

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 17, 2009 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors Jody Bixby, Dan Manick, Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm
ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: RLK Engineer John Jamnick, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Tammy Palmer, Bob Champa, Tom and Lisa Ojanen, Lois Pajari, Karen Lind, Steve Gams, Cook News Herald and The Timberjay

Mayor Edblom called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC FORUM:

RLK Engineer, John Jamnick, reported that the filter is ready to transfer for the new water treatment/well project. Water will continue to be supplied but not filtered for 2-3 days. There are no health issues to be concerned about and there may be a minimal interruption with the water pressure.

The Well and Water Treatment Project and the Water Tower Project are on schedule and RLK Engineer, John Jamnick, has recommended council approval for the following pay estimates:

Pay Estimate #4 to Magney Construction for \$64,394.90, Pay Estimate #5 to Magney Construction for \$58,436.40 and Pay Estimate #4 to Traut Wells for \$18,572.50.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Manick to approve Pay Estimate #4 to Magney Construction for \$64,394.90, Pay Estimate #5 to Magney Construction for \$58,436.40 and Pay Estimate #4 to Traut Wells for \$18,572.50.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of November 19, 2009
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of November 19, 2009 (Budget 2010)
- C. Reporting of the November 2009 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2009	\$103,417.06	\$1,256,218.24
2008	<u>\$102,500.12</u>	<u>\$1,234,911.47</u>
	\$ 916.94	\$ 21,306.77

- D. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$140,981.14
 Presented for payment \$ 53,443.43
- E. Airport Operator's Report
- F. Maintenance Department Report
- G. Ambulance Service Activity Report

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve the consent agenda. **MOTION CARRIED**

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing prior to the Regular Council Meeting to hear evidence in consideration of granting a Variance to Spectrum Health Companies for construction of a garage on their property located at 151 Fourth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723, Sunrise Addition, Block 2, Lot 6. No objections were noted from neighboring property owners or citizens of the community. The Planning and Zoning Commission made a recommendation, to the council, to approve the Variance.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Manick to approve a Variance to Spectrum Health Companies for construction of a garage on their property located at 151 Fourth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723, Sunrise Addition, Block 2, Lot 6. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Parks and Recreation Commission were given permission from the council to seek volunteer firefighters to flood the skating rink. Volunteers will be needed to clear the rink as well. A skate exchange will be held at the Cook School and notification will be posted in the local paper. The rink will be open during daylight hours and the Council will allow the rental of a Porta John for the skating season.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will purchase bleachers with the remaining funds in the 2009 budget. Youth baseball will assist with funds in excess of the budgeted amount.

The Doug Johnson Park will be closed daily from 10 pm to 6 am on recommendation from the St. Louis County Sheriffs' Department to enforce park safety. The placement of signs will be discussed with the traffic and enforcement departments of St. Louis County.

The council reviewed a listing of names that were submitted for the new park road. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended naming the park road "Gopher Drive". Councilor Manick recommended approving "Gopher Drive" for the commissions' efforts towards the new community center.

Motion by Manick, second by Hollanitsch to name the new park road "Gopher Drive".

Aye: Mayor Edblom, Councilors' Jody Bixby, Karen Hollanitsch and Dan Manick

Nay: Councilor Storm

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

A proposed agreement with Granite Bonding has been reached to replace defective water meters. Labco will replace water meter valves and Secure Vision will fix the radios to remotely read meter usage. Residents and businesses will be notified in advance to schedule repairs within a two-week period. A one-year warranty will be issued when the system is repaired and working.

NEW BUSINESS:

The airport hangar lease agreement is due for renewal for hangar owner Lauren Sawatsky. Lease agreements are valid for ten years.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to renew the airport hangar lease agreement with Lauren Sawatsky for ten years. **MOTION CARRIED**

The annual renewal of licenses for the VFW Post 1757 (\$2895) and The Old Muni Bar and Lounge (\$615) are due for 2010.

Motion by Manick, second by Bixby to approve 2010 license renewals for the VFW Post 1757 (Club, Gaming, Off Sale 3.2 and Sunday) and The Old Muni Bar and Lounge (On Sale Liquor, Gaming, Off Sale 3.2 and Sunday). **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Manick commended new area businesses and welcomed them to Cook. He recommended a Proclamation for Hill Biomass, purchased by local business Hill Wood Products, at the former Ainsworth Plant.

Councilor Hollanitsch commented on the beautiful holiday displays in Cook.

Councilor Storm thanked the city employees, council, commissions and residents for their dedication to the City of Cook.

Councilor Storm reminded the council that the Conflict of Interest Statement will be signed and the Code of Conduct policy will be reviewed in January 2010.

Mayor Edblom presented a resolution for the Cities of Cook, Orr and Tower calling for the ISD 2142 School Board to suspend implementation of the restructuring plan that pertains to the Cook, Orr and Tower-Soudan Schools.

These communities stand to lose jobs and businesses as a result of the consolidation plans to construct a new school outside of these communities.

The City of Cook is asking the ISD 2142 School Board to suspend the school reconstruction plan for at least one year or until a more socially, politically and economically suitable plan can be devised.

Motion by Edblom, second by Hollanitsch to approve a Resolution calling for the ISD 2142 School Board to suspend implementation of the restructuring plan that pertains to the Cook, Orr and Tower-Soudan Schools.

Aye: Mayor Edblom, Councilors' Bixby and Hollanitsch

Nay: Councilors' Manick and Storm

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Manick, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer