

# SPICELAND TOWN COUNCIL

December 11, 2025

President Jack Garner called the regular session of the Spiceland Town Council to order at 6:00 pm. at the Spiceland Town Hall located at 130 E. Main Street.

Council present: Robert Blake, Scott Fitch, Darrin Jacobs, and Jack Garner, Jody French

Audience present: Hope Stevens, Donnie Murray, Julie Newhouse, Jamie Fitch, Scott Teague.

First on the agenda was the approval of the 2025 Salary Ordinance. After much discussion about the salary ordinance, Scott Fitch made a motion for the approval of a 3% pay increase for all Town Employees as well as all Council members, as well as an increase in the Christmas Bonus that is given to the Town Employees, Full time employees would receive \$500.00 and part-time employees would receive \$400.00. Jody French seconded the motion. Motion was passed 5-0

Next on the agenda was the approval of the renewal for the Sheriff contract that is in place with the Town of Spiceland. The Contract will remain the same as previous years, with the rate being \$45.00 per hour for 10 hours a week, with up to \$35.00 per month will be paid in fuel expenses. This agreement will be in place from January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026. Scott Fitch made motion for approval of the Sheriff contract for 2026 as presented, Jody French seconded the motion. Motion was carried 5-0.

Third on the agenda was approval of the Attorney contract with Newhouse & Newhouse. Contract was presented with no changes, same billing amount of \$200.00 an hour was presented. Scott Fitch made a motion for approval of the Attorney Contract with the Town of Spiceland, running from January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026. Jody French seconded the motion, motion was carried 5-0.

President Jack Garner asked for approval of the November minutes. Scott Fitch made motion for approval of the minutes as presented, Darrin Jacobs seconded the motion, Motion carried 5-0.

Floor was opened to Jeff Lane Superintendent, Jeff was unable to attend, but did send notice that the Booster Station was back up and running as should be, and that we will have extra parts in storage, for future needs.

Floor was opened up to Clerk/Treasurer Hope Stevens, Hope did not have a whole lot at this time, she did let the board know that we did have to purchase a new printer that is used to print the bills, the old printer was currently breaking of plastic pieces as it has started to become brittle and would not allow us to print the bills. She did also let the Council know, that the Town will have to look at doing some server upgrades next year as well as a possible new laptop for Hope. Both of the items are becoming out of date, and will not be up to code. Hope will work with our IT department Reach on getting information on what is needed and the cost that goes along with it.

Jack Garner opened up for discussion of claims for approval. Darrin Jacobs made motion for approval of the claim as submitted, Scott Fitch seconded the motion, motion was carried 5-0.


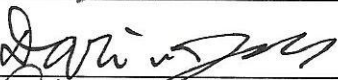

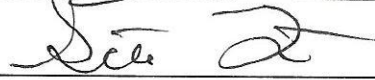
President Jack Garner open the floor to Old Business, Scott Fitch opened by speaking about the information that we received back from Strand and Steve Ruble. The Community Crossing Grant has changed their procedures going into the 2026 season, with the new changes, it is unlikely that we will be able to do anything in 2026, but we can get prepared to move forward for the 2027 Community Crossing Grant, Hope spoke with Steven and we are currently looking for Steven to attend the February Board meeting to let us know what we need to set in place going forward. Darrin Jacobs let the Council and the Audience know that, him and Jack did meet with Jeff Ray and Jerry Cash, after concerns were raised about the Affordable Housing that was looking to go in on Main St, after this meeting Darrin does not believe any new information has been presented that would require further action by the Council. During the November meeting, member of the public expressed some concerns. After this meeting took place, Darrin Jacobs would ask that, unless another member believes the non-profit is engaging in activities beyond its disclosed plans and within its legal authority, we consider this matter closed and accept the utility hookup approval as sufficient authorization for construction. In the November meeting Lila Mondrush made note that she would be stepping away from the South Henry Regional Waste Dist. Board, It was advised by the Council, that Hope place something in the Bills stating that we are currently looking for a replacement, with information for interested members to send in information to be contacted by Board members.

Floor was opened up to any new business, Scott Fitch, made comment that the Prisoners at the Correction Facility would like to make a set of cornhole boards for the Spats building, He asked Jack if he would like to come up with some sort of decal that they could place on these boards as well. Jack will talk with the board of Spats and get back to Scott with how they would like to proceed. Scott also asked Hope to possibly get quotes for upgrading the board that is at the Town building across the Street, this board tends to freeze up and will not allow us to change the sign info. He made a gesture to possibly get quotes for an electronic board, that will be easier to maintain in the Winter months. Hope will work on getting quotes for this and present at the January meeting. Darrin Jacobs also noted that he had applied for a grant for the sidewalks, we were turned down again, but the only approved 4 communities for this grant. Jody French spoke next, letting the Council and the Audience know that the December Board meeting would be her last meeting as she is stepping down. She has been on the board for several years now, but some health issues have caused her to need to step down. Things will need to be set in place with the County, to be able to move

forward with replacement, Darrin Jacobs as well as many Board members, expressed how much they will miss Jody as well as her dedication to the Town and the Council of Spiceland.

The Floor was then opened up to the audience, Scott Teague with the Fire Department spoke, he let the Council know that the City of New Castle is having issues with getting the Title for the Fire Truck that the Town has purchased off of them. He asked the Council if we could settle with a bill of sale, and be able to get insurance on the Truck so that it can start being used. Council said that a bill of sale would work, and that as soon as we got it, to make sure Insurance is up to date. Scott also brought in new information on allowable charges that the Fire Department is allowed to charge for going on the scene of an accident or housefire. He asked for permission to approve the new charges that the State has set in place. Council was good with approval of this and Hope will start the process to get this notice place in the paper. He also presented to the Board that the Fire Department member receive a compensation at the end of the year, for mileage, clothing as well as meeting attended, the current amount up to \$350.00. He would like the Council to consider increasing this amount going into the 2027 year. The council will put this on hold, until closer to the timing of the 2027 budget and revisit this request.

Nothing else was brought forward at this time, Darrin Jacobs made motion for meeting to be adjourned Scott Fitch seconded the motion, Motion carried 5-0 approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

  
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