

**REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Dec 7, 2021 5:00 PM**

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mayor Cuskey called the mtg to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 8 present
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;  
None.
- 5) Sheriff Candidate Warren Tuttle Presentation;  
Running for Washburn Co. Sheriff. Has worked as a Washburn County Deputy for 7 yrs, total of 15 yrs' experience in law enforcement. Business management degree. Decided to run for sheriff and has 3 steps of his foundation. Community relations: talking with people, being aware of their concerns. Relations with other agencies within county EMS and Fire Dept., communication between agencies. Relationships with citizens by hosting community events/meetings, responding to emails and phone calls. Have public meetings twice a year. Recruitment, retention and training: find right people to fit into dept., provide ongoing training. Transparency – people want to know what is happening in County, what are the problems that community's face. Tuttle took questions and gave out contact information.
- 6) Mayor's Comments;  
It is time of year to remind residents of parking regulations and has noticed there are several places where plow had to go around vehicles. City Ordinance - vehicles are not permitted on streets between 2–6am. Sidewalks need to be kept clear – shovel within 24 hours of snow fall. Christmas is coming and I encourage residents to decorate their premise, but be mindful of fire hazards. Governor Evers was in Spooner today and visited the ice arena. He awarded grants to Indianhead Art Center and the amateur hockey team as part of a larger federal grant that was dispersed to states to award funds. Grants were to assist with revenue losses that incurred over last few years with Covid pandemic. He toured facility. Fun to see Governor in Spooner.
- 7) Approval of Agenda;  
Motion (Reiter/Parker) to approve agenda. PASSED.
- 8) 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 item will be removed from General Order of Business and considered at this point to agenda.
  - a) \*Accept Minutes from Nov 2, 2021 Council Mtg;
  - b) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve monthly payables checks: 46740 – 46848, 20211103, 20211109, 20211119, 20211120,20211122, 21110301 – 21110304, 21111701 - 21111706;
  - c) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve bid as is for Highway 63 Project;
  - d) \*Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve a 2% increase for all non-union employees and if PSC approves rate case, increase Utility Department total wage to \$5.00 per hour total from 2021 current hourly rate;
  - e) \*Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve City investigate means to provide a differential for interdepartmental labor between city street department working for utility department;
  - f) \*Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve increasing building inspector contract to \$40/hr;
  - g) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Request for Temporary No Parking Sign, Thursdays High St by Civic Center for Garbage Pickup;
  - h) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to recommend Council approve Bucket Truck Quote from Altec for \$240,072.00;
  - i) \*Railroad Park Committee Recommendation to Approve Washburn Co community raised garden box at Railroad Park;Motion (Gagnon/Parker) to approve items a - i on consent agenda.  
Dunn requested item d be pulled to change wording: Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve a 2% Increase for all non-union employees and if PSC approves electric rate case, increase utility department's wage by \$5/hr total from current 2021 hourly rate. PASSED.
- 9) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
  - a) Approve Resolution 21-15, 12/07/2021, 2022 Budget Resolution;  
This is a formal step after budget was passed at budget hearing. It is same information.  
Motion (Dunn/Gabriel) to approve Resolution 21-15, 12/07/2021, 2022 Budget Resolution. PASSED.
  - b) Approve Resolution 21-16, 12/07/2021, 2022 Library Levy Exemption;  
Motion (Gagnon/Donovan) to approve Resolution 21-16, County Library Levy Exemption for 2022. PASSED.
  - c) Appoint Election Inspectors for 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2023 term – Nadene Cable, Mary Beth Andrea, Vicki Cariolano, Mary Chido, Kathy Focht, Jocelyn Ford, Paul Johnson, Josephine Marx, Mary Matthews, Dee Ann McLellan, Jean Parker, Patricia Parker and Ruth Ulvilden-Klaas;  
Motion (Reiter/Donovan) to approve appointing above listed election inspectors for 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2023 term. PASSED.
  - d) Approve 2022 Durango Purchase for Canine Vehicle \$39,650 previously(9/21/21) approved \$31,337 for 2021 Model no longer available;  
In September, we approved spending \$31,337 for 2021 Durango and model is no longer available. Tomorrow is deadline to order 2022 Durango at cost of \$39,650.  
Motion (Reiter/Parker) to approve purchase of 2022 Durango for Canine Vehicle for \$39,650. Roll Call: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. PASSED.
  - e) Hiring Part Time Police Officers;  
Gabriel and Chief did interview for part-time officer and have decided they would like to hire Noah Anderson. He currently works part-time for Barron and Chetek and has been in law enforcement for year. Will need to do background investigation before offering position to him.  
Motion (Gabriel/Parker) to hire Noah Anderson for part time police officer. PASSED.  
Marx – considering the current situation with law enforcement and finding part time officers. Would like Council to consider authorizing Chief, Captain and Alderman Gabriel to hire part-time officers and doing background checks between council mtgs with understanding that hiring still needs to be ratified by Council.  
Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to accept the recommendation from Marx authorizing Gabriel, Chief Christman and Captain Kronberger to hire part-time officers between Council mtgs and be ratified after hiring. PASSED.
- 10) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
  - a) Financial Report October 2021;  
Motion (Reiter/Parker) to accept monthly financial report for Oct 2021. PASSED.
  - b) Chief's Report;

Taking applications for officers. Did speak to Noah Anderson today for part-time. Appreciates everyone voting in favor of ordering the 2022 Durango. We have received information on our new K9. He is Belgian Shepherd. St. Paul Police Foundation viewed six dogs on our behalf, went through a series of tests, and chose best dog to our specifications. Expect dog will be here next week. Training starts in Feb and will last fourteen weeks. Should be in service before Memorial Day. Training is every Monday – Friday with weekend off to return home. Training in Nov for narcotics. No mtg during the month. Officers assisted with evacuations at SMS and everything went as planned; it went great. Investigated two different deaths in city. Responded to a complaint at McDonald's for disorderly contact, which led to a drug charge. Officers arrested a subject for 3<sup>rd</sup> offense OWI with child in vehicle. Subject was taken into custody on emergency detention. Over deer season, investigated illegal hunting in City limits. Three subjects were cited for violation and were also issued DNR violations. Deer was confiscated. Number of calls with probation violations. Trying to address winter parking violations. Have issued citations. 159 cases, 829 contacts for total of 988.

c) BID Report;

Dunn – mtg didn't have quorum, so nothing accomplished at mtg. Downtown area looks beautiful and wanted to thank Sallie Lindstrom and her group for all of their work decorating and helping with garland.

d) Railroad Park Update;

Approved Community raised garden box in summer. Landscaping continues to be discussed. Applied for DOA grant for playground equipment. Pickleball will most likely not be at RR Park. Looking at band shell design and looking to start fundraising soon. Mayor acknowledged that Terry deserves a lot of credit for time and effort she puts forth, she does incredible job and is pulse of RR Park.

e) Library Liaison Report;

Banner week at library. Had a staff member who was in close contact with Covid and is in isolation. Break room is currently being remodeled and floor is done, furniture is rearranged, new refrigerator installed. Gives employees a nice place to take break and eat their lunch. With Library's feasibility study, there was a new proposed layout at the current location, extending in different directions to utilize space. Angie has met with area townships to see if they can help fund remodeling, but they don't have available funds. Have hired a couple of new employees. Lana Cummings is in training and also hired a student to help on Saturdays. Library attendance in October was 4,537, which is down from previous month. Have previously mentioned library wanted to start a book mobile, Angie just received an email that grant was award to fund entire book mobile for \$97,000. IFLS library system applied for one grant on behalf of 3 library systems. NWLS received funds to distribute to libraries within their system. With those funds, Spooner Library will be receiving their book trike, at no cost, for community outreach. Spooner was selected as one of 4 libraries within the State to be selected for WI Humanities/Community Powered, which will receive \$15,000 stipend to be used towards that program. Michelle Stone has agreed to join board for vacancy. Angie has done a tremendous job for library and does great with obtaining grants.

**10) ADJOURNMENT;**

Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer