

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 5:00 PM, in Council Chambers

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mtg called to order at 5pm by Mayor Cuskey.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 5 members present, 3 absent
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;
John Steigerwaldt, 1700 Pine Dr, read a letter on behalf of residents, who reside within Pine Drive subdivision and were also present. They submitted letter and documentation in opposition of proposed campground to be located in Town of Beaver Brook. Their concerns were impacts to home value, county zoning not addressing residents' concerns, increased dust, noise and safety issues along Wild Rivers Trail and going against City's Comprehensive Plan for future land use. Allowed Mr. Steigerwaldt to speak for approximately 10 mins.
- 5) Presentation by Dr. David Aslyn, Spooner Area School District;
Thanked Council for opportunity to present. SASD is including operational expense referendum, to levy past levy limit for 3 yrs, on April 4th ballot. Dr. Aslyn introduced what funds would be used for. It is non-recurring referendum. Expressed how SASD got into this situation with State decreasing general aid over 40% over past 3 yrs. The cost of approved referendum is \$34.71 for every \$100k property value. Have been fiscally responsible with reducing teachers and staff where possible, lowering health insurance costs for employees, etc...School district is the 3rd largest employer in the County. What's at stake is reduced academic offerings, extra-curricular activities, increased class sizes, postponed maintenance. Etc.....
- 6) Swear In Police Captain Robert Darwin;
Mayor introduced our newest officer, Captain Robert "Bob" Darwin and did "Swearing In". Mayor Cuskey welcomed Bob to City.
- 7) Mayor's Comments;
Nothing to speak of other than loss of good friend and county chair, Tom Mackie. Tom was Council board member from April 1980 – April 2002 and a member of County board until his passing. Knew Tom very well and he will be missed. Appreciate all that he has done for our area. Condolences to his son, family and friends.
- 8) Approval of Agenda;
Motion (Reiter/Parker) to Approve Agenda. PASSED.
- 9) CONSENT AGENDA:
**All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered routine and will be enacted by 1 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 General Order of Business and considered at this point to agenda.
 - a) *Accept Mins from Feb 7, 2023 Council Mtg;
 - b) *Property Planning and Development Committee Recommendation to Approve Making Offer for First Right of Refusal to Harry Harwell, 409 High Street as Attorney Kohler has drafted;
 - c) *Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to allow WIDOT to place highway directional signs on City's light poles provided signs do not interfere with turn radius and after consultation with City personnel;
 - d) *Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to recommend Council Approve Temporary Street Closure: Spooner Rodeo Parade, July 8, 2023, 10am – 2pm;
 - e) *Municipal Operations and Railroad Park Committees Recommendation to Approve Park Permit, Wedding Rehearsal Gathering, Annette Heino, July 20,2023, 12-8 PM;
 - f) *Safety & License Committee Recommendation to Approve Law Enforcement Event Form and Require Submittal for all large events;Motion (Reiter/Gagnon) to Approve Consent Agenda, items a – f. PASSED.
- 10) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
 - a) Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to approve Request to have City Pay for Porta-Potties RR Park.;
Request by RR Park Board for City to pay for portable toilets at park. Getting more expensive and it would free up funds to be used for other projects. City would order toilets along with other city parks.
Motion (Coquillette/Ortmann) to Approve request to have City pay for porta-potties at RR Park. Roll call vote: 5 yes votes, 0 no votes and 3 absent. PASSED.
 - b) Safety & License Committee Recommendation to Approve Purchase of Visual Labs Body Cameras \$500 + \$3,300 per Yr- 1st Year Rebated;
Captain Kronberger presented Safety & License Committee with information on new body cameras. System is an exceptional and easy program and would work with Android phones and allow for better retention, storage and technology sharing. Captain believes he will be able to be rebated much of initial cost in 1st year. This is important purchase for our department and will protect our officers and City.
Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to approve purchase of Visual Labs Body Cameras for \$500 and \$3,300 per year. PASSED.
 - c) Approve monthly payables checks: 48647 – 48765, 9047909, 20230203, 20230215, 20230221, 23020701 – 23020705, 23022101 – 23022106, 202302171 - 202302173;
Motion (Gagnon/Reiter) to Approve monthly payable checks as presented. PASSED.
 - d) Plan Commission & Safety & License Committee Recommendation to Approve Creating Section 86-134(6), 86-165(6), 86-194(5) & 86-254(5) Correctional Community Placement Facility Pursuant to s.48.981 (1) (b) WI Stats.;
Clarify correctional community placement and their transition within city. Limits by zoning what areas can be used to place individuals.
Motion (Coquillette/Reiter) to Approve Creating Section 86-134(6), 86-165(6), 86-194(5) & 86-254(5) Correctional Community Placement Facility Pursuant to s.48.981 (1) (b) WI Stats. PASSED.
 - e) Liquid Lounge Liquor License;
Forms not completed as of meeting.
- 9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
 - a) Financial Report January 2023;
Motion (Reiter/Parker) to Accept January 2023 Financial Report. PASSED.
 - b) Chief's Report;
Last council report for Chief Christman. Right Track Program held their graduation ceremony. Many parents attended. Captain Kronberger has been doing end of year reviews with officers. Captain Darwin doing training in house and field officer training. Smooth transition expected. Marx, Darwin, Kronberger, and Chief conducted 2 part-time interviews. Sill moving forward looking for additional candidates. Chief Christman and Captain Kronberger working together on transition; currently going slow due to Captain being called away for patrol duties etc... Captain Kronberger designed new patch design for department. No meetings. Multiple officers have been attending various training. 94 cases and 841 contacts for total of 935 for month. Mayor commented for audience that small department is very busy and averages 1,000 contacts/month. Proud of our police department. We

consider our policing as proactive versus being reactive. Council and Mayor fully support officers and thank Jerry for his yrs of service. Chief Christman will be retiring at end of month and using his time off into July. He will have been with City of 26 yrs in July and total of 31 yrs in law enforcement.

c) BID Report;

No report, Dunn is absent.

d) Railroad Park Update;

Excited for spring. FORRP will be starting back up in April and is fundraising arm of RR Park. Farmers Market is approved to use RR Park if they need to use it, but they do have other ideas. Have applied for 2 grants, 1 for Vibrant Spaces and AARP grant, which will help pay for playground equipment and surface for that area. Working together with RR Museum for renewal of Heritage Days. Website has been improved and updated. www.spoonerrailroadpark.org. Gateway Park at old post office site, which will have sidewalk through park, picnic tables and electric car chargers. Marx displayed picture of Gateway Park concept. New sidewalk and curb on Front St. It will connect downtown with museum and park. Anticipated completion date is fall 2023. Grant, to help with the costs, is from WEDC. WEDC provides support and works in partnership with many businesses and organizations.

e) Library Liaison Report;

Bookmobile is on street thanks to Director Angie and her dedication, determination and hard work. Ribbon cutting ceremony for Bookmobile and its maiden voyage last week. First stop was Stone Lake and Town of Springbrook. Had 12 checkouts. Currently, there are 13 townships on board and three more in works. Will visit townships twice a month. Katy Larson is captain of ship. Bookmobile was made possible from grant and started as van from Florida. Excited to reach rural Washburn County. Hoping to take to schools and nursing homes. Really excited to have this additional resource and there are only 7 total in WI, none in northern region. Thankful to have it on road. Thursday Chad Lewis will be at library with Wisconsin's most haunted places. Having teen powered lock-in hosted in collaboration WI Humanities' Community Powered. Goal is to spark interest in teens and design community service projects. Gagnon highlighted the 2022 annual report and spoke of increasing circulation and patrons.

10) ADJOURNMENT;

Motion (Reiter/Ortmann) to adjourn the mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer