

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Nov 2, 2021 5:00 PM, or immediately following 2022 Budget Hearing

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mayor Cuskey called mtg to order at 5:04 p.m.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 7 present, 1 absent (Gabriel)
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;  
None.
- 5) Mayor's Comments;  
Winter parking ordinance in effect Nov 1 – Mar 31, no parking from 2a.m. – 6a.m. Reminded residents there is no burning leaves or yard waste within City limits at any time. Fall Clean-up Day is Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. Jack O' Lantern Fest and Halloween were good events with no issues and many families around. Veteran's Day is Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and it is an important day to observe and to thank a vet for their service.
- 6) Approval of Agenda;  
Motion (Reiter/Donovan) to approve agenda. PASSED.
- 7) CONSENT AGENDA:  
\*\*All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered at this point to the agenda.
  - a) \*Accept Minutes from 10/05/21 Council Mtg;
  - b) \*Approve new hotel sign to include Best Western and Country House Motel, Best Western to have top of sign or larger portion of sign, and Best Western will pay half of cost to replace;
  - c) \*Approve monthly payables cks: 46645-46739, 20211004, 202111007, 20211019-20211021, 21100501-21100504, 21102001-21102006;
  - d) \*Finance and Municipal Operations Committees Recommendation Not to Accept "No Fault Sewer Backup Coverage";
  - e) \*Approve Bowmar Assessment Contract Renewal with \$14,000 in 2022 and \$14,200 in 2023;
  - f) \*Approve 2022 Health Insurance Rates with WEA Trust;
  - g) \*Approve Story Hour Request from Spooner Library at City Park;
  - h) \*Deny Street Light Request at 1340 Northland Drive;
  - i) \*Approve Removing Half Pipe at Eastland Park;
  - j) \*Approve Operator's License: Sierra Stanley;
  - k) \*Approve Pawnbroker License: Card Castle, Max Anderson with presentation of the required \$500 surety bond to City Hall;Ortmann asked for more information on items h and i.  
Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to approve items a - k on consent agenda. PASSED.
- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
  - a) 2022 Budget;  
Motion (Dunn/Donovan) to approve 2022 Budget as presented at Budget Hearing. PASSED.
  - b) Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve bid award \$60,900 to Antczak Construction for Post Office Demo project;  
Motion (Ortmann/Parker) to accept bid from Antczak Construction for \$60,900. PASSED.
  - c) Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Painting First Street Water Tower, \$62,500 in 2022;  
Contractor who has done 90 percent of painting for City has mentioned we can get 1 more year of paint for water tower after that manufacturer will no longer produce it. Recommend we paint next year and we should be good for 10 years. New manufactured paint will not stick to old paint and it would cost \$1 million to prep water tower. The cost would be comparable to constructing new water tower. We can plan ahead by setting funds aside for replacement water tower in 10 years.  
Motion (Coquillette/Reiter) to approve contract for painting First Street Water Tower at \$62,500.
  - d) Dec Committee Meetings Date: Dec 21, 2021;  
Move meetings to the week prior to the holidays. No issues reported.
  - e) Safety & Licensing Committee Recommendation to Discuss Junk Property Issues: 708 S Front St. and 302 Walnut St.;  
Committee discussed issues and wanted City Attorney opinion regarding options. No current building permit; has been reissued three times. No one has been inside residence. Chief will be citing property owner for other issues. Raze order can be issued if normal construction has ceased with a building for more than two years. Give notice to finish construction and remove nuisance or city will raze and issue special charge on property taxes. City Attorney will wait to send letter until Council directs him. Chief Christman and building inspector will attempt inspection of property.  
302 Walnut St – reportedly been advertising as rooms available to rent. No one appears to be living there at this point. There is no building permit issued for property. Commercial property can't have living quarters in lower level. There has been no permit from the State. Building interior doesn't look habitable. Can't reach anyone to ask questions. Appears as though the corporation frequently change their registered agent. Will attempt to send a letter to verify the rumors, express the City's concerns and determine their intent with proposed occupancy plans. Request owners speak with City Hall to discuss their options and set up appointment with building inspector.
- 9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
  - a) Financial Report Sept 2021;  
Motion (Reiter/Donovan) to accept monthly financial report for Sept 2021. PASSED.
  - b) Chief's Report;  
Collected 17#s of unwanted medication on National Drug Take Back Day. Planning to participate again in April. Always have available at PD the medication lock boxes and home drug disposal packets. Fall Clean-up day is 11/6 and Chief is issuing citations and informing residents who are in violation of our junk ordinance prior to clean-up day. Halloween was successful event with 500 plus stopping at PD. Interviews were held for K9 Handler; Austin Tucker has accepted the position. Starts training on February 7<sup>th</sup> and will obtain dog December or January. Congratulations to Austin. Held department meeting and all full-time employees were in attendance. Department has issued numerous OWIs. Special traffic enforcement was done, in construction zone on Hwy 63, after speed complaints from construction crew. Officers have been monitoring ATV-UTV traffic especially on Roundhouse Rd. after damage to RR Park parking lot were reported. Officers conducted a search for a missing juvenile, who was found and reunited with parents. Special Response Team engaged in joint training with members from Sawyer and Burnett Counties. As of October 29<sup>th</sup>, 163 cases, 733 contacts for a total of 896.
  - c) BID Report;

No bid report.

d) NWRPC Liaison Report;

Remove from agenda. The City's census has slipped under 2,500 and we are no longer eligible to have a seat on the NWRPC board. There are COVID funds available and has been extended into 2022. Start-up business funds are also still available.

e) Railroad Park Update;

Repaired and painted chip board covering the windows. Outdoor projects have been halted due to cold weather. Have been notified of successful grant application from LP Foundation Community Grant. Total received is \$6,144.18. Funds will pay for walkway from pavilion to parking lot, work on fence around turntable and control building. Jon Alesch has been welcomed as 7<sup>th</sup> member. Mayor mentioned next push will be to build band shell, which will enhance usage and welcome more events to park. Reiter has done a great job spearheading this project. Reiter thanked City for lights. RR car was moved, so that we could demolish old post office. Great partnership is developing with museum and Vreeland.

f) Library Liaison Report;

Board continues to follow CDC masking recommendations for COVID protocol. Programs are moving back inside library, because of weather. S E H is recommending a 21,208 square feet building, compared to 5,000 square feet current library. Board has scrapped some of their recommendations and Angie will go back to S E H with board's suggestions. Angie had applied for ARPA funds to purchase a book mobile, but now purchase price that was \$65,000 is now \$95,000. Angie is going to town boards to request consideration of funding to help with increase. Library is going to become a host site for a community garden bed through WashCo Grows project. There will be 10 raised vegetable garden beds throughout the city. People will be able to take the vegetables. Library has been selected (1 out of 4 total in the state) to be a part of WI Humanities (WH) - Community Powered (CP) pilot that focuses on local libraries as host institutions where young coordinators are trained and paid by WH, will partner with librarians, and work with local community. Additional \$15,000 in funding over 2 year period. Water fountain is working again at a cost of \$4,000, half of cost provided by individual who did work. Continuing Books and Bread, Compassion Kitchen and Community First programs, which are serving and feeding a lot of people in the community. Interior building cracks have increased slightly from July 2020 to October 2021. Amount of traffic in September was slightly above same time last year.

10) ADJOURNMENT;

Motion (Donovan/Ortmann) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer