Regular Calumet City Council Meeting

Calumet City Council Room

Tuesday August 15, 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, and John Vaudrin.

Absent: Amanda Hernesman and Dan Strand. Also present: Clerk April Serich, and Public Works Supervisor Bob Hoshal and Public Works maintenance worker Bill Berger

Motion by Zaren to approve the agenda with the additions, approve the gambling permit for the Great River Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to conduct a gun raffle at the Calumet Saloon on Oct. 14, 2023, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Tuorila to approve the minutes of the July regular meeting with a correction to the Cemetery meeting report, the amount stated by John Vaudrin for the John Deere Pro Gear utility machine should be $3,400 instead of $34,000 as well as the name Peter Peltier should be Paul Peltier, July 27th special meeting, seconded by Zaren, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Zaren to approve the July Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts $87,270.27, Disbursements $67,292.86, Investments $7,597.54 and total checking balance $379,641.59, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried. Mayor Tuorila had a question on the Medica billing for Bob, Bill & April. Medica billed two months for April on this bill.

Discussed having a special meeting to go over the updated MN Basic Code of Ordinances.

Police Services Report: Kurt Metzig Nashwauk Police Chief gave an update on the blight and parking issues. The boat at the old Roadway parking lot has been removed. One trailer has been removed and a letter was sent out on a truck at Dan Mellen’s. Kurt spoke to Dan’s mother about the things that were in her name. Now citations will be issued. There have been a lot of traffic stops. Duane and Rose Boorman sold their rental to Zach Boorman, but the rental license does not transfer. Letters will be sent to both stating that a new rental license is needed, or it will be a violation of the ordinance and be fined. The building inspector needs to be involved with the hazardous building at 754 7th Ave home that was burned. Amberley Schneider will need to clean it up. The building inspector will issue a letter stating the date and time when it needs to be done by. Attorney Dimich will be retiring at the end of 2024. Kurt discussed using the same attorney as Marble and Nashwauk to handle the city ordinances. Matti Adam stated that she does not handle city ordinance violations. Grand Rapids is using Schafer who Dimich recommended. Clerk Serich will check on our agreement with Itasca County Attorney’s office.

July balance=2 hours owed by the city. Blight letters followed up, responded to a noise complaint, made a DWI arrest. Routine patrol of city and assisted county with calls including medicals. Speed patrol on Hwy 169 through town.

**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 meeting is Aug. 16.

WMMPB: Tuorila reported that there was discussion of moving other old equipment up by the club house museum. Doug wants to form a little group to meet to discuss bringing the equipment up the hill. There is a lot of damage to the buildings also. The depot parking lot had damage from someone spinning around making ruts. A license plate was found by the porta potty that was hit and pushed about 15 ft.

**Comments and Requests from the Floor:** Brad Hagfors from Franklin Outdoor Advertising from Clearwater MN would like to lease property from the city for a billboard. There are three ways to get space. 1. Long lease 2-10 years. 2. Buy easement-purchase a spot. 3. Buy property. They would pay the city $1,300 a year then 10% increase every 10 years ($1,430 after 10 years). They would have to follow the MNDOT requirements for signs. 10x30 stack sign, no cost to the city, 60x60 spot needed and it goes in the ground 15-18 ft. The city would mow around the spot. Franklin would maintain the sign and electric for lights on the sign. The property is zoned commercial. They will need access to the sign along the edge of city property. They will put together a lease and we can have our attorney look at it.

Motion by Tuorila to proceed with the Franklin Outdoor Advertising long lease (30 years) Brad Hagfors will send a lease agreement to the city for approval, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

**Department Reports**:

Public Works: Bill Berger reported that Thein Well was here with two guys to check the well. One check valve was eliminated by the top. The pipe was good, and the bearings were okay. Discussed the burn pile issues. People are bringing loads of brush from out of town. The new sign will be put up soon. There are a couple more curbs to paint. Discussed the Source Water Protection Award being presented to Calumet on Mon. Aug. 21 @ 10:30 a.m. Clerk Serich will send out a reminder. Discussed the Old Spur property that has barriers and rocks on it still. Landwer is supposed to come and remove them. The curb stop inventory is still being compiled.

Gary Street County Project Update: The IRRR said that the city should apply again in Dec. for money towards the Gary St. project. The city didn’t get any money now.

**Unfinished Business:**

Utility Shut-offs: 16 shut-off letters were mailed.

Update on Radio Tower Leases: Attorney John Licke has contacted Mayor Tuorila and LMC about the city charges for tower leases. Tuorila received an email from Spencer Davis thanking him for sending him the real estate agreement and he gave it to his attorneys. The city signed an exclusivity clause effective June 20, 2023, which will end Sept. 19, 2023. Attorney John Licke will draw up a letter to send to all on the tower.

Update on Sale of old fire hall: Bruce Tholen/Samaritan Transport gave an update that he was approved for the loan but still has not received the money for purchasing the building.

**New Business:**

Motion by Zaren to hire Gina Berger as a sub-librarian, seconded by Vaudrin, all in favor, motion carried.

Range Cornice made a proposal for roof repairs at city call in the amount of $2,950.00. Zaren said he could get scaffolding to take down ceiling panels to look at where the leaks are coming from. Zaren and Tuorila will take a look.

No zoning permit is needed for Rodney Babb to replace his steps with a 3 ft. x 3 ft. deck with steps at 203 Buckmaster Rd.

Motion by Tuorila to approve a gambling license for the Great River Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to have a gun raffle event at the Calumet Saloon 945 Gary St. on October 14, 2023, seconded by Vaudrin, Abstain: Councilmember Zaren, motion carried.

There will be a 2024 Budget meeting with Bonnie Sterle on Aug. 29 @ 10:00 a.m. with lunch provided.

Update on Kid’s and Cars in the Park-we are getting prizes and discussed the need for a streetlight in the Depot parking lot.

Mayor Tuorila ordered a battery back-up for the city hall.

Mayor Tuorila adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk John Tuorila, Mayor