

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
SEPT 25, 2008 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors Karen Hollanitsch, Elizabeth Storm and Dan Manick

ABSENT: Councilor Dave Danz

OTHERS PRESENT: Cook News Herald, The Timberjay, Officer Dan Nylund, John Jamnick – RLK Engineering, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Bob Champa, Kay Young, and Donna Snyder

Mayor Dick Edblom called the regular meeting of the Cook City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM:

John Jamnick of RLK Engineering reported that the test pump results for the well replacement project were successful at 200 gallons per minute. The future site for the well project is located at the north end of the old ball field. Plans include a future water tower, two permanent wells and to relocate the water treatment plant.

The city received a Community Block Development Grant for \$220,000, which was the second largest grant, awarded from the program this fiscal year. The city also received an IRR Grant for \$280,000 with the total project cost at \$600,000. These grants do not include the water tower project but the city will seek funding for this project. With funding approved, the city will now need approval from the MN Dept of Health and anticipate construction to begin in the spring of 2009. John Jamnick was thanked for his engineering work on this project and Bud Ranta was commended for representing the City of Cook's application to CDBG.

Bud Ranta reported that St. Louis County has submitted a project schedule on the county road projects including the Park Road, Third Avenue and Johnson Road. This schedule was shared with the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Cook City Council.

Bud Ranta requested approval on a quote from Lanyk Electric for \$21,000 for street lighting for the park area and the new street through the Parks and Rec Center. The bid is to install poles and lights that are re-used by the city and install service to the log building.

Motion by Manick, second by Hollanitsch to approve Lanyk Electric's quote for \$21,000 for lighting at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to approve the consent agenda as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval/correction of the Preliminary Budget & Levy Minutes of September 12, 2008
- B. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of August 28, 2008
- C. Acceptance of August Police Department Report
- D. Reporting of the August Liquor Store Sales

MTD YTD

2008	\$174,667.30	\$923,841.06
2007	<u>\$158,013.39</u>	<u>\$879,663.70</u>
(-)	\$ 16,653.91	\$ 44,177.36

E. Bill Presentation

Paid since last presentation	\$ 123,088.26
Presented for payment	\$ 56,801.38

F. September Airport Operator's Report

G. MN Dept of Health report – July 28, 2008

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta will research the expense of contracting for brushing work throughout the city versus purchasing our own equipment and doing this within the city department.

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to research the cost of purchasing equipment to brush within the city. **MOTION CARRIED**

The annual CIP review will be at the Cook Airport on October 1st, 2008. A request to hire a land appraiser and Administrator Martinson will negotiate contracts and bring those back to the City Council for approval.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second to Storm to approve Skip Pitzen as our appraiser with Culbert Realty doing the review appraisal. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Parks and Recreation Committee requested that the Seasonal Recreation Attendant position be posted at \$8.50 per hour and the season run from Dec 1 to Mar 31, 2009. Volunteers are needed to serve as the interview panel.

Motion by Manick, second by Edblom to approve posting the Seasonal Recreation Attendant position and approving an interview panel for the position of Councilor Hollanitsch, Storm, Administrator Martinson and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Palm.

Aye: Mayor Edblom, Councilors Hollanitsch and Manick

Nay: None

Absent: Councilor Danz

Abstain: Councilor Storm

The Golf Tournament was a success and many were thanked for supporting the fundraiser.

HR Consultant, Paul Ness, reviewed with Officer Dan Nylund the additional duties he has assumed since the retirement of Chief Hietala. Mr. Ness is recommending an increase in pay of \$1.52/hour for 16 hours of a working week. This was based on information submitted by Officer Nylund on the additional reports, etc. that he has been completing which computes to 40% of his time. Ness offered a retroactive increase back to June 1, 2008, the retirement date of the chief.

The approval will remain in affect until either a council decision is made on the police department or until year-end with a re-evaluation 1-1-09.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Manick to approve increasing Officer Nylund's pay by an additional \$1.52/hour for 16 hours of a 40 hour work week, recognizing additional duties being performed by Officer Nylund while the City does not have a Police Chief. This increase will be retroactive to June 1, 2008.

Aye: Mayor Edblom, Councilors Hollanitsch and Manick

Nay: None

Absent: Councilor Danz

Abstain: Councilor Storm

The Office Assistant Position has been posted and a panel of volunteers is needed to conduct interviews. Councilors Hollanitsch and Storm volunteered to interview applicants along with Administrator Martinson and Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to form a panel to conduct interviews for the Office Assistant Position, which includes Councilors Storm and Hollanitsch, Administrator Martinson and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Palm. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to authorize the Mayor and Administrator to sign the Fire Protection Agreements with Unorganized Townships 62-17 and 63-17. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS:

Senator Bakk was recognized by the League of Minnesota Cities for his efforts in the latest legislative session. A copy of the letter was shared with the Council.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm offered a Thank You to the Farmer's Market people as it portrayed a good impression for the community. There is a need for new businesses within the city to help spread the tax burden. She expressed gratitude towards residents who have filed for city council positions as it shows support and care for the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Manick, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm

Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer