

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS

Tues, Jan 2, 2024 5PM

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mtg called to order at 5pm by Mayor Cuskey.
- 2) ROLL CALL; 8 present
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;
None.
- 5) Mayor's Comments;
Mentioned new look of Council chambers. Wished everyone Happy New Year. Welcome to our new City Admin, Nick Koverman. Remind residents that when it snows to keep sidewalks clear. Christmas tree pickup will be through Jan on normal Fri garbage collection days.
- 6) Approval of Agenda;
Motion (Parker/Gabriel) to Approve Agenda. PASSED.
- 7) 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 Dec 5, 2023 Council Mtgs;
 - b) *Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve mthly payable checks: 49852 – 49981, 20231120, 20231204 – 20231205, 23112901 – 23112904, 23121201 – 23121205, 202311201 - 202311203;
 - c) *Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve 2023 Utility Write-Offs \$6,593.38;
 - d) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve selling Bill Marx City Admin computer for \$1, which he will use for consulting purposes. Consulting rate for Marx will be \$200/hr and will be billed in minimum of 15 minute increments. Clerk will check with insurance to include Marx for his engineer consulting work;
 - e) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve paying Chief Kronberger regular hourly rate for hrs over his salary hours of 80. Chief Kronberger will be allowed to carry over 2023 vacation/holiday hours and Captain Darwin will be allowed to carry over 2023 vacation/holiday hours to use in 2024. Streamline hiring process for Police Chief, along with Alderman Gabriel, Mayor Cuskey and Administrator Koverman to be allowed to hire police officers on condition of background check and Council approval;
 - f) *Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Industrial Park Lift Station Repair Nelson Electric Motor Repair \$62,115;
 - g) *Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Well Operation Permit WI DNR Hatchery;
 - h) *Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Bid Ash Street Project for 2025 completion and SEH handle public involvement meeting and final bidding;
 - i) *Safety and Licensing Committee Recommendation to Approve Class B combination liquor license from Jan 3, 2024 – June 30, 2024 for Corner House Pub, LLC;Motion (Gagnon/Everroad) to Approve Consent Agenda, items a – i, remove letter h for additional discussion. PASSED.
 - h) Lake confirmed in mins from 09/05/2023 that it was approved to adjust width of Ash St to 35' and is concerned that width is being reversed to 40'. Lake is questioning design and is stressing that st should justify its width. Feels there is safety concern and should be smaller footprint. Lake said he cannot find st within Snowbelt that has street width of 40'. Lake had average cost estimate for redesigning streets and sidewalks. No one uses available parking on Ash Street.
Koverman – waiting on cost est from SEH.
Cuskey – est is believed not to be cost effective to redesign. Ash St wider width in area is due to old hospital.
Cuskey – this item is not approving design, but rather moving project to 2025, designating SEH to handle public input mtg, and approving Ash St Project.
Motion (Krueger/Lake) to approve item h. PASSED.
- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
 - a) Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Financial Acceptance for Ash St Project;
Koverman gave update – received formal notice that we have been awarded SDW Loan Program. Finance estimated at \$2.65 million, DNR awarding 60% at \$1.575 million. Project will be completed in 2025. Favorable financing through the DNR. Questions raised regarding lead service lines, requirement to replace and the cost to residents. Koverman will look into further and report back. SEH will have public meeting to inform residents. We have some worthwhile projects on horizon.
- 9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
 - a) Financial Rpt Nov 2023;
Motion (Krueger/Parker) to Accept Financial Rpt for Nov 2023. PASSED.
 - b) Chief's Rpt;
Dec 2023 - down 3 full-time officers. 2 officers accepted positions with Barron Co. Captain and Chief will be covering various shifts. Multiple retail theft incidents at Economart. SRT team responded to Sawyer Co for a drive-by shooting complaint. Suspects barricaded themselves inside a residence. Spooner Officers accompanied ATF agents, at end of Nov, to check local establishments. Multiple violations were remedied. Officer Tucker and K9 Rex were mutual-aided to Sawyer Co to assist other K9 officers with school locker checks. Chief completed mandatory training. 970 contacts, 148 cases. Mayor - we have very busy police dept that handles variety of situations and they do good job. Thank you.
 - c) BID Rpt;
No mtg. Busy downtown. Having issue with some snowflakes on new street lights. We have to look into why this is happening before we purchase additional lights. Some businesses are requesting new lights being placed on Walnut.
 - d) Library Liaison Report;
Board is again looking at elevator being installed. Space saver to have elevator. Talking to other libraries regarding elevators, \$1,000 to \$3,000 cost/month. Survey, among users, identified that they need more space. Angie is putting together yr end statistics. Circulation is increasing. Food insecurities programs continue to be highly used; last year total of 13,247 people were served. Next month the yearend statistics will be available. Continues to be busy and active place.
- 10) ADJOURNMENT;
Motion (Everroad/Lake) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer