

**City of Spencer
Public Hearing
January 29, 2026**

Mayor Farmer opened the public hearing for questions or comments regarding Ordinance 2025-11, Budget Amendment #4, to add the capital outlay note to the budget. Without any question or concerns the public hearing is closed.

**City of Spencer
Regular Council Meeting
January 29, 2026**

Mayor Farmer called the regular council meeting to order. Roll call was taken, with the following alderman present: Jody Hensley, Darrell Nance, Drew Campbell, and David Chandler. Also in attendance were Van Buren County Sherriff Michael Brock, City Attorney Ed Boring, Police Chief Scott Garing, City Recorder Crystal Crain, and Zeda Hillis representing James C. Halley. This was followed by a prayer and the pledge. Mayor Farmer requested approval of the previous regular council meeting minutes as written. Alderman Hensley made the motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Alderman Chandler. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. Mayor Farmer opened the floor for citizen comments; however, everyone in attendance was on the agenda.

Old Business:

New Business:

**ITEM #1: Second and Final of Ordinance 2025-11, Budget Amendment #4, add Capital Outlay Note to budget. The note was issued in the amount for \$451,000. Upon payment, \$451,000 will be applied to the principal and \$17,453.90 will be paid as interest. Vice Mayor Campbell made the motion to approve and this was seconded by Alderman Nance. Roll Call was as followed. Hensley: Yes Nance: Yes Campbell: Yes Chandler: Yes Bouldin: Absent
The motion passed.**

**ITEM #2: Sherriff Brock to address the board, Regarding Flock Camera System. Sherriff Brock informed the board, at the current time, he plans to place five cameras around the county at the following locations: 111 North, 111 South, Highway 30 East, Highway 30 West, and on Highway 8. The contract will be for five camera for five years. Sherriff Brock is asking the city to commit \$2500 for the initial cost and thereafter each year for the next five years. He also mentioned, he as asked other members of the community and everyone has been very positive. Sheriff Brock stated, he wasn't sure if Chief Garing would have his own code to use, but the system would be at his disposal if needed. Alderman Chandler made the motion to approve a \$2500 donation for this year and each year for five years to Van Buren County Sherriff Department for the Flock Camera System with an amendment as long as the program continues within the five years. This was seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell. Roll call was as followed. Hensley: Yes Nance: Yes Campbell: Yes Chandler: Yes Bouldin: Absent
The motion passed.**

**ITEM #3: Resolution 2026-1, Surplus Playground Item. Mayor Farmer said, the city had hoped to save the old equipment, but unfortunately it was not salvageable. The new equipment is scheduled to start installation on February 9th. Alderman Chandler asked, if any of it could be scrapped. Mayor Farmer answered, she wasn't sure. Vice Mayor Campbell made the motion approve to surplus the old playground equipment; this was seconded by Alderman Chandler. Roll call was as followed. Hensley: Yes Nance: Yes Campbell: Yes Chandler: Yes Bouldin: Absent
The motion passed.**

ITEM #4: Fall Creek Falls Recreation Corridor Logo Trademark Application and Rules for Use. Mayor Farmer stated, the applications will be available for pickup at City Hall will not be any cost for the users. The City has already received one application and it has been on hold until approval of

application and rules. Alderman Chandler made the motion to approve and this was seconded by Alderman Hensley. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

ITEM #5: Discuss Cameras at City Park. Mayor Farmer discussed, how many times the City Park has been vandalized with the most recent was just spray painting the sign. Mayor Farmer said, she is not looking to add WIFI to the park at this time. After some discussion, Alderman Chandler made the motion to explore cost and options. This was seconded by Alderman Nance. Roll Call was as followed. Hensley: Yes Nance: Yes Campbell: Yes Chandler: Yes Bouldin: Absent
The motion passed.

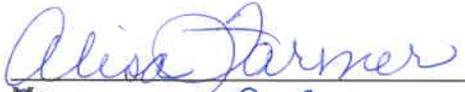
Mayor Farmer is seeking approval for use Style Blueprint for Tourism advertising. This is a company that has over a million followers across several platforms of social media. This project will be using ARPA funds. The cost is \$3999 annually. Alderman Nance made a motion to approve after Attorney Boring's review and approval. This was seconded by Alderman Chandler. Roll Call was as followed. Hensley: Yes Nance: Yes Campbell: Yes Chandler: Yes Bouldin: Absent
The motion passed.

ITEM #6: Mayor's Report: Mayor Famer explained, she applied for a Community Support Grant for the Nation's 250th Birthday Celebration. The deadline was January 20th, in the amount of \$20,000 with no match the deadline was January 20th. The event will be held in conjunction with our July 3rd Firework celebration. A lot of plans are being discussed with the Tourism Council and the Chamber and Commerce. The Ford truck has been repaired and working properly it was not what was originally thought.

ITEM #7: Discussion of Mayor's Position. Mayor Farmer stated, it has been the topic of discussion in the community and on social media and wanted an open discussion with the board. Alderman Chandler started the discussion by suggesting leaving the position full-time but, reducing the salary to \$24,800. Vice Mayor Campbell's opinion was that this is an opportunity to focus on city affairs that have been overlooked while the city was focusing on utility. He doesn't really have a concern either way for salary, but wants it to be appealing for candidates to run. Alderman Hensley's opinion was to leave the position full time, but feels like salary shouldn't be reduced that much. Alderman Nance's opinion is to leave the position full time, but has concerns lowing the salary might limit quality and work ethic of future candidates. After a lot of discussion, all members were in favor of leaving the position full time, but tabling the salary portion until next meeting.

JCH Report: Zeda was in attendance to give SRTS update. JCH will need to send affidavit and tear sheets as proof the notice of completion was ran in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks. We are still waiting on final approval of reimbursement requests.

Without any further business to discuss, Alderman Chandler made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.



Mayor


Recorder