

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
COOK CITY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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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, Geri Wilkinson, Tammy Palmer, Donna Snyder, Airport Coordinator Tom Woock and RLK Engineer – John Jamnick

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

RLK Engineer, John Jamnick presented Pay Estimate Number 2 for \$163,255.74 to Magney Construction Inc. for work performed on the Water Treatment Plant.

Motion by Storm, second by Manick to approve Pay Estimate Number 2 for \$163,255.74 to Magney Construction Inc. for work performed on the Water Treatment Plant. **MOTION CARRIED**

RLK Engineer, John Jamnick presented Pay Estimate Number 2 for \$59,011.62 to Traut Wells for work performed on the Well Replacement Project.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve Pay Estimate Number 2 for \$59,011.62 to Traut Wells for work performed on the Well Replacement Project. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Well Replacement and Water Treatment Plant Projects are approximately 50% completed.

Traut Wells had to drill two wells outside of the original test wells drilled by Kolstad Olson Drilling. The first well produced poor test pump production. The second well produced close to 150 gallons per minute and the water quality is getting increasingly better.

Funding for the Water Tower Project has been approved and the base will be installed this fall.

County funding for the Riverstreet Streetscape Project is now in place for 2010 and bid letting for the project will be in March of 2010.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of August 27, 2009
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of September 10, 2009  
(Levy/Budget 2010, Spectrum and Airport)
- C. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of September 14, 2009 (Levy/Budget 2010)
- D. Reporting of the August 2009 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2009	\$162,026.71	\$913,668.27
2008	\$175,727.77	\$924,267.98
	\$(13,701.06)	\$(10,599.71)

E. Bill Presentation	Paid since last presentation	\$283,657.44
	Presented for payment	\$ 77,085.83
F. Airport Operator's September 2009 Report		
G. Parks and Recreation Minutes of September 15, 2009		
H. Maintenance Department August 2009 Report		
I. Ambulance Service August Activity Report		
J. Gardell Gomke letter dated September 7, 2009		
K. St. Louis County Assessor's Office – Board of Review Training		

**COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:**

The Airport Commission has completed and submitted the CIP Project and Needs List for 2010-2015 with 95:5 funding. Council approval is needed for the CIP list in order to submit it to the state.

Motion by Storm, second by Manick to approve the 2010-2015 CIP Project and Needs List and submit it to the MN Department of Transportation – Office of Aeronautics. **MOTION CARRIED**

Airport Coordinator, Tom Woock, requested replacement of the brush chopper equipment at \$2,000 or less. The city would receive 80:20 funding with the city's cost to be approximately \$600.00. The old brush chopper will be refurbished and put up for bid. The runway will be shutdown for approximately 12 weeks during the Runway Expansion Project and result in increased mowing in which the finishing mower could not handle.

A contract amendment between the City of Cook and S.E.H Engineering needs to be approved to include detailed design (preliminary) for improvements at the Cook Airport. Approving this contract amendment will enable the city to move forward with the runway expansion project for 2010. The contract amendment lump sum amount is for \$74,300 with 95:5 funding for the project. The City is responsible for paying the amount due and will be refunded.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve the contract amendment between the City of Cook and S.E.H. Engineering to include detailed design (preliminary) for \$74,300 for 2010 improvements at the Cook Airport. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Personnel Committee of Councilors Hollanitsch and Storm met with Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta in planning and discussion for a one-person maintenance department since retirement of Roger Arola. Bud Ranta submitted a detailed list of job duties and discussed the need for seasonal assistance. The committee will review succession planning to cover replacement in the case of illness or injury. Safety planning for multiple employee requirements at the job has been addressed. The committee will meet with Bud Ranta to discuss a detailed projected plan for future maintenance operations.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The City of Cook is the disbursing agent for the \$280,000 Iron Range Resources grant funds for the Spectrum Project. Approval is needed at this time for outstanding invoices in the amount of \$9,954.00 for engineering services.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve the following invoices be submitted for payment to Iron Range Resources for the Spectrum Project: Northeast Technical Services - \$2,204.00; Braun Intertec - \$1,326.50 and \$4,223.50; and RLK - \$2,200.00. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mike Hanson, of the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club submitted a letter to the city regarding the approval of the Wolftrack Classic Sled Dog race. In his letter, he stated that the City of Cook granted permission for use of a bridge outside the city limits. Mayor Edblom contacted Mike Hanson to clarify that the city granted permission for use of the city park and informed the Wolftrack committee that they would need to seek permission for trail use outside of the city limits before they would be able to bring the race into the city. The information Mike Hanson received was published in the local paper and was incorrectly stated.

Mayor Edblom provided a legal update on the LABCO/Secure Vision water meter update. LABCO is not interested in avoiding excessive legal expense and wants to meet with the staff. Tracy Irwin with Secure Vision wants to continue to attempt to get the radio read software running. The council has requested that Attorney Adam Licari be present at the time of this meeting to discuss (in person) the ongoing LABCO/Secure Vision issues with the water meters.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Administrator Martinson submitted information to the Cook Chamber of Commerce regarding Bicycling around Minnesota. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual tour is August 8-21, 2010 and is requesting communities to be a "host city" for this event.

The Duluth Chamber sent in invitation to the Mayor and Council members for the 139<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner celebration on October 14, 2009 at the DECC. US Senator Amy Klobuchar is the keynote speaker for this event.

#### **COUNCIL FORUM:**

Councilor Hollanitsch thanked the city and community for involvement in the 50-year anniversary events for the Cook Hospital.

Councilor Storm thanked Spectrum Health in coming to the community with assisted living and employment for the community. She also thanked the commercial building owners for taking pride in their buildings and grounds. Councilor Storm reminded pet owners to clean up after their pets and acknowledged those who do.

Councilor Storm would like to see a park closing time initiated in the city. Law enforcement cannot require citizens to leave the park unless the city has park hours in place.

Councilor Storm has requested that the community name the new park road and councilors will review and choose a name at the October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 council meeting. Entries may be submitted to Cook City Hall until October 15, 2009.

Mayor Edblom commended the First Baptist Church group who is assisting in city beautification. This group has cleaned up the river area on Hwy 24 and Vermilion Drive. They have also demolished and removed the hockey bench boxes at the Doug Johnson Park. Individuals or organizations needing assistance from this group can contact City Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Manick, second by Bixby to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Palm - Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer