

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
JULY 23, 2009 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

In the absence of RLK Engineer John Jamnick, Administrator Martinson provided a project status report for the water meters, water tower, water treatment plant, River Street Streetscape, and Spectrum Health Projects.

The wells and water treatment plant are scheduled to start construction on July 27, 2009. The Minnesota Department of Health has given verbal approval to move ahead with the water tower project. Advertising for bids will begin around the last week of July with bids being accepted around mid-August. Construction on the water tower base will begin in September.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Additional payables were presented for payment approval for \$8550.00 for the new airport mower received on July 22 and \$9,825 for the airport land appraisals for the runway expansion project.

A correction to the June minutes will be made for the Cook Hospital's 50th Anniversary Walk/Run date of September 19 instead of September 14, 2009.

A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of June 25, 2009

B. Reporting of the June 2009 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2009	\$148,202.24	\$563,188.10
2008	<u>\$141,487.81</u>	<u>\$562,566.41</u>
	\$ 6,714.43	\$ 621.69

C. Bill Presentation	Paid since last presentation	\$120,208.91
	Presented for payment	\$125,029.58

D. Airport Operator's Report of July 2009

E. Parks and Recreation Minutes of July 20, 2009

F. Ambulance Service June 2009 Monthly Report

G. Great River Energy – July 1, 2009

H. Safety Committee Minutes – June 19, 2009

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to accept the consent agenda with the listed additions and corrections.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

The Airport land appraisals have been completed and contact has been made with landowners. The airport commission needs permission from landowners to perform the state mandated archeological surveys. The August deadline may not be met and the commission will be able to appeal the deadline without losing funding.

The Parks and Recreation Committee requested that the City Council provide a formal dedication and naming of the new T-ball field in the spring of 2010.

A decision was made to remove the hockey players' box and to not rebuild them. Administrator Martinson directed this project to be taken care of by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A request for \$1000 was made to purchase yellow poly cap for the fences on the Dan Swanson and softball fields. Councilor Manick reported that the baseball teams should be able to give fundraising money towards this purchase as well.

Motion by Manick, second by Hollanitsch to approve \$1000 from the parks and recreation general fund towards the purchase of yellow poly cap for the fences on the Dan Swanson and softball fields. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Edblom reported that the City of Cook is proceeding with legal action against the bonding company involving the water meters. The attorney representing the bonding company is not moving forward with the litigation. The City of Cook has submitted relevant information that is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Cook Lion's Club has requested that the city cover the expense of lighting for an addition to the existing flag park. The city researched the costs for a new service versus an existing service, which resulted in too much money at this time. The council decided to table the discussion until the August council meeting.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to table the lighting expense coverage for the Cook Lion's Club flag park until the August council meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Northeast Service Cooperative wants to bring fiber optics to Cook at no cost to the City. A support letter from the City is requested for approval.

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to send a letter of support to Northeast Service Cooperative for providing fiber optics to Cook at no expense to the City. **MOTION CARRIED**

Deputy – Clerk / Treasurer Palm provided the council with Identity Theft Protection policies that were drafted for the utility and airport billing. The council is to approve these policies.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to approve the Identity Theft Protection policies for utility and airport billing. **MOTION CARRIED**

A public hearing will be held on July 29, 2009 to hear public comments on the Lift Station Project. The council will need to approve a quorum of 3 councilors to hear comments on the Lift Station Project.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to approve a quorum of 3 councilors to hear comments on the Lift Station Project for the July 29 public hearing meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval is needed to award the low bid for painting, sealing and building repairs for the ambulance and fire hall. Councilor Karen Hollanitsch, Ambulance Director Penny Buckingham, Fire Chief Arnie Johnson and Administrator Theresa Martinson would like to award the low bids now and not wait until the August 25th council meeting.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to allow Hollanitsch, Buckingham, Johnson and Martinson to award the low bid for painting, sealing and building repairs for the ambulance and fire hall. **MOTION CARRIED**

The 2008 audit has been completed by Walker, Giroux and Hahne and needs to be approved by the council.

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to approve the 2008 audit completed by Walker, Giroux and Hahne. **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Manick reported that the base of the streetlights along Vermilion Drive are rising from the ground. He suggested that skirting be looked at to cover the gaps and be included in the River Street Streetscape project for 2010.

Councilor Manick volunteered his time with the garden club to assist in weeding the gardens around city hall. He commented on how nice the city park and gazebo area looked.

Councilor Hollanitsch reported that the city blight ordinance lists the police department as the authority over blight matters in the city. Now that the police department has been eliminated, the city needs to change the authority.

Councilor Hollanitsch would like to look into reforming the beautification committee for the city. She feels that it is important to formally thank residents and businesses for their beautification efforts. City officials would like to research the safety of old buildings and look into programs and assistance to help demolish these buildings and clean up the city. The city (if having the opportunity) could take possession of the property and cover the expense of demolition then sell the property to cover the expense.

Councilor Storm reported that National Health Center Week is August 9-15th. She also reported that unemployment is currently at 18.7% across the Iron Range. Councilor Storm would like to see community ideas for the naming of the new street at the Doug Johnson Park.

Councilor Storm reported that the H1N1 Influenza currently has no immunization but seasonal flu shots could possibly help. It is very important that EMTs and fire fighters get immunization protection. A notebook is kept at the hospital on the front desk with the most current updates on H1N1 Influenza.

Councilor Storm gave appreciation to the garden club for their beautification efforts in the City of Cook. She commented that the city is looking nice with new street signs, mowing, sidewalks and parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Manick, second by Bixby to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Palm - Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer