

Village of Spencer
Council Meeting of March 19, 2025

Council members present: Jim Stangel Tom Gehring Chris Krystofek
Steve Ensign Kaylie Miner

Others present: Mayor Jim Kiouisis Sheri Ward, Fiscal Officer Greg Huber, Solicitor
Chief Mike Wright Rob Lenhart Irene Gehring Todd Mosher Bev Zeigler
Laura Braddock Matt Graves Joel Bender Jeff Workman

Mayor Kiouisis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

The minutes from the February 19, 2025 meeting were read individually. A motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025 meeting made by Ensign, seconded by Stangel, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Stangel seconded by Miner, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.

List of Bills:

The list of bills was reviewed. A motion to approve the list of bills made by Ensign seconded by Miner, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.

Gov't agencies etc:

BPA...Nothing to report

Beautification Committee...Irene Gehring said that the flowers pots in town would be done in May as well as the memorial banners will be hung by Memorial Day.

Historical Society... Irene Gehring informed everyone of living histories events they are starting, based off of long-time residents telling their stories. Their first person is Walt Zeigler. They will also be doing their dandelion Drive starting the first Sunday in April.

Planning Commission...Krystofek reported that they are about half way done with the zoning book. Mayor asked him to email the updates as they are finished so that council can read them as they go and not all at one time.

Zoning: Rob Lenhart: Lenhart reported that they are just waiting for LMRE to pay for the permit for the sign on the building.

Street Dept.: Todd Mosher: Mosher reported he would be on vacation the following week and that the mowers are ready to go. Ensign asked him to maybe mow a little off the top since kids were already practicing up there.

Joel Bender, Whittaker-Myers Insurance: Bender discussed the new policy and explained that there were no big changes this year. He said there was a 10% increase for the final cost of \$22,417.00.

- A motion to accept the insurance policy and pricing for 2025 made by Ensign, seconded by Stangel, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's report: Jim Kiouisis:

- Reported that he wanted to get with Rodney Wayne about the community garden.
- Don Jackson, a resident at the senior restates called the mayor about feral cats and people feeding them. The mayor told him there was really nothing the village could do about it.
- Mayor was told by Nils Johnson that there may be an EPA issue with the water run-off from Spencer Manufacturing. They will continue to work on the issue.

Solicitor's report: Greg Huber: Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Kaylie Miner:

- Miner reported that they discussed tires for the backhoe and looked at pricing of a new tractor. Ensign is going to look into leasing a tractor, to see if it would make more sense than buying.
 - Next meeting April 8, 2025 5:00 p.m.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sanitation: Jim Stangel:

- Stangel reported that they met with Nils Johnson and went over the surveying done by Cunningham and Associates.
 - They went over Jefferson and Washington Streets where they meet the church and the township garage. Since the rights of way runs right into their drives, they will extend it to cover part of their parking lots to make it look aesthetically correct.
 - Additionally, Stangel said that Stuart Drive would be widened just a little.
- Next meeting April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Legislative and Planning: Tom Gehring:

- Gehring reported that they are holding off on the chicken ordinance until the zoning book is finished.
- Next meeting April 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Parks/Buildings & Lighting: Ensign:

- Ensign reported that he walked the Lech property with Sara from the land conservancy. She informed him that the village could put up a pavilion or benches and things of that nature and it would be okay with them.
- Ensign also reported that he is still looking into garbage cans and flags in the park and getting flags with the village seal on them. He also wants to get the gazebo fixed, saying the floor is really not in very good condition.
- Next meeting April 3rd at 7:300 p.m. @ Todd's building.

Safety/ Parking, Vehicle & Health: Steve Ensign:

- Ensign reported on the use of flock cameras and new MDT's with a company named FirstNet.
- Ensign reported that Jarred Meredith would be leaving to go full time with another police department and introduced a new officer named George Daher. Chief Wright gave council Daher's background.
 - A motion to hire George Daher as a part-time officer made by Krystofek, seconded by Gehring, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.
- Chief Wright discussed the Axon body cams and informed council that they will not be supported much longer. He did find a company that carried them and put everything in the cloud. He would like to purchase one and try it before purchasing several more. The cost is \$179.00 for each camera.
 - A motion to allow Chief Wright to buy one of the cameras made by Ensign, seconded by Stangel, with all council members voting "aye". Motion carried 5-0.
- Chief Wright asked about Liberty Street parking issues and the breathalyzer machine that is obsolete. Huber said to issue the parking violation warnings and citations if they don't comply, and to throw out the breathalyzer if it is of no use to anyone.
 - Next meeting April 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Record Retention: Kaylie Miner: Nothing to report

Fiscal Officer's Report: Sheri Ward:

- Ward read by title only the following legislation:
Ordinance 4-25
AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO WASHINGTON STREET AND JEFFERSON STREET BY WAY OF RECONSTRUCTION OF SAID STREETS WITH CONCRETE PAVEMENT, CURBS, STORM SEWER DRAINAGE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER NECESSARY APPURTENANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
A motion to waive the three-reading requirement made by Stangel, seconded by Gehring with a roll call vote of: Stangel "yes", Krystofek "yes", Gehring "yes", Ensign "yes", Miner "yes". Motion carried 5-0.
A motion to adopt Ordinance 4-25 as an emergency made by Gehring, seconded by Krystofek, with a roll call vote of: Stangel "yes", Krystofek "yes", Gehring "yes", Ensign "yes", Miner "yes". Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 5-25

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO STUART DRIVE AND LORAIN STREET BY WAY OF RECONSTRUCTION OF SAID STREETS WITH CONCRETE PAVEMENT, CURBS, STORM SEWER DRAINAGE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER NECESSARY APPURTENANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the three-reading requirement made by Gehring, seconded by Stangel with a roll call vote of: Stangel “yes”, Krystofek “yes”, Gehring “yes”, Ensign “yes”, Miner “yes”. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 5-25 as an emergency made by Ensign, seconded by Stangel, with a roll call vote of: Stangel “yes”, Krystofek “yes”, Gehring “yes”, Ensign “yes”, Miner “yes”. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

- Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. before the next meeting to interview the potential council applicants.
- Ward will put the maintenance employee information on the two Facebook pages with an April 14, 2025 deadline.

New Business: Nothing to report

Audience:

- Irene Gehring asked if there was a way to get the railroad to repair the tracks on East Main. Chief Wright said he would contact them.
- Bev Zeigler had a couple of questions about billing from the Chatham Fire. Council told her she would need to contact them and her insurance company.

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Gehring, seconded by Ensign, with all council members voting “aye”. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Kiouisis adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.