

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS  
Tues, Aug 5, 2025 5PM in Council Chambers or  
immediately following Property Planning Development Committee mtg

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mayor called mtg to order at 5:01 pm
- 2) ROLL CALL; 8 present, 0 absent
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;  
None.
- 5) Mayor Comments;  
Shared information regarding Washburn Co Housing Study Community Presentation to be held on Aug 18<sup>th</sup> at fire hall at 5:30 p.m. The study was conducted by CEDA and Washburn Co Economic Development Corp.  
School is right around corner and will be in session on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>; buses will be running and remember to watch for kids.
- 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 July 1, 2025 Council Mtg;
  - b) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve mthly payable cks: 52282 – 52454, 20250620, 20250703, 20250714, 20250721, 25062501 – 25062506, 25070801 – 25070805, 25072201 – 25072206, 202506181 – 202506183, 202507111 - 202507113;
  - c) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve increasing note by \$100,000 to Shell Lake State Bank for 2025 sewer lining and vac truck;
  - d) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve North Memorial Ambulance Contract Extension Amendment No 2 for 2 yrs, 5% increase;
  - e) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve spending \$4,000 from water utility for Ehlers 1<sup>st</sup> phase in water rate case study;
  - f) \*Finance Committee Recommendation to Table Item Safe Step Proposal;
  - g) \*Finance Committee Recommendation
  - h) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve Alley Light Relocation with City to accept cost of light-133 Walnut;
  - i) \*Municipal Operations and Railroad Park Committee recommendation to Approve Park Permit Request:
    - Railroad Park Pavilion, Beth Rank, Aug 7, 2025;
  - j) \*Municipal Operations Committee Recommendation to Approve EMS Warning Siren Contract;
  - k) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve CSM for Sabian Ripplinger, Lot 4, NW – SE Section 29, T39N, R12W, City of Spooner ;
  - l) \*Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve to proceed with Industrial B Setback Amendment Language Consideration;
  - m) \*RR Park Board Recommendation to approve playground concept at RR Park;
  - n) \*Safety & Licensing Committee Recommendation to Approve Temp Alcohol Beverage “Class “B”” Beer & Wine License for St. Francis de Sales, Oktoberfest, Sept 20, 2025;  
Motion (Gabriel/Dohm) to approve consent agenda, items a – n, pull item f to be discussed. PASSED.  
pull m for discussion. PASSED.

m) Lake – wanted clarification regarding RR park concept and how it fits within city’s overall comprehensive park plans. He stressed that all of city parks are in need of assistance and that they are underwhelming and how do we address it. What is age group this is targeting or will accommodate? Wants to be clear, he appreciates efforts of RR Park board. Mayor relayed that none of funds are coming from General Fund and that moneys that were donated and earmarked for RR Park and playground equipment. Oja commented on other parks/equipment that many pieces are old and in need of updating. It appeared playground concept was made of wood and Oja commented regarding future maintenance of wood playground.
- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:
  - a) Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve RES 25-09, 08-05-2025 for Disallowance of Claim;  
Koverman relayed issue that had taken place earlier in yr when utility staff was conducting annual water meter testing. During routine meter test, pipes which are est to be 100 yr old galvanized pipes had been deteriorating and when water shutoff was engaged, break occurred. Resident claimed staff didn’t follow proper procedure and filed request for reimbursement. The city’s insurance company reviewed matter and is recommending city

disallow this claim, which allows 6 mth window to seek any addl damages against city.

Recommendation was to disallow claim.

Motion (Dunn/Oja) to approve RES 25-09, 08-05-2025 for Disallowance of Claim. PASSED.

- b) Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve offer to Candidate 1 starting at pay step 2 with 2 wks vac consideration upon completion of 6 mth probation;

Koverman briefly reviewed that Personnel Committee held interviews. Candidate requested Council consider allowing 2 wks in 2026 after probation period.

Motion (Lake/Krueger) to approve offer position to Candidate 1, starting wage \$26.52/hour with 2 wks of vacation after 6 month probation. PASSED.

- c) Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Zoning Amendment Chapter 86-301 (3) Permitted Uses of Division 8-Industrial B Dist;

Koverman briefly discussed proposed amendment to change language that would provide possible consideration of uses within Industrial B District that Plan Commission agreed were not desirable in downtown area. Council concurred.

Motion (Dunn/Everroad) Approve Zoning Amendment Chapter 86-301 (3) Permitted Uses of Division 8-Industrial B District. PASSED.

- d) Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Zoning Amendment Chapter 86-321 Permitted Uses of Division 9 – Agricultural District;

Koverman relayed proposed language amends Code to remove tourist camps and campgrounds as permitted use within agriculture dist. Is having a campground in agriculture zoning best and highest use and value of property in city limits? In researching some of surrounding campgrounds, given number of acres, tax base revenue was minimal. Mayor relayed that Plan Commission is working toward thinking in advance of possibilities that could arise if we don't make these changes. language amendment presented, addresses that matter.

Motion (Oja/Dunn) Approve Zoning Amendment Chapter 86-321 Permitted Uses of Division 9 – Agricultural District. PASSED.

- e) Plan Committee Recommendation to Approve Rezone Request; Rezoning Classification of Lots 2,3,4 (7.57 acres with Tax IDs 36974, 36975, 36976) from Industrial B (I-B) to Residential 2 (R-2). Owner Chris Thompson as Thompson Trust;

Koverman – CSM was approved last month that created 3 lots. Lots were in fact zoned industrial, but on tax bill property was labeled residential. This zoning amendment would allow residential classification and lots that abut property are also zoned residential.

Lake relayed we want contractors to build homes in Spooner, which is great, but added that trouble he sees is that if more consideration isn't given to how land is developed city won't be able to pave the street from the tax revenue generated. The taxes generated are not enough to pay for blacktop, he stated.

Further discussion was held regarding what Council's oversight should be for what size lots should be considered for building, and bigger question was posed of whether as city, are we trying to fit more homes in area, and do we not allow for larger lots. Should Council be looking at Plan Commission recommendations with more attention?

Motion (Oja/Krueger) to Approve Rezone Request; Rezoning Classification of Lots 2,3,4 (7.57 acres with Tax IDs 36974, 36975, 36976) from Industrial B (I-B) to Residential 2 (R-2). Owner Chris Thompson as Thompson Trust. PASSED. Gabriel abstained.

Lake would like not to vote on motion.

Kohler stated that if there is not good reason not to vote that the mayor has power to request his vote. Mayor requests Lake to vote yes or no. Lake votes yes after request.

Kohler clarifies that if no vote was made, it would be determined to be no vote.

- f) Safe Step Program Consideration;

Koverman provided additional information. Displayed map of area and sidewalks surveyed for total of 1.87 miles. 76 total sidewalk defects were identified for saw-cutting for a total of \$10,135.29 less prepayment, leaving balance of \$7,735.29. According to Safe Step estimates, if removed and replaced, total would be minimum of \$91,992 dependent on defective square footage and was purposely conservative. Koverman continued with the sidewalks summary and detailed information. At Finance Committee, it was questioned how long would it last and Safe Step rep indicated that 10–15 yrs was safe estimation. Of 10,000 repairs they have done, representative indicated that 85% were still intact. Mayor stated this is pilot program, something for City to consider. These are only assessing trip hazards and not removing cracks.

Everroad/Dunn - a lot of foot traffic in Spooner especially in area identified. It's in our best interest to make repairs. The discussion turned to other defects along Walnut St such as citing large holes in sidewalk, most likely from old structures under the road. In addition, it was noted that big trucks drove over curbs, hitting curbs hard or will even drive up onto curbs.

Lake – this is only temp fix and should be looked at same as when we are milling streets. We already spent \$2,400 and this makes it acceptable for 10-15 yrs. Expense can be paid through bank interest.

Idea was suggested for need to create 5 yr plan and look at other sidewalks in future.

Motion (Dunn/Everroad) to approve Safe Step Program. PASSED.

10) STAFF RPTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:

a) Financial Rpt June 2025;

Motion (Everroad/Krueger) to accept financial rpt June 2025. PASSED.

b) Chief's Report;

Kronberger will answer any questions. Total cases 1,201. Nothing has changed since last week. Mayor thanked officers. Chief was going to National Night Out in Shell Lake and was leaving immediately after giving rpt.

c) BID Rpt;

BID had 7 trees treated, should be good for 2-3 yrs. Have been discussing empty store fronts on Walnut St. They're encouraging property owners. They have concern and would like Plan Commission to consider creating 'vibrant retail district', not allowing office space, lawyer firms, accounting services, and generally encourage building owners to move forward if they have empty retail space. They have some issues with some retail space being used as storage or have been converted to play space. Everroad discussed City of Spooner ordinance regarding street facing store fronts. BID would like to protect downtown for retail space. Everroad discussed process and positives for "Historic" designation area. City would have to go through process. It can help with obtaining grants. Primarily what we are looking at is preserving retail space. How do we market Walnut St for retain space? Everroad/Lake spoke regarding downtown areas and restoring buildings. Lake added that costs of repair to older buildings is high and that Council should also consider this. Dunn relayed that further discussion will follow. Mayor would like BID to do some planning for next year's Fourth of July in consideration of the Country's 250<sup>th</sup>.

d) Library Liaison Rpt;

Bodzislav – July visitor total higher than any other month in last 10 yrs. Summer reading program has 514 participants with 13,782 books read so far in Summer Reading Program. 21 local businesses sponsored reading program with prizes. Gave summary of summer's activities and program attendance. Both physical and e-check outs are up. They have total of 5,300 card holders. Books remain most checked out item in library. Audio books are most checked out item from digital library.

Mayor stated that we are so proud of our library; job well done!

11) ADJOURNMENT;

Motion (Parker/Oja) to adjourn mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer