

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 29, 2007 – 6 PM – COOK CITY HALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors David Danz, Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm

ABSENT: Councilor Dan Manick

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynda Hanninen, RLK Kuusisto – Jon Minne, Jim Willford – Consultant for the Dept of Natural Resources, The Timberjay, Cook News Herald, Patrol Officer Dan Nylund, Richard and Ted Paakkonen

Mayor Edblom called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Jim Willford, a consultant for the Department of Natural Resources and a Retired State Parks Regional Manager made a presentation on the proposal for a new state park on the east side of Lake Vermilion. The goal of the Department of Natural Resources is to preserve the undeveloped lands along Lake Vermilion and create a flagship state park that showcases Minnesota's classic lake country. The Council Members and the public audience were afforded the opportunity for a question and answer discussion.

Jon Minne - RLK Kuusisto updated the Council regarding the River Street Streetscape Project. The City of Cook has received a \$246,000 grant for 80% of construction costs for the streetscape. The money will be available in 2008. Other expenses will include engineering design, which is required for the federal review process. The project will be to reconstruct North River Street, drainage improvements, and enhancement to the existing bridge, trash receptacles and architectural details.

RLK Incorporated has given a proposal to complete a preliminary survey (North River Street only), preliminary design and provide assistance to St. Louis County Public Works Department in preparing the project memorandum and attendance at four meetings to review/discuss the project. The Project Memorandum will take approximately one year. Construction is expected to begin in 2009. The estimated expenditure in 2008 for planning is \$36,000.

Discussion was held regarding this project being a capital improvement and not included in the general fund budget. Jon Minne has submitted the project to IRR. IRR has not yet had their board meeting to make a decision.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to approve the proposal from RLK Kuusisto to complete a preliminary survey (North River Street only), preliminary design and provide assistance to St. Louis County Public Works Department in preparing the project memorandum and attendance at four meetings to review/discuss the project.

MOTION CARRIED

Jon Minne updated regarding the water meter project. Mayor Edblom gave a specific date of November 30, 2007 to Labco, Inc., which was extended to December 4, 2007 to complete items of the meter project. Labco is to submit a report detailing how they will complete this project regarding the following items:

- Antenna at City Hall to read the water meters
- Radio transmitters
- New faceplates for meters
- Meter valves that are breaking (200 valves have been replaced out of 600)

Mayor Edblom requested authority for himself and Administrator Martinson to resolve the issue with Labco, Inc. regarding the water meter project.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to give authority to Mayor Edblom and Administrator Martinson to represent the Council regarding the water meter project.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was held regarding the detailed check register.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of October 25, 2007
- B. Approval/correction of Special Budget Minutes of November 8, 2007.
- C. Acceptance of the October Police Department Report
- D. Reporting of the October Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2007	\$ 91,389.40	\$1,076,945.17
<u>2006</u>	<u>\$ 85,750.69</u>	<u>\$1,057,410.72</u>
(+)	\$ 5,638.71	\$ 19,534.45

Bill Presentation

Paid since last presentation	\$146,927.55
Presented for payment	<u>\$ 98,309.07</u>
	\$245,236.62

- E. November 2007 Airport Operator's Report
- F. Library Board Minutes of October 3, 2007
- G. Safety Committee Minutes – October 29, 2007
- H. Cook Chamber Minutes of September 10, 2007

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Hollanitsch updated regarding the Airport. A meeting was held with S.E.H. Engineers and MN Department of Transportation to review the Capital Improvement Plan for the airport. Funding and project dates were discussed with Michael Ferry, Regional Engineer with MN DOT and Tom Foster of S.E.H. Engineers. The CIP needs to be submitted before December 19, 2007. Recommendation was given to keep the projects already listed on the CIP there. This does not commit the City to complete the project. Removing a project will result in not being funded for the project for a number of years.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to approve the Capital Improvement Plan and to submit the CIP to MN DOT and the FAA. **MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held regarding the airport hangar. No bids were received to purchase the City airport hangar. Administrator Martinson requested the approval to negotiate with the individuals who previously made a \$30,100 bid on the airport hangar.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to give Administrator Martinson the authority to pursue the sale of the hangar to the individuals who previously made the highest bid of \$30,100. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Airport Justification Report that was presented at the October Council Meeting has been sent to the State of Minnesota and the FAA.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to accept the Airport Justification Report prepared by S.E.H. Engineers. **MOTION CARRIED**

The following are donations that have been received for Parks and Recreation:

\$ 1000 from Senator Doug Johnson and his wife Denesse

\$ 1000 from Mlaker Funeral Home

\$ 81 from St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

The Timberwolves Snowmobile Club has put up a new sign at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center and installed the sign with the assistance of Mark Pohto and Brian Grohndahl of Lake Country Power.

City Hall staff will send thank you letters for these donations.

Last Chance Liquor has received a \$500 check from the Minnesota State Lottery for selling a \$100,000 Deal or No Deal ticket.

There will be Board of Review Training at the Clinton Town Hall on January 23, 2007 for any Councilor who is willing to participate.

Walker, Giroux and Hahne have sent a proposal letter for the 2007 audit. The fee will be \$15,000. Approval is needed to accept the proposal for Walker, Giroux and Hahne to schedule and begin preliminary planning for the audit.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to approve the proposal from Walker, Giroux and Hahne to perform the 2007 audit for the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

Tower Economic Development Authority will be holding a meeting on December 3, 2007 at 6:00 PM to discuss the concept of establishing a Regional Economic Development Authority to address growth issues that are and will continue to impact the Lake Vermilion area. The Council expressed their interest in involvement and requested Councilor Danz to represent the City of Cook.

A letter was received from the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners requesting funding to continue services with Lobbyist Sante Esposito at a rate of \$1,000 per month to track the applications for funding on behalf of the TH 53 Citizen Task Force and has acted as the fiscal agent for the Task Force. Councilor Danz will be contacting Lee Phillips to get more information regarding the services provided by Lobbyist Sante Esposito.

The League of MN Cities will be holding training in 2008 for Elected Officials, administration, staff and insurance agents.

A copy of the fact, resolution and responses to comments document for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) prepared for the ANOVA off axis detector near Orr, MN is available at City Hall. No significant impact was found.

A Maintenance Report was provided.

Councilor Storm wanted to remind citizens and anyone who has sidewalk in front of their property of Ordinance 302.2 stating the need to remove snow within 24 hours.

Mayor Edblom thanked Boy Scout Ted Paakkonen for attending the Council Meeting to receive his Merit Badge.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Danz to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hanninen
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer