

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS
Tues, Dec 2, 2025 5PM in Council Chambers

- 1) CALL MTG TO ORDER; Mayor called mtg to order at 5pm
- 2) ROLL CALL; 7 present, 1 absent
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE;
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTARY;

None.

- 5) Mayor Comments;

Remind residents to remove snow from sidewalks. Also, reminder of no street parking from 2–6am. Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Last week Wednesday, we received a lot of snow. Street dept ees removed 262 loads of snow from 18 blks of City on Thanksgiving. We want them to know we appreciate job they do for city and they do good job keeping streets cleared.

Tim Belter, Jon Alesch, Dave Mills representing RR Park are in attendance to update.

Friends of RR Park is main funding resource and considered non-profit. Belter discussed mission statement. Highlighted organization is made up of all volunteers, which they are thankful for. There is mutualized investment between City, Railroad Memories Museum and community and it takes all entities and cooperation, he stressed. Vision is to preserve historic and rare Roundhouse and turntable and develop surrounding area into viable part of City of Spooner encouraging year-round use. Vision statement discussed with strategies for investments and funding along with what we need from City. Fundraising has come to standpoint and FORRP is still recovering from Terri Reiter departure. Group wants to focus on larger projects. Alesch – discussed funding options, how to sustain park and where do we look for long term funding. What is shared interest between City and FORRP and relayed need to work more closely with each other. Appreciate City's in-kind work. 2025 progress discussed with repairs and cleanup. Continuing to work on playground and one of top projects that group is most excited to complete in 2026. Also, have been working on conditional use project, which are multi-phase projects at the Roundhouse with end result being public facility for public events or local shared meeting space. Goal is to be able to use it in some manner for Heritage Day celebration. We have allocated funds from budget to continue to move forward. Some doors have been replaced, overall floor cleaned up and south side windows have been uncovered and cleaned. We can start financial campaign, keep with our traditional funding, but start Kickstarter campaign. Goal is to use Roundhouse and be safe. There are things that need to happen inside before any use can be approved. Looking forward to having people see it in spring. Any questions? Thanked the City for their support, great place for City.

Mayor and Council members thanked representatives for their dedication. Doing great job. Want to keep progress moving forward. Grateful for FORRP and RR Park Board. Mayor thanked them for insight of what is happening. Belter – thanked city departments. Mills plan to update twice year.

- 6) Approval of Agenda;

Motion (Parker/Krueger) to approve agenda. PASSED.

- 7) CONSENT AGENDA:

****All items listed with (*) 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 Nov 18, 2025 Council Mtg;
- b) *Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve mthly payable cks: 52863 – 52972, 20251024, 20251103, 20251104, 25102901 – 25102905, 25111001 – 25111005, 202511041;
- c) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve Replacement Tracks for CAT Skidsteer for a cost of \$4,232;
- d) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve increase to building inspector's (Jason Birtzer) wage by 3%;
- e) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve a 3% increase to non-represented employees wages;

Motion (Dohm/Krueger) to approve consent agenda, items a – e. PASSED.

- 8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve RES 25-15, 12-02-2025, 2026 Budget Resolution;

Motion (Dunn/Everroad) to Approve RES 25-15, 12-02-2025, 2026 Budget Resolution.

6 – approved, 1 – opposed (Lake), 1 – absent (Gabriel). PASSED.

- b) Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve RES 25-16, 12-02-2025, County Library Levy Exemption Year 2026;

Motion (Lake/Parker) to approve RES 25-16, 12-02-2025, County Library Levy Exemption Year 2026. PASSED.

- c) Appoint Election Inspectors for the 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2027 term – Nadene Cable (Chief), Forrest Schraufnagel (Chief), Mary Beth Andrea, Vicki Cariolano, Mary Chido, Kathy Focht, Jocelyn Ford (Chief), Paul Johnson, Josephine Marx, Mary Mathews, Jean Parker, Patricia Parker, Ann Schroeder, Bill Schroeder, William Stewart and Ruth Ulvilden-Klaas; In addition, clerk noted Chief Cable and Ulvilden-Klaas to be designated as our Special Voting Deputies (SVD). SVDs go to nursing home.
Motion (Dohm/Krueger) to approve Election Inspectors for 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2027 term – Nadene Cable (Chief), Forrest Schraufnagel (Chief), Mary Beth Andrea, Vicki Cariolano, Mary Chido, Kathy Focht, Jocelyn Ford (Chief), Paul Johnson, Josephine Marx, Mary Mathews, Jean Parker, Patricia Parker, Ann Schroeder, Bill Schroeder, William Stewart and Ruth Ulvilden-Klaas. PASSED.
- d) 2026 Celebration Funding;
Koverman – 250th – discussion regarding allocating some funds from interest income earned to date. Also, wanted to confirm City is taking part of this and are we helping funding? Discussed some of costs associated with celebration. How much of unbudgeted interest income do we use? \$2,500? Through 3rd qtr, we have estimated \$124,000 in interest income. We have allocated some funds for Safe Step sidewalk repair of \$10,135 and grader repairs \$11,268.17. Original estimate for repairs was \$29,000. Lake – this isn't included in celebration/fireworks fund/budget? (*Clerk note: Budget is \$9,400 for fireworks and flags.*) Is \$2,500 enough to assist with plans? Mayor is supportive of using funds. Krueger why wouldn't we have more funds available right away; doesn't seem like \$2,500 is enough. Everroad agrees with Krueger. Dunn feels we should wait to see what plan is. Koverman this initial funding is just stepping stone and would like to see other organization's buy-in. Committee to run event. Koverman may have different ideas that could benefit 250th celebration, but be better long-term investments.
Motion (Lake/Krueger) to appropriate \$5,000 from 2025 interest income for 250th Celebration in 2026. 5 – approved, 2 opposed (Dunn/Oja), 1 absent (Gabriel). PASSED.
- e) Dec Committee Mtgs will be held on Tues, Dec 16, 2025;
Informational only.
- 10) STAFF RPTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:
- a) Financial Rpt Oct 2025;
Motion (Everroad/Parker) to accept Financial Rpt Oct 2025. PASSED.
- b) Chief's Rpt;
Been busy and have been behind with Richter out. Parking tickets are being issued. Officers attended laser training. Mental health/welfare checks are on rise. Have had 1 subject placed on emergency detention and transported. Disorderly conduct complaints/arrests have also increased. Contacts 822, Cases 152, 974 total. Mayor thanked department.
- c) BID Rpt;
BID is busy. Working on downtown historic commercial district. Working on details and design guidelines. Considering creating grant program with additional funds from BID assessment, because of reval, there is large increase. Calculation of BID assessment is \$1/per value. Because of reval there is a large increase. Businesses could apply for help to repair their store façade/windows/signs. Within new guidelines, they are thinking about having certain specifics for store signs and what they can look like. Will be coming to Plan Comm with their discussions. Downtown looks nice. Ladies night went well. Saturday was shop small and it was great turnout. Has been good week.
Mayor – Christmas tree lighting at RR Park, went well but not well attended. Thank high school for caroling/singing during event. Would like to continue with this tradition.
Dunn - Shell Lake and Spooner choirs came together and sung in different establishments.
- d) Library Liaison Report;
Books and Bread and Compassion Kitchen numbers have increased. Working on design for the library. Going with different engineering firm that has more experience with library design.
- 11) ADJOURNMENT;
Motion (Dohm/Parker) to adjourn the mtg. PASSED. Mtg adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer