

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS  
Tues, Aug 1, 2023 5PM

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mtg called to order at 5pm by Mayor Cuskey.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 6 present, 2 absent.
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY; None.
- 5) Swear In Full Time Officer Dylan Foss; Mayor Cuskey swore in Officer Foss.
- 6) Mayor's Comments;  
Jack Pine Savage Days are this weekend. There is a 5K race, car show and other annual events return. Encourage people to get out and enjoy the entertainment. Reminder to keep lawns mowed.
- 7) Approval of Agenda;  
Motion (Parker/Gagnon) to Approve Agenda. PASSED.
- 8) CONSENT AGENDA:  
\*\*All items listed with asterisk (\*) are considered routine and will be enacted by 1 motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless 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 Mins from July 6, 2023 Council Mtg;
  - b) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve monthly payables checks: 49224 – 49336, 20230710, 23062801 – 23062805, 23071101 – 23071105 ;
  - c) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Jack Pine Savage Days Amended Closure Area Including N Front St;
  - d) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Investigate option of narrowing Ash St and enlarging blvd from Bashaw to First;
  - e) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Water Towers Maintenance Projects \$50k - \$60k;
  - f) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Permit for Big Truck Event 8/18/23 4-6 pm, City Parking Lot;
  - g) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation Authorize replacement of Utility ¾ Ton Pickup;
  - h) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Kwik Trip Parking Lot Site Plan;
  - i) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Amendment to Section 86-224(b)(8) Mobile Home Park Accessory Buildings;
  - j) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Amendment to Sections 86-682 & 86-766 Sign Fees;
  - k) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Deny Library Variance for Reduced Setback;
  - l) \*Property Planning and Development and Municipal Operations Committees Recommendation to Approve Ordering a Replacement Door for Centennial Park Restroom, \$3,580 with manual lock;
  - m) \*Property Planning and Development Committee Recommendation to Approve Placement of Job Trailer on Front St Parking Lot for WI DOT Bridge Replacement on STH 70 East;
  - n) \*Safety & License Committee Recommendation to Approve Operator's Licenses
    - Tarin L. McCullough
    - Kimberly A. Rizzo
    - Justin L Thompson
    - Kimberlee A HarrisMotion (Krueger/Parker) to Approve Consent Agenda, items a – n. PASSED.  
Dunn questioned item h. Kwik Trip plan is to add parking to existing employee parking lot, there will be sidewalk along Hwy 70 and a boulevard between sidewalk and curb. House to west is being demolished. Parking is for customers and employees. Should help with some congestion. Primarily for coworkers to park, make room for customers and provide alternate exit other than Hwy 70.
- 9) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
  - a) Ehlers Rate Case Virtual Presentation For Ash St. Project;  
Brian Roemer from Ehlers presented via Team Meeting. City requested help from Ehlers to help facilitate a water rate increase. Water Utility is governed by the PSC and they decide what rates will be. Ehlers looked at historical rate performance, depreciation and any PILT payments. They looked at last 5 yrs and 10 yrs in future. Last time City completed Conventional Rate Case was Jan 31, 2013. Last Simplified Rate Case was Feb 1, 2021. Typically, City's simplified rate cases have been around 3% increase. Discussed rate of return. Good news is City has been able to keep up with rate of return with frequent simplified rate cases and City is eligible for another simplified rate case. City looks to be good candidate for grant funds. Large project for City to be undertaking. Regarding water utility reserves, City is in good standing. City looks to be eligible for 60% of grant funds for project expenses. They looked at long range cash flow and Water Utility future projection. All-In debt Coverage – ratio looks good and is over required rate to qualify for borrowing. In 2024, estimated rate increase for customers is 8%. Eligible again in 2027 and 2030, rate increase looks to be 3% in both of those years. Ehlers is recommending City do simplified 8% rate adjustment and you are eligible according to PSC. Displayed graphic that showed projected rates with 8% increase, increase of average \$2.65 per user/month. Also, looked at rate comparison over entire planning period and compared 3 counties in area, Washburn, Burnett and Barron Cty, only for water bills. Result, of having 8% increase, rates are affordable and are comparable to area water utilities. You are eligible and it is recommended to follow through with simplified rate case with implementation date of 01/01/2024. Must be started by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to implement on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. City staff is really happy with how rates are calculated for project and it is much easier to prepare simplified rate case.
  - b) Action On Rate Case for Ash St. Project ;  
Motion (Dunn/Krueger) to Accept Recommendation from Ehlers to Prepare Simplified Rate Case. PASSED.
- 9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
  - a) Financial Rpt June 2023;  
Motion (Dunn/Krueger) to Accept Financial Rpt June 2023. PASSED.
  - b) Chief's Report;  
Department has been really busy with 2 events, Freedom Fest and Spooner Rodeo. Rodeo had record breaking attendance. No department meeting in July. Stolen vehicle reported after Rodeo Parade and pursuit took place shortly after report. Female taken into custody. Complaints of traffic back up continue. Took reports of mailboxes destroyed. SPD escorted large group of motorcyclists from American Legion, while they were in town visiting Veteran's Memorial. Total contacts 1,076. Mayor busy little place, keeping guys busy, thanked dept, and appreciate their efforts. Regarding traffic backup, DOT is aware and they are trying to adjust timers on traffic lights. There are cameras on traffic lights to monitor traffic.

c) BID Report;

These have been some of busiest months that we have ever had. There are a lot of people here. Things look great, including flowers and having bathrooms open. More promotional items being added.

d) Library Liaison Report;

Library is doing great. August has 24 programs scheduled. Nature programs really draw in people. Ukulele lessons started great, but numbers keep decreasing. Bookmobile will be at JPSDs. June check outs 6,600, down from pre-covid. There are 127 programs going, 64 are children's. Library is well populated. Food insecurities statistics for June, 475 individuals helping themselves through Books and Bread, Compassion Kitchen had 169 individuals taking advantage. 10,876 individuals have been served through library's food service.

10) ADJOURNMENT;

Motion (Parker/Gagnon) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer