

REGULAR SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 5, 2010

5:00 PM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Cuskey.
2. **ROLL CALL:** 8 members present 0 absent. Others in attendance: Ford, Vik, Zufall, Jensen, Coquillet
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

Coquillet says he appreciates the new Northland Drive crossing/road, helps traffic on Hazel St where there is a lot of residential. No other comments.

5. **Mayor's Comments;**

- a) **Halloween Proclamation** Mayor read proclamation, traditional Halloween & is officially sanctioned. Trick or treating is Oct 31, 4 pm to 8 pm
- b) **Scouts Trick or Treat for Food Pantry** Scouts Oct 23rd looking for donations to food pantry.
- c) **Jack O Lantern Fest** October 16th at 9:00 a.m. Kicking off event with walk a mile in my shoes – awareness of abuse.

Remembrance of Betty McQuade who was a council member for many years. She worked hard at her commitment as a council person. And a remembrance for Bill Falk – known as “Mr. Perfect”.

6. **Approval of Agenda;**

Motion (Mortier/Gabriel) to approve agenda. Passed

7. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered routine & will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests.

- a) *Accept Minutes from September 7, 2010 Regular Council Meeting;
- b) *Accept Finance Committee Recommendation to approve September, 2010 payables (Checks 29194-29373);
- c) *Accept Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to support proposal for exercise stations along new bike-ped trail by Spooner Health Systems;
- d) *Accept Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to approve Harrison St Encroachment Easement;
- e) *Accept Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to approve Street Closing requests- Vale Street October 16, 2010 Noon-4PM Fire Auxiliary Pumpkin Roll. Front & Oak Street Spooner Chamber Jack O Lantern Fest October 16, 2010;
- f) *Accept Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to deny Request to refund garbage collection fee at 702 Elm St for 2008-2009;
- g) * Accept Property Planning & Development Committee Recommendation to proceed with plans & estimates for front office remodeling project;
- h) *Accept Property Planning & Development Committee Recommendation to plant 5,000 trees annually on various city properties (\$675 + crew time);
- i) *Accept Property Planning & Development Committee Recommendation to approve request to build cold storage addition to Canoe Museum at no cost to city;
- j) *Accept Plan Commission recommendation to approve Certified Survey Map for City of Spooner, Gene M. Thompson Trust, Thompson Family Partnership and Washburn County- part of , Sections 20 & 29, T39N, R12W, City of Spooner (Dedication of Chandler Drive and North Roundhouse Road & creation of lots);
- k) Accept Personnel Committee recommendation to reaffirm current practice of paying \$1.00 above & beyond stated contractual rate to Law Enforcement Assistant for Municipal Court duties;

Pull g, h i & j for discussion.

Motion *(Gabriel/Mortier) to approve a – k without g, h, i, & j. Passed.

g. Office renovation. Marx & Koehn explained new layout.

h. discussion – 5,000 trees to be planted. A large part of planting will be at ball parks, next to IRPC range.

i. Cold storage at Canoe Museum – 24X24 garage totally at their expense. They are in process of getting plans to state. Committee has approved this item. Will not cost City anything.

j. Certified Survey Map near Highway H. Roundhouse Road was never dedicated. Stopped at south line of Railroad ownership. Several owners. Creating several lots, one will be for storm water. Set land aside for future land development.

Motion (Dunn/Stelter) to approve items g, h, i, and j. Passed.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- a) **2010 Budget & Room Tax Budget;**

Dunn reported on this line item. Two constraints, levy cap & expenditure restraint. Because we were able to keep within expenditure restraint, there is \$50,000 for 2012 budget.

Cuskey thanked staff for giving information in a useable & readable format from which to make decisions.

Room Tax – proposing a 10% cut from what was given last year. The budget was held to \$38,000. There are no extra funds to spend. It was difficult to tighten belt.

Motion (Gabriel/Dunn) to approve room tax at \$38,000. Passed.

- b) **Resolution 10-13, 10/5/2010 Resolution to Join Great Lakes Utilities, A Municipal Electric Company (2011 cost \$3,582);**

Informal relationship with 10 other utilities in area. Several have banded together & are called Great Lakes Utilities (GLU). There was a significant increase in Xcel rates, therefore we are just reviewing all options. GLU buys, sells & produces electricity on open market. We will be a member, but not necessarily buy from market. \$3,582 to join. It is to have an alternative to a source of electricity for purchase & have some flexibility. Fee is similar to what we pay to MEUW, an organization that assists Municipal Electrical companies. Cost would come out of utility funds. Banding together for more buying power. Each community can be apart of individual projects, such as hydro power only or renewable only.

Motion (Dunn/Mortier) to approve resolution 10-13, 10/5/2010 Resolution to Join Great Lakes Utilities, a Municipal Electric Company (2011 cost \$3,582). Passed.

- c) **Centennial Celebration;**

December 11th is Mayors Ball.

- d) **Applications for Licenses: Two year Operator's Licenses – October 5, 2010 – June 30, 2012 for: Danielle Marie Todd;**

Motion (Schluter/Stelter) conditional approval on Danielle Marie Todd for two year license. Passed.

- e) **Proposal from Infratech to clean & televise 4,000 feet of trunkline sanitary sewer \$14,357;**

In preparing Walnut & Bashaw project, sewer was scoped. Most of sewers gather in this intersection feed to City's sanitary system. Staff has already video taped pipe, but could only go so far. It is anticipated that there is a lot of

sand or sediment & needs to be cleaned out. It is also a good idea to have them clean other large sewer mains as they have never been done. This will be a sewer cost, not a general fund cost.

Motion (Schluter/Dohm) to approve proposal from Infratech to clean & televise 4,000 feet of trunk line sanitary sewer for \$14,357. Passed

f) Proposed Revisions to 1996 Agreement to Create & Operate a Joint Municipal Fire Protection District;

Cuskey feels 1996 was a great thing to have done, but agreement now needs a little housekeeping.

Marx noted that Long Lake was listed, but is crossed off. This is one of housekeeping that needs to be cleaned up. November 4th there is another District meeting. Marx was appointed by Mayor (three mayors ago) to District board as a City representative, but agreement says it should be an elected official. This is another change to have document reflect real life. Charges are based on population, equalized value of land, & equalized value of improvements & personal property. There are several changes such as was just discussed.

Vik spoke briefly, just cleaning up language. Original agreement was when everyone was unsure of how it would work. Now looking at agreement & seeing that it needs adjustment.

Motion (Schluter/Dohm) to approve revisions to 1996 Agreement to Create & Operate a Joint Municipal Fire Protection District. Passed.

9. **STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:**

a) Financial Report August;

Motion (Schluter/Dohm) to approve the financial report for August 2010. Passed.

b) Chief's Report - incidents during September 2010;

Chief Andrea gave report. Not successful in COPS Grant Application. Will try again in 2011. School lock down September 21st for practice. Other issues to look at with new school. New weapons - old ones were 8 years old – sights almost gone. 120 traffic stops, 57 written & 50 verbal warnings.

Officers will be apart of Jack-O-Lantern festivities. Officers did training for re-certification.

EVOK training by Andrea & Christman. 1320 contacts in September. The officers do a good job!

c) BID Report;

No activity at this point. A lot of compliments on flowers this year!

10. **Adjournment:**

Motion (Mortier/Schluter) to adjourn. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Debbie Koehn

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor