CALUMET VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025 – 6:00 PM
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL, 340 SIXTH STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com
Meeting ID: 869 9877 4486 Passcode: 699798 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86998774486

Present: President Rob Tarvis, Trustees Pamela Que, Matt L'Esperance, Kelly Ryan, Bernice Smith, James Tercha; Clerk Lori Weir
Absent: None (1 vacant seat)
Also Present from the Village: Manager Megan Haselden, CEDM Fellow Joey Foster
Present from the Public: Ariele Pizzo, Chris Green, Virginia Dwyer (Via Zoom)

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance
Tarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with roll call and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Petitions from the Public *(members of the public have 5 minutes to speak)*
None

III. Approval of Agenda
Que moved; seconded by Tercha to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried 6/0

IV. Reports

1. Manager – Haselden provided the Manager's report which included the following updates:
    - Updated on Greenspace grant and project progress. Theatre wants the sidewalk closest to the Theatre expanded and will pay the additional expense to cover that.
    - Updated on the Village Hall roof replacement project.
    - Updated on the Herman Flats Stabilization project that is underway through the Houghton Land Bank.
    - Representative Markkanen and Representative Brenda Carter will be visiting Calumet on Friday as part of the Michigan State Legislative Exchange Program (MILE) program. The Village will highlight the projects the state has helped fund as well as emphasis the importance of historic preservation. This led to council discussion regarding the Village priorities when seeking state and federal appropriations.
    - Updated on staffing. Office staffing - the Account Clerks position phased down to 5-10 hours a week, and work locations and assignments have been re-arranged to encourage separation of duties. DPW staffing - working well even with the absence of a Superintendent. SAIL student work group - has started their summer work and is focusing efforts on clean-up in the residential areas (weeding sidewalks, some alley clean-up).
    - U.P. Rural Summit is July 22 in Marquette, and the Village Manager will be attending.
    - Haselden will be submitting a grant for $400,000 that would be used to provide mini-grants for residents to make improvements to their homes in the Village.
    - Updated on Blight Enforcement efforts. Letters going out and fees have been assessed.
    - Updated on the community dumpster and shared positive feedback received not only from residents, but also from other communities. Ryan also shared that she has received much positive feedback (from residents and visitors) as to how good the Village is looking this summer.

2. DDA
    - Approved funding to help the Village purchase new trash cans.
    - Exploring the purchase of bike racks for the Village downtown.
    - Discussed their interest in purchasing two vacant lots on 6th street.
    - Participated in the joint meeting with MainStreet Calumet and the Village to discuss the search for a new MSC director and the possibility of becoming part of the Michigan Main Street program.

3. Planning Commission – Ryan (assisted by Chris Green) provided the following updates:
    - .Update on Marijuana Ordinance – limit to 2 retailers in the commercial corridor for adult-use recreational marijuana only. Due to location, the council would have to approve reducing the federal school drug-free zone from 1000 feet to 500 feet. There would be no setbacks for residents, churches, etc. Chris Green provided some history and background on marijuana licenses and sales since its legalization in Michigan as well as revenue potential for municipalities. The ordinance is ready to come to Council for review and will be on the August work session agenda.
    - Updated on the work with the Office of Rural Prosperity regarding the continued work on the Master plan and how to maximize resources and coordinate/partner with others.

4. HDC – Chris Green provided the following update:
    - HDC has met with 5th street business regarding project in regards to windows. Also met with Luigi's regarding their broken window and temporary covering of that window. The June public outreach session with SHPO was successful.

V. Unfinished / Revolving Business – None

VI. New Business

1. Street Closure Request for Pasty Fest – Same as last year. Haselden will confirm receipt of certificate of insurance.

2. RRC Certification Policies – review of 3 policies needed in order to become a Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC). Provide any changes or suggestions to Joey. Also to become a certified RRC, the HDC and DDA will need to develop their own by-laws.

3. Banking Transition (Incredible Bank) – Haselden reviewed why this is her recommendation.

4. Approval of DDA Purchase of Parel 041-109-009-10 and parcel 041-109-008-00 – owner is

no longer interested in selling. No further discussion at this time and will not be on the July Regular Meeting Agenda.

5. Residential area trees/sidewalks – L'Esperance posed the question as to who is responsible for removal of large old trees that are dangerous and/or busting the sidewalks (most specifically referencing 8th street). Sidewalk repair and maintenance are the property owner's responsibility per ordinance. Village will look into trees and if they are mentioned in an ordinance. They will also look into whether or not the DPW staff/equipment can be used for removal of tree branches and stumps for a fee. We offer a similar service for snow removal currently, but not brush or tree stump removal.

6. Fire Department Merger with Laurium and Calumet Township – The Laurium Village Manager and the Calumet Township Supervisor would like to begin concrete discussions and planning for the possibility of merging the three fire departments into a Fire Safety Authority that serves all 3 communities. Haselden also expressed the possible interest in having it serve as a Public Safety Authority and include police services as well as fire services; both other parties were agreeable to this concept. Haselden would like to know if the council would like her to move forward with these discussions regarding consolidation.

7. Appointing Village Manager as the Street Administrator – Haselden explained her vision for restructuring and staffing of the DPW and what her possible role as Street Administrator would look like. Discussed potential cost savings. Discussed the concerns of equipment maintenance and repair.

8. Updated Village Office Hours – Will be expanding the office hours (due to property tax season) to 8am-4pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8am – 6pm on Tuesday and Fridays will be "by appointment only".

VII. Announcements - None

VIII. Comments from the Public *(members of the public have 5 minutes to speak)* -
None

IX. Adjourn
Que moved, seconded by L'Esperance to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.

Motion Carried 6/0

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Weir, Clerk