

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 26, 2009 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors Elizabeth Storm, Jody Bixby and Dan Manick

ABSENT: Councilor Karen Hollanitsch

OTHERS PRESENT: The Timberjay, Cook News Herald, Geri Wilkinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

Motion by Storm, second by Manick to approve the consent agenda with the following correction to the January 22, 2009 minutes:

PUBLIC FORUM: Paragraph two – omit sentence “He wants to continue to budget the way we have in the past.”

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of January 22, 2009

B. Reporting of the January Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2009	\$71,836.81	\$71,836.81
2008	\$64,350.77	\$64,350.77
	\$ 7,486.04	\$ 7,486.04

C. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$ 76,074.96

D. Maintenance Department February Report

E. Airport Operator’s February Report

F. Updated 2009 Journal of City Council Meeting Dates to include 2009 Study Session Dates.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved a motion to utilize Greg Burckhardt’s building design plan and for Greg Burckhardt and Tammy Palmer to move forward and meet with DSGW Architects to have the plans discussed and drawn up. The final building plans must be approved by the Cook City Council. The Cook Coop Credit Union donated \$15,338.25 to the building fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve Resolution No. 090226, accepting Iron Range Resources Grant #B43-2253, in the amount of \$280,000 for the Spectrum Project. Mayor Edblom and Administrator Martinson are authorized to sign all documents related to this grant.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

The League of MN Cities has conference opportunities for staff and elected officials. A Safety and Loss Control Workshop will be held April 30, 2009 in Biwabik. Please contact city hall if interested.

The 2010 Census count will be conducted on April 1st, 2010. Census committees will start promoting the census count in 2009. Please support the census count in the City of Cook as “the count will determine Congressional representation, state legislative and local voting districts and the allocation of millions of federal and state dollars.” The State of Minnesota could possibly lose a seat in the US House of Representatives.

The City of Cook taxpayers can review their property tax valuations at the St. Louis County Assessor’s office in Virginia on April 21, 2009 from 10-11 a.m.. Cook did not have a quorum last year so we are now on open book status.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Manick expressed concern for revenues and employment for the Cook area. With Ainsworth closing he wants to know what the council can do to promote revenues and employment for this area. Administration has made contacts regarding the plant site.

Councilor Storm commented on the excessive deer population within city limits. Residents are feeding deer in town and the increased population has become a nuisance. She requested a possible agenda item be added to the council meeting to attempt to control the population. Councilor Storm also reminded residents and businesses to keep sidewalks clear from snow and ice.

Councilor Bixby questioned why the highway 53 speed limit heading north of Cook does not remain at 40 mph until the end of the city limits and the same for traffic coming into town. Administrator Martinson had already contacted the State Traffic Engineer from Duluth to research and conduct studies this spring. We may be able to move the 40 mph zone to the bridge past Vermilion Drive.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bixby, second by Manick to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer