenance Worker Bill Berger.

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions, approve the mileage requests for Mayor Tuorila $104.80 and Clerk Serich $124.45, Paul Bunyan discussion, Kelly McNamar-old bank building & Itasca County Historical Society 2024 Budget, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the minutes of the July regular meeting, June 6th & 8th special meetings, and June 6th Public Hearing for Ordinance #118 Recreational vehicles, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the June Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $149,875.51, Disbursements $66,993.59, Investments $7,516.93 and total checking balance $387,509.07, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried. Ask Mary to check Verizon payment on 6-13-23 for $441.55.

Equipment fund savings balance is $43.76. The Council wants Mary to transfer the amount of the payment into this account if Bruce Tholen/Samaritan Transport does not pay by July 28th when the automatic payment comes out for the track loader payment.

Guests: Steve Howard and Christie Turn from Paul Bunyan gave a presentation about the company. It is not a big corporation it is a coop that gives money back to its customers. In early August mailers will be sent out to all taxpayers in Calumet. The is promotional stuff if people sign up early. If customers sign up for 1 Gig one continuous year of service, put a small yard sign in their yard and download the WIFI app, they will receive a check for $300. The service will be $60/month then after one year it is $80/month for one GIG otherwise they can drop down to 250 mg for $60/month. People do not need to do a one year contract. No commitment would be $100 installation fee and $60 or $80 a month. They want people to sign up when they are in the area installing the fiber optic lines underground. Mayor Tuorila stated that he had a meeting with Peter Peltier, the new RAMS director, and he stated that home values increase by 7% when there is fiber optic lines in cities.

David Olson from Red Rock Auto asked about not mowing the back lots behind his station. The council discussed the issue and said the city could help him knock it down and he will keep it mowed.

Retta Zufall complimented the council and city workers for doing a good job on all the work they do in town. She had a complaint about the fireworks going off in town for four days in row. The smoke over the trees, gardens and houses was awful. Animals were scared and one person lost their dog for days. She did some research, and it is illegal to shoot any fireworks that fly in the air. Some towns in Minnesota do not allow any at all. She suggested that the mayor put in a letter to residents the number for the Sheriff’s Office and Nashwauk Police department so they can call when something illegal is happening. Mayor Tuorila said he would be writing a newsletter and add that information.

Engineer: Alan Johnson from Benchmark stated that he submitted the IRRR pre-application and full application will be put in next for the Gary St. project. He applied to Mn Dept. of Health lead level inventory grant to assist the city with service inventory. Benchmark will work with the engineer that is qualified with MN Dep.t of Health.

Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #23-07-18 a resolution approving the city to apply to and accept funds from IRRR for the Gary St. project, seconded by Zaren, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, and Vaudrin. Opposed: none. Absent: Hernesman. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. Discussion about the 2nd Ave paving and sidewalk that is a part of the bike trail. It will be added to the project as well as the water fountains.

Discussed the possibility of a daycare going into the old bank building. Motion by Tuorila to approve and adopt Resolution #23-07-18-2 a resolution approving the city to apply to and accept funds from IRRR for a daycare, seconded by Vaudrin, upon vote taken, For: Tuorila, Zaren, Strand and Vaudrin. Opposed: none. Absent: Hernesman. Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. The city would apply and the owner would be responsible for any balance.

Tabled the adoption of the new MN Basic Code of Ordinances and Fees. Check with the attorney on the new rental ordinance.

**Meeting Attendance and Reports**:

Greenway Recreation Bd. Strand reported that they got refused on the grant money and it will be resubmitted. Grand Rapids is using the arena. Mn Power rates went up. Flag football starts early Sept.

Cemetery Bd: Vaudrin reported that the new employee was hired. They will be changing the locks. The mower is being replaced with a utility machine, a John Deere Pro gear for $34,000 next year.

WMMPB: Tuorila reported that the Hwy #169 project got 6 million for research and planning to identify alternative routes.

Mayor Tuorila attended an IRRR meeting that discussed the grants available.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:**

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bob Hoshal reported that they found broken beer bottles all over the front of the dugouts at the ball field. Bob will get bids for Agri-Lyme for the infield and class 5 for the parking lot and drag the weeds out. Dan will get bids for the fence and the dugouts. Tim can get bids for the cement slab and pavilion at the mine park. A community service worker will start Wednesday.

Police Services Report: June 20 hrs. 0 balance. Multiple blight letters were mailed and multiple citations were issued. Routine patrol of the city and assisted the county with calls.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 16 shut-off letters were delivered. Bob Hoshal asked why they had to deliver a shut-off to the renter and not the landlord when they are responsible for the water and sewer. Clerk Serich stated that the landlord does receive a letter also, but the attorney said that we also have to give the renter the opportunity to pay the bill before it is shut-off.

Blight/Nuisance Notices: Amberley Schneider’s house at 754 7th Ave needs to be cleaned up. Ask Building Inspector about a hazardous building. Send her a letter that it needs to be cleaned up and ask what the plans are for the building. Discussed the old Spur lot. It is full of rocks and is hard to mow. Clerk Serich will call the MPCA about the rocks and black barrier bags that are still there. It also need to be re-seeded again. Shannon Weston has a Kia unlicensed in her yard. Tahtinen’s bus is unlicensed and Chris Niedzelski has junk and unlicensed vehicles in the back yard. The property is still in probate. Mayor Tuorila will do a blight inspection around town.

It was stated to Bob that they need to put a cover on the water shutoff on Delich St. He said they need to be ordered.

Update on Radio Tower Leases: Spencer Davis sent documents to the mayor, and he sent them to Attorney John Licke who stated there are things that are going to need to be red lined and changed to continue on with the process.

Update on Sale of old fire hall: Bruce Tholen/Samaritan Transport gave a letter to the council from Deerwood Bank stating that his loan application is in due diligence process. Hopefully it will be done by August 1, 2023.

**New Business:**

A complaint was received about the 9th Ave potholes. This is the City of Marble property. Mayor Tuorila will talk to Mayor Breen about the potholes and Ladd Finke about the back road to the fire hall.

A request for a donation to the Titan 11U baseball team for advertising failed for lack of a motion.

A request for a donation to the Nashwauk/Keewatin Band for services failed for a lack of a motion.

Ask Kurt to find out who owns the boat parked by the old Roadway lot and send a letter to them.

Motion by Zaren to approve the mileage reimbursement for Mayor John Tuorila for $104.80 and Clerk April Serich for $124.45, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, Mayor Tuorila abstained, motion carried.

Motion by Strand to approve the Itasca County Historical Society 2024 budget amount of $300, seconded by Tuorila, all in favor, motion carried.

A letter was received from Rodger Brown complaining about his neighbor across the street from him. He stated that the yard looks like a junk yard with vehicles parked in the front yard and he should not be allowed to put a driveway in the front of his house. After reviewing the ordinances and discussion about the driveway, etc. A motion was made by Mayor Tuorila to rescind the approval that was given to Lee Ramsey 632 6th Ave. the previous month to cut the curb on 6th Ave to put in a driveway to his front yard, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried. A copy of the parking ordinance 71.08 will be sent also.

A 2024 budget meeting with Bonnie Sterle will be set up for the week of August 28th.

Bob Hoshal stated that they will bolt the sign, for the burn pile, together tomorrow. They will be taking the trees down at the Depot Park and finish painting curbs. They got the women’s bathroom water and toilet working at the Depot. The men’s bathroom has mold and issues with the water so we won’t use it.

Mn Pumpworks will be coming to pull well #3 pump to replace the check valves.

Discussed the projects, we need to get as many estimates as we can. The Clerk will meet with Sarah Friday July 21st to enter in the information that we have received by then.

Bob Hoshal asked about the new laws legalizing marijuana. There will probably be training soon. We have to go by what the union contract states for now.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor