

Sponkey

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etry, Sponkey's friends had come to expect more than the solemn reverence they felt for their lost loved ones. They expected to be accompanied and to be actively comforted, because Sponkey reliably delivered time after time. "If we can trigger a

"When I'd walk through the cemetery it always amazed me how he wouldn't walk toward me but would walk to where I was heading. Every cemetery needs a soul like Sponkey."

- Lauren Wipper, one of many to comment on Facebook about Sponkey, the cemetery cat.



Submitted photo

Sponkey lived a double life that became apparent after his death in March.

memory of that comfort, and with it a moment's respite, by working with the Orono Cemetery and Two Rivers Monuments to get a small memorial erected, then that's what we'll do."

A GoFundMe account has been set up to help

cover the cost of a small memorial monument at Orono Cemetery to celebrate his legacy of comfort and healing. The link is at: <https://gofund.me/fbaf7dc2>.

Any excess funds will be donated to charity.

Council

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to cover some, or all, of the park dedication fees. Mayor John Dietz said the park dedication or outdoor furniture donation is an item the Parks and Recreation Commission can consider and offer a recommendation to the council.

The project received one written letter of support. The current property is undeveloped. City staff said construction would likely start later in 2022.

In other action at the April 18 meeting, the council:

- Approved a proposal for commissioning lighting and HVAC system services for Fire Station No. 3 for a total of \$19,750. Commissioning was recommended by the project architect and building maintenance supervisor to ensure the components were installed correctly and met specifications. Funding will come from the project fund.

- Approved two shade structures for the Orono Park pickleball courts. The structures with a red metal roof, plus in-

stallation assembly and concrete flatwork will cost nearly \$60,000 with funding from the Park Improvement Fund.

- Hired Joshua Mollan as the economic development intern. The economic development specialist for the city resigned in October and city staff have not yet found a replacement. Mollan approached the city about his interest in working in local government. Mollan has a master's degree in public administration. The internship will last six months. According to council documents, city staff still intend to fill the economic development specialist position at a later date.

- Approved the purchase of two 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles to serve as command vehicles for the fire department. The vehicles will be used for the duty officer program and by the deputy fire chief of administration for daily duties and emergency response. Each vehicle is expected to cost around \$51,100, with the base vehicle being \$42,000, vehicle outfitting such as lighting, sirens and labor coming in at \$7,000 and graph-

ics and lettering costing more than \$2,100.

- Promoted Zack Carlton to the position of community development director. The former director Suzanne Fischer transitioned to the environmental services and special projects director.

- Approved, updated the city's organizational chart and job descriptions for community development and administration.

- Welcomed new Communications Coordinator Klara Porath.

- Approved a conditional use permit for a kennel at 18753 Cleveland Street - K9 Country Club.

Work session items included:

- Received information regarding organizational structure changes in public works and consented to the change.

- Discussed the volunteer recognition program and consented to increasing the per person farmers market allowance to \$10 to thank volunteers for their service to the city.

In closed session, discussed and provided direction regarding a property purchase.

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