**CITY OF NISSWA**
**MINUTES – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.**
**NISSWA CITY HALL**

**Members present:** Jennifer Carnahan, Bruce London, Jesse Zahn
**Other Members Present:** Dave Reese, City Engineer; Tom Pearson, City Attorney
**Members absent:** Joe Hall, Mark Froehle
**City staff present**: Maggi Wentler, Interim City Administrator; Jane Michaud, Deputy Clerk; Amber Moon-Peterson, Parks & Rec Director; Tom Blomer, Public Works Director; Todd Szymanski, Police Chief
**Audience members:** __ members of the public were present.

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Carnahan called the City of Nisswa Organizational Meeting to order at 5:02 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. She explained that per Minnesota statute, cities hold organizational meetings in January, typically at the earliest possible time or their first meeting of the year, to organize for the coming calendar year. Mayor Carnahan noted that longstanding precedent in Nisswa has been for the Mayor to work with the City Administrator to make committee and council liaison appointments, with the Administrator reaching out to council members for their preferences.

**B. Organizational Appointments**

**1. 2026 City Appointments**

Mayor Carnahan reviewed the 2026 City Appointments, noting that the document in the packet contained the 2025 appointments which needed several updates. Changes discussed included:

- City Administrator position would be listed as "Interim" (Maggi Wentler) until the new Administrator-Clerk is hired following interviews on February 17
- City Clerk position would be removed as it will be combined with the Administrator position
- Police Chief position updated to Chief Szymanski, who also serves as Emergency Management Director

The matter of the Fire Relief Association Trustees was noted as requiring input from Council Member Hall, who was absent, so this particular appointment was set aside to be addressed later.

**Motion by Council Member Zahn, seconded by Council Member London, to approve the 2026 City Appointments with the discussed changes, withholding the Fire Relief Trustee appointment until Council Member Hall is present. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. 2026 Labor Attorney Appointment Discussion**

The Mayor initiated a discussion about potentially going to an RFP process for labor attorney services. She noted that the city is currently in the middle of union negotiations with their existing labor attorney, Flaherty and Hood.

Council Member London indicated he had no problems with the current labor attorney. Council Member Zahn expressed interest in going out for RFP, noting that the current labor firm could still participate in

the process if interested. He also raised a question about potential annual rate changes. Ms. Wentler clarified that if rates increase, the firm would provide an updated rate schedule for council approval, though this had not occurred yet as it had been less than a year since their appointment.

The consensus was to proceed with an RFP for labor attorney services while continuing with Flaherty and Hood to finish the current union negotiations.

**3. 2026 Council Liaison Appointments**

Mayor Carnahan noted that based on feedback received by Ms. Wentler, there were no requested changes to the current liaison appointments. Council Member Zahn indicated he was happy to continue with his current assignments to Public Works and the Liquor Department.

As the discussion related to a motion made in the December meeting regarding removal from committees, and with Council Member Hall absent, the council decided to table this item until all council members could be present.

**4. 2026 Commission/Committee Assignments**

This item was also tabled until all council members could be present, as it was connected to the previous agenda item.

**5. 2026 City of Nisswa Monthly Meeting Schedule**

The Mayor presented the monthly meeting schedule:

- City Council: third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM
- Planning and Zoning: first Tuesday at 5 PM
- Parks and Recreation: first Thursday at 5 PM
- Public Works: last Wednesday at 5 PM

**Motion by Council Member Zahn, seconded by Council Member London, to accept the monthly meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule**

The Mayor reviewed the draft City Council meeting schedule for 2026, noting several changes needed:

- A February 10 Grand View workshop would be removed
- A Council Retreat was proposed for March 10, pending confirmation from all council members
- The Board of Appeals meeting was scheduled for April 17 at 1 PM
- Town Hall meetings were tentatively scheduled for May and September

Council Member Zahn expressed support for continuing the Town Hall meetings, noting they provided good community engagement despite some logistical challenges with microphones and seating. After discussion, the council agreed to keep both Town Hall meetings but potentially move them to City Hall rather than the Community Center due to planned repairs and audio issues. They tentatively selected June 9 or June 23 as potential dates.

Other corrections included:

- Changing July meeting time from 7 PM to 6 PM
- Correcting the November dates to the 17th for both the workshop and meeting
- Confirming December 15 for both Truth in Taxation (which must start at 6 PM) and the regular meeting

**Motion by Council Member Zahn, seconded by Council Member London, to approve the 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule with the discussed modifications. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. 2026 Rate Schedule**

The Mayor presented the 2026 Rate Schedule for approval.

Motion by Council Member Zahn, seconded by Council Member London, to approve the 2026 Rate Schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Adjourn**

**Motion by Council Member Zahn, seconded by Council Member London, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM, with the regular council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Carnahan, Mayor

Maggi Wentler, Interim City Administrator