

# REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Sep 7, 21 5:00 PM, in Council Chambers

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mayor Cuskey called mtg to order at 5:00 pm.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 8 present
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;  
Vicki Shaffer, property owner, addressed concerns that there is no sidewalk by McDonalds, supports having sidewalk. Scott Tice resides on South River Bay also addressed need for sidewalk by McDonalds.
- 5) Mayor's Comments;  
Mayor introduced & welcomed Jodi Wickham, Administrative Assistant. Jodi will join office staff.
- 6) Approval of Agenda;  
Motion (Gabriel/Ortmann) 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, in which event item will be removed from General Order of Business & considered at this point to agenda.
  - a) \*Accept Minutes from 8/3/21 Council Mtg;
  - b) \*Approve monthly payables cks: 46371-46524, 20210803, 20210809, 20210820, 21072701-21072705, 21081001-21081004, 21082401-21082406, 202108201-202108204;
  - c) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Park Permit Requests: Railroad Park–Spooner Woman's Club, 9/3/21 from 12-3 pm, Railroad Park Pavilion–Spooner Hunter Education, 9/8/21 from 6-7 p.m., Centennial Park–Trinity Lutheran Church, 9/12/21 from 12-3 pm, College St Park Shelter/Play Area–Judy & Bill Lewis, 9/18/21 from 1-4 pm, Railroad Park Pavilion–Spooner Garden Club, 9/23/21 from 11 am-4 pm;
  - d) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Write off 2020 Personal Property Tax Graphic Wood Technologies, \$569.38;
  - e) \*Safety & Licensing Committee Recommendation to Approve Reserve Class B Combination Liquor License 10/1/21–6/30/22 for Moe Miller Post 12;Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to approve items a–e on consent agenda. PASSED.
- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
  - a) Solar Project Ribbon Cutting 10-21-21, 1:30 P.M.;  
Marx reported solar project has been online since mid-June. AEP would like to have ribbon cutting ceremony on 10/21/21 at 1:30 pm. Currently, the solar is producing 13% of our power, and we have a 30 year contract with them.
  - b) Updated State-Municipal Agreement for River St Project;  
Marx reported updated State-Municipal Agreement decreased about \$60,000 for city's portion of project. Also, city's costs is maxed out for sidewalk & storm sewer portion. Water, sewer & storm sewer are at 78% grant funded. Sidewalk, street lights & O'Reilly driveway will be 56% grant funded. Plans are 100% complete. City has project fully funded.
  - c) Finance Committee Recommendation to Proceed With Electric Rate Case Application to include River St Lighting with Grant Funds Applied, Bucket Truck \$275,000, Wage Increases & \$1.2 Million High Speed Protection for Sub Stations;  
Marx reported last electric rate increase was in 2011. Rate case will included street lights for River St with grant funds applied, bucket truck, wage increase to be more complete with surrounding utilities & high speed protection for sub-stations. We will submit information to Wisconsin Public Service Commission & they will come up with projected rates. There will be a formal hearing prior to rates going into effect. Motion (Dunn/Donovan) to proceed with electric rate case. PASSED.
  - d) WIEDC Grant for 422 N Front Street, Site Plan, Remediation, Demolition;  
Marx explained we received notice that we were awarded WIEDC grant, but have not received grant agreement, anticipate receiving same in next week or two. Motion (Reiter/Parker) to approve site plan & Railroad Park Board would like to add a band shell to plan. PASSED. Marx stated remediation cost will be \$23,483. Marx has spoken to a couple local contractors that could do work in November. Motion (Reiter/Donovan) to approve \$23,482 for remediation. PASSED.
  - e) Amendment to Section 74-93(b) ATV Restrictions;  
Marx explained according to our ordinance Highway K is a designated route. Washburn County Highway Commissioner asked that we specifically list Hwy K as a route. Motion (Coquillette/Parker) to approve amending ATV Restriction ordinance. PASSED.
  - f) 2022 Budget Mtgs;  
Upcoming mtgs: Room Tax Commission–9/14<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. followed by Finance at 8:30.
  - g) K-9 Project;  
Marx reported Safety & Licensing held discussion about K-9 project. Want to make Council aware that there are costs involved with training. Chief Christman will gather cost estimates.
  - h) Quote for 2022 Durango K-9 Vehicle;  
Marx reported we received a quote of \$31,337.00, from Swant Graber Motors, for replacement of K-9 squad.
  - i) Authorize Circuit Court Law Suit declaring 706 Benjamin St a Public Nuisance;  
Attorney Kohler reported Safety & Licensing has been addressing issue. Municipal Court ordered clean-up, they appeared in court, pled guilty & was assessed a forfeiture. City code has option to declare property a public nuisance. Kohler suggests to file in circuit court declaring public nuisance & file a temporary injunction against Colegrove & Straits. We could recoup expense by applying a special charge or special assessment on property. Motion (Gabriel/Donovan) to declare 706 Benjamin St a Public Nuisance & authorize Attorney Kohler to move forward with lawsuit. PASSED.
  - j) City Redistricting Due to Census;  
Marx & Lyons-Hartwig met with the Washburn County Mapper. Currently, we have 4 aldermanic districts that correspond with city's wards. They are trying to compact townships down to one aldermanic district. We might have to change boundaries of wards, if not there might be 2 aldermanic districts within a ward. Council consensus is to refer to Finance Committee.
  - k) Approve Resolution 21-14, 9/7/2021 Garbage Rates;  
Marx reported per our contract, we will see a 3% increase with Republic & 18% increase for City. Overall a 6% increase. City clean-up days are becoming very expensive. Motion (Donovan/Parker) to approve Resolution 21-14, Garbage Rates. PASSED.

- l) LP Corporation Grant Opportunity;  
Marx received a call from an employee, from LP, regarding LP Corporation Grant Opportunity. They have a grant opportunity for \$15,000 & would like to give \$5000 each to Shell Lake, Spooner & Hayward. Marx suggested referring it to Friends of the Railroad Park (FORP). Council consensus is to defer to FORP.
- m) Sidewalk at Intersection of River & Maple;  
Marx reached out to WI Dept of Transportation. WI DOT indicated this was not good timing, plans are 100% complete, but will look into it. City would be responsibility for paying for sidewalk. Also, reached out to McDonalds, but have not heard back. Dunn stated we should ask McDonald's to install a sidewalk. Council will continue to pursue.
- n) Change to Website Address;  
Krista Lyons-Hartwig explain that all WI municipalities will be required go with .gov email address & .gov website. Reached out to BeeLine, they will do work to convert everything over. Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to change website address to .gov & set it up that .org will redirect to new website. PASSED.
- 10) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
- a) Financial Report Jul 21;  
Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to accept Jul 21 financial report. PASSED.
- b) Chief's Report;  
Chief Christman reported Jack Pine took place without any problems. Spooner Police Foundation purchased training equipment for Spooner PD, to be used for defense & arrest tactics. This equipment will allow us to train in-house & host training for other officers & agencies. Working on our 2022 budget. Chief attended Community First mtg & met with school personnel regarding school safety plan. Officers responded to a number of domestic calls, continued concentrated traffic enforcement in areas where speeding & other violations are being observed. Officers have responded to an increase number of traffic crashes & have made a number of drug-related arrests, including an OWI in which suspected heroin use contributed to incident. Officers administered Narcan to a subject who overdosed.
- c) BID Report;  
Dunn reported downtown is doing very well. Learned from Beth Cunningham there will be five (5) phases to highway project, working on signage. Advertising will evolve around highway project.
- d) NWRPC Liaison Report;  
Coquillet reported no mtg this month. They have a lot of new money from ARPA funds.
- e) Railroad Park Update;  
Reiter reported submitting an article to newspaper. Received official notice from IRS that 501(c)(3) status was approved. Annual Ukulele event was well attended. Board discussed & would like to paint the Roundhouse windows. Northland Paint Supply has offered paint at a reduced price. Al Jones painted all hardware on Roundhouse. A Kiosk will be installed at pavilion, along with a rules sign. Donations continue to come in. Council viewed a YouTube video of park.
- f) Library Liaison Report;  
Gagnon reported library continues to be a hub of activities. Received 3 bids for feasibility study. SEH was awarded bid for \$14,800. Board discussed making an application for ARPA to fund a book mobile. Books & Bread served 822 individuals and 6,275 pounds of food in June & July. Compassion kitchen served 76 individuals in July. Community First awarded \$6,000 to library from Spooner Health Golf fundraiser. Highlighted events & activities. September is library card sign up month.
- 11) ADJOURNMENT;  
Motion (Parker/Ortmann) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 6:27 pm.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor  
Patricia Parker, City Clerk