

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Jan 4, 2022 5PM

- 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER; Mayor Cuskey called mtg to order at 5:07 p.m.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 7 present, 1 absent
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;
None.
- 5) Mayor's Comments;
Happy New Year, time is flying by. Reminder of off-street parking between hours of 2am - 6am, no parking on any city street between those hours. Sidewalks are to be kept clear. Special night to recognize Pati Parker. Worked for City for 13.5 years. She did a magnificent job, always very helpful, grateful for your service. We wish you and Jeff well as you enter next chapter. Words can't express gratitude and appreciation we have for Pati and her hard work and dedication. Parker thanked mayor and council for opportunity to serve city. Congratulations. *Mayor presented Parker with gift for her service.*
- 6) Approval of Agenda;
Motion (Parker/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 Dec 7, 2021 Council Mtg;
 - b) *Municipal Operations and Railroad Park Committees Recommendation to Approve Park Permit Request – Railroad Park Pavilion 07/23/2022 11am-4pm Reunion and Spooner Railroad Park Pavilion and Parking Lot, August 27, 2022, Northwood's Ukulele Festival, requested by Spooner Memorial Library;
Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to approve items a - b on consent agenda. PASSED.
- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
 - a) Spooner Memorial Library Board request for Mayor to Appoint Michelle Stone to library board to fill vacancy; Motion (Ortmann/Reiter) to appoint Michelle Stone to Library Board to fill vacancy. PASSED.
 - b) Approve Utility Write-Offs of \$204.32;
Utility will attempt collect through WI TRIP. Two accounts. Much less than in previous years.
Motion (Dunn/Parker) to approve Utility Write-offs of \$204.32. PASSED.
 - c) Clarification of Minutes from 4/8/21 Regular Council Mtg Item t, that the Spruce Street Award of Bids from Monarch Paving in amount of \$63,580 for Paving Portion and to Pember Companies for Sidewalk and Curb and Gutter Portion in amount of \$38,190.25 were for Spruce St LRIP Project, Partially Funded Through WI DOT as specified in Advertisement for Bids Which was Published on March 4, 2021 and March 21, 2021, further clarifying that we received one bid for paving and 2 bids for Sidewalk and Curb & Gutter and that bids were awarded to lowest responsible bidders;
On 4/8/21 we awarded projects, like we normally do, to low bidder in one motion. We need to make it clearer and award as advertised. We had to send to State, ad for bids, copies of minutes with the award, copies of checks, copy of publication affidavit. Highway commissioner recommended we clarify minutes for the process and to be awarded reimbursement. DOT has accepted information forwarded and City will receive \$16,700.
Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to approve clarification of Minutes from 4/8/2021 Regular Council Mtg Item t, that Spruce St Award of Bids from Monarch Paving in amount of \$63,500 for paving portion and to Pember Companies for sidewalk and curb and gutter portion in amount of \$38,190.25 were for Spruce St LRIP project, partially funded through WI DOT as specified in the advertisement of bids which was published on 03-04-2021 and 03-21-2021. PASSED.
 - d) Plan Commission Recommendation to Deny Conditional Use Kennel License for 733 Lafollette St;
Ortmann spoke about being too rigid about our policies, not being inviting. We don't want to be gated community with high fees for chickens and having too many dogs. She came from country, bought house, realtor didn't say anything about dog limit. Now she is leaving City in two days and selling her house. Dunn - Most kennel license requests have been approved in City. Reiter explained proceedings from mtg. Neighbors were concerned with number of dogs, she did have testimony for her character, but this wasn't about her character. A lot of opposition for this kennel license. Dunn - rules are important to have to coexist together. Coquillette reiterated that this was most opposition we have ever had for kennel license. Usually issues can be resolved between neighbors. The dogs are nuisance to neighbors.
Motion (Reiter/Donovan) to accept recommendation from Planning Commission to deny conditional use kennel license for 733 Lafollette Street. 5 yes, 2 opposed, 1 absent. PASSED.
 - e) Post Office Park Discussion;
Artist concept has archway as close to center of Walnut Street as possible, but placement would be too close to a sewer main and will need to be moved about 10' south. Will still be visible from sidewalks. Deadline to complete project is mid-2024. Electric car charging stations will be placed on edge of old postal building. 400' of curb and gutter will be replaced at cost of \$25-30 a foot which will be in spring. Will have time to do project in 2023 and the price may be less for curb in 2023. Build the gateway in 2022. Old postal building sewer/water lines need to be capped. Construction will be done in 2023 and have complete by 2024. Grant has us locked in for project concept.
 - f) Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Proposal From Cooper Engineering for Plans for Gateway Building;
Artist sketch for gateway will be designed by Cooper Engineering; this will give contractors an actual drawing with details. Cooper did design for pavilion. Cost will be \$6,300.
Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to approve proposal from Cooper Engineering for plans for Gateway building. 7 yes votes, 1 absent. PASSED.
 - g) Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Capacity Contract Amendment with AEP;
Would ensure City's energy capacity needs would be filled until 2031. Currently, city needs additional megawatts beyond 2025/2026.
Motion (Gagnon/Coquillette) to approve capacity contract amendment with AEP. PASSED.
 - h) Recommendation to offer Noah Anderson Full Time Police Patrol Position subject to completing Spooner's FTO Program and Probationary Period;
Chief – was looking to hire Anderson for a part-time position, but full-time position opened up and since there are not many available cadets or officers, would like to hire him full-time. Afraid if we don't make a decision quickly, we will lose this opportunity. Captain and chief feel strongly that he will fit in with department. There is a shortage of good candidates.

Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to approve Noah Anderson for full time police patrol position subject to completing Spooner's FTO program and probationary period. PASSED.

- i) Approve Monthly Payables Checks 46849-47008, 20211203, 20211220, 20211222, 21121401-21121405, 21122801-21122805, 202112031-202112034, 202112141-202112143;

Motion (Dunn/Donovan) to approve monthly payables. PASSED.

- j) River St Project;
Nothing new - no discussion needed.

9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:

- a) Financial Report Nov 2021;

Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to accept monthly financial report for Nov 2021. PASSED.

- b) Chief's Report;

Received our new K9 and training starts Feb 7, 2022 for K9 and handler. He is 14 mths old. Handler Austin Tucker is starting to work with dog. Complete training will be done in May. No additional training to be completed. Background check is being conducted on Noah Anderson. Received letter of resignation from Officer Kafura. Conducting year-end evaluations. Held department meeting and some officers had firearm qualifications. Horsch attending training. Officers responded to complaint of students smoking marijuana and a rifle was located in vehicle. Multiple investigations ongoing for incident of road rage, prescription fraud case involving two Spooner pharmacies, child abuse case and student threatening other students with a knife. Officers have made a number of OWI arrests as well as drug possession. Responded to a house fire and assisted with evacuations. In response to a Nationwide TikTok threat, have increased presence at local schools. Received multiple medical calls, lift assists and lock-outs. 319 cases and 521 contacts. Chief explained difference between case vs contacts.

- c) BID Report;

No mtg in Dec. Downtown looked beautiful. Will start meeting to discuss how to direct people to Spooner during road construction. Bid will need to provide signs to let people know. DOT will allow signage in. Flowers will most like be placed on Walnut St and looking at how to maintain pots. No hanging baskets in 2022. Main focus is construction project and keep tourists coming. Question raised by Parker about limiting truck length for parking on Walnut. Driving on Walnut St can be difficult when longer vehicles angle park and it makes for a narrow passage especially during winter with snow banks. Marx referred to other committee to discuss.

- d) Railroad Park Update;

Postponing park development around old post office until after Hwy 63 project. Nice donations received at end of the year with encouraging words. We are not ready to develop Roundhouse. Developing subcommittees for landscaping and bandshell. Landscaping to include pathway from parking lot to pavilion. Community bandshell accessible from Front Street. There is still a lot of happening. Mayor thanked Terri for her hard work and we are grateful for her work.

- e) Library Liaison Report;

No board mtg in Dec. Books and Bread will continue in 2022. Compassion Kitchen has a steady stream of clientele. Jan 11th author and vet Dave Mills is providing program with new book Cow Tales. Angie working on year end stats.

10) ADJOURNMENT;

Motion (Parker/Ortmann) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer