

REG SPOONER CITY COUNCIL MINS
Tues, Sept 1, 2026 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;

Kim Fox/Yellow River Trading – 100% against library due to anticipated parking issue, feels it will be detrimental to business. Eventually, increased operating expenses will go to tax roll for property owners.

Marie Mabi Plisky/Town of Spooner – regarding library open house and 3 schemes that were mentioned with various costs. Schematic C was approved by majority vote. Asked questions to Library Board referencing funding sources, all costs associated, operating expenses, demolition cost, have property owners/business owners been mailed invitation to meeting, will public meetings be scheduled. No information presented by library board to address these questions. There should be quarterly financial reports presented to City Council. Interested in all details of acquiring property. Additionally, please consider civic center's financial and operational challenges over yrs, Washburn County efforts to build new jail, Spooner Schools proposing possible referendum.

Jim Wiltzius/Spooner resident – business owner – trying to make difference. Feels Spooner Library board member and council member railroaded town and other board members. Felt that Scheme C was voted and approved by board members that didn't understand proposal. Ask mayor to look at the library board. Property obtained through whatever means – money spent preparing appraisals and materials, government time spent talking to owners – all property owners should have ability to do what Schmitz family did. Feels parking use should be sent to referendum. Dave Schmitz purchased property. Promise of no value increase.

Mabi Plisky – asked Council to remove item 7 k for discussion. Wiltzius second.

Mayor asked for any additional comments.

- 5) Mayor's Comments;
School has started, buses are rolling, and kids are out and about, please stop and be mindful. Don't want to see anyone get hurt.
- 6) Approval of Agenda;
Motion (Parker/Oja) 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 Aug 4, 2026 Council Mtg;
- b) *Finance Committee Recommendation to Approve mthly payable cks: 54023 – 54124, 20260727, 20260803, 20260814, 26080401 – 26080405, 26081801 - 26081806;
- c) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve offer to candidate 1 position with rate of \$30.53/hr, 6-mnth probation, no change to rate after probation, 1 wk of vacation up front, additional 1 wk at the 6-mnth period, with start date 09/28/2026 or 10/05/2026 pending background check;
- d) *Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve proposed changes to employee handbook to include street dept call back language and changing unused sick leave payout eligibility to those employees who are retiring but employed less than 7 yrs;
- e) *Municipal Operations Committee and Railroad Park Board Recommendation to Approve Park Permit Request:
 - RR Park: Cynthia Downer, Oct 10, 2026;
- f) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve SEH Hwy 70 Utility Design Contract;
- g) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve purchase of 2026 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab for \$47,855.50 plus 2026 BrandFX service body for \$26,561 from Don Johnson Auto Group, Cumberland;
- h) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve machine rental for alley clearing (electric utility);
- i) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve Alternative #3 for the WWTP Sludge Removal Contract using the biological growth units, approximate cost \$114,000;
- j) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve Jack-O-Lantern Fest Street/Parking Lot Closure;
- k) *Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve Spooner Memorial Library parking lot closure contingent that the civic center be formally notified;
- l) *Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Conditional Use Permit – Kennel License 1204 Whitetail St;

Motion (Dunn/Everroad) to approve consent agenda, items a – l pulling items c & k to discussion items e & f. PASSED.

8) DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

a) S River Bay Plowing;

Koverman - update from discussion at Municipal Operations Committee Meeting, formal process will be coming to Municipal Operations and letters to be sent to property owners with formal action at that time.

b) Railroad Park Board Recommendation to Approve Roundhouse Facility Use

Policy/Application;

Koverman – Friends of Railroad Park and Railroad Park Board have been cleaning, removing debris, grinding floor, scrubbing floors, updated windows, replaced doors, proposed to make available as rental space. Based policy using other city policies with exception that the other spaces are more community based or youth oriented. This is different using it for retail space, farmers market, craft fair. Reviewed policy added some restrictions taking into consideration state of facility. Will be for daytime uses – 9am to dusk, there is no heat, there are groups interested in using facility. Working on options. Finalizing electrical upgrade and fire exits. Creating usable space and taking baby steps. Belter - moving forward with updating lighting, installing fire extinguishers, creating safe place, bring it up to fire code, all of these projects should be completed in November. Need to find some money to keep making improvements. The only way to keep upgrading facility is getting some income generated from facility. Donations have slowed. By allowing some use, we can enhance project. Dunn questioned exclusions, noting specifically special interest groups. Koverman copied from other policies. Dunn also questioned “for profit and not for profit”. Koverman said fees for profit vs non-profit are based similar to other policies. Building is not alcohol permitted at this time. They have done an amazing job, but it isn’t too that level.

Dunn - strike special interest group from Item A. Available: 2. Exclusions: g Special Interest Groups.

Motion (Gabriel/Lake) to approve Roundhouse Facility Use Policy/Application striking Exclusions Special Interest Group. PASSED.

c) Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve Chapter 86 Amendment – C-1 Parking Amendment;

Koverman – minimum parking requirements to accommodate parking use and standards for the C-1 zoning. Allow to use downtown parking and street parking. Larger buildings equate to more tax dollars, not being too restrictive, encourage business to relocate here.

Lake – as example, Arrow former Lamperts – floor space dictated parking – not utilizing optimized space – this creates more usable space and more opportunity.

Koverman – applicant can request for exemption if building new.

Everroad – this decreases stalls required? Koverman acknowledged it did.

Old language wasn’t specific to other uses, so additional categories were added.

Motion (Parker/Oja) to approve Chapter 86 Amendment – C-1 Parking Amendment. PASSED.

d) Personnel Committee Recommendation: Street Dept Superintendent Position;

Gabriel: interviewed Tom Romportl, suggested start date will be 9/7/2026, should be a smooth transition.

Motion (Gabriel/Everroad) to approve Tom Romportl as Street Dept Superintendent. PASSED.

e) Item c:

Personnel Committee Recommendation to Approve offer to candidate 1 position with a rate of \$30.53 per hour, 6-month probation, no change to rate after probation, one wk of vacation up front, additional 1 wk at the 6-month period, with a start date 09/28/2026 or 10/05/2026 pending background check;

Motion (Lake/Gabriel) to Approve offer to candidate 1 position with a rate of \$30.53 per hour, 6-month probation, no change to rate after probation, one wk of vacation up front, additional 1 wk at the 6-month period, with start date 10/05/2026 pending background check. PASSED.

f) Item k:

Municipal Operations Recommendation to Approve Spooner Memorial Library parking lot closure contingent that civic center be formally notified

History of Car Show – Oja tried reaching The Station, but was unsuccessful. Angie spoke to Amy Freeman, SAYHA, noted nothing happening at civic center. Have been notified.

Parking lot closure on Friday, September 25, 2026 from 10am-6pm.

Motion (Dunn/Oja) to approve Spooner Memorial Library parking lot closure on Sept 25, 2026. PASSED.

9) STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS/REQUESTS:

a) Financial Rpt July 2026;

Motion (Everroad/Oja) to accept financial rpt July 2026. PASSED.

b) Chief’s Rpt;

No issues at Jack Pine. Chief sat in Boy Scout dunk tank. Participated in National Night out. Chief and Officer Horton attended NACU training. Executed search warrant as part of a felony theft case. Working with Burnett County on a sexual assault case. 937 contacts 128 cases

total 1,065. Mayor would like to emphasize how busy police department for a small dept, a lot of things happening, average 1,000 contacts/calls every mnth. Thank you for your efforts and pass along the appreciation to all officers.

c) BID Rpt;

No grant applications received yet, hoping there is some interest. BID members are performing outreach by making visits to other businesses and informing them what BID does for businesses in district. Sign for parking will be installed. Downtown has been busy. Final summer week.

d) Library Liaison Rpt;

Library Board with majority vote chose scheme c, which will keep historic look. Waiting to move forward for architect to redraw the plans. Aug stats: 6,026 visitors, averaging 250/day, 42 Programs were held at library. 6th Annual Ukulele Fest had over 300 people attend from over 10 states, they used campgrounds and hotels. Discussions on how to deal with that many people? 1st Annual Ren Faire saw over 400 people attend despite of rain. Plan to do it again. Brought in people from outside of area. Many activities and food. Literacy aspect of their mission. Participants read 21,000 books this summer. Sponsorships from area businesses for prizes were received. Regarding feedback received with new building, Angie is putting together information to distribute. Schematic design approved will preserve history, cost is in middle of other 2 schemes. Review form has been sent to WI Historical Society Preservation Office for approval. It isn't on registry but it is in inventory. Public concern and all comments or misconceptions are being written down and will be addressed. Explained misconception regarding theater seating. Library is busy place. 75% of books checked out are physical hard copy.

10) ADJOURNMENT;

With all business concluded, mayor adjourned meeting at 5:48 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor

Krista J. Lyons-Hartwig, City Clerk/Treasurer