

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – STUDY SESSION
COOK CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2009 – CITY HALL – 5 PM

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch, Councilors Jody Bixby and Elizabeth Storm
ABSENT: Mayor Edblom and Councilor Manick
OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm and Geri Wilkinson

Due to the absence of Mayor Edblom, Acting Mayor Hollanitsch called the special council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is for the council to hold monthly study sessions regarding the City of Cook for 2009. The residents of Cook are encouraged to attend these sessions and submit ideas for study to City Hall. Items will be discussed on an importance basis.

Meeting times will be at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month before the regular council meetings. The November meeting addresses the 2010 budget planning and discussion.

Revenues

Research will be done to raise revenue rates for the 2010 budget as follows: Commercial outfits that fill their equipment with city water will be charged a higher base rate fee than normal residential and commercial accounts.

The city will also charge the new community center for water and sewage usage as a non-profit organization.

If the school moves out of city limits then the city will lose approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year in water and sewer revenues. However; with the addition of Spectrum Community Health to the water and sewer system some of the loss will be reduced. More research will be done to determine the net loss.

Residential and Commercial building permits may be charged per square foot rather than one set rate. The League of Minnesota Cities will be contacted prior to determining the new rate.

The water and sewer enterprise funds are now budgeted for 2010. Report modifications are needed to note that the depreciation and line replacement funds are not transferred until year-end, after the budget is approved.

Expenses

Walker, Giroux and Hahne will perform the city audit for 2009 for \$16,000. An additional audit may be required for federal grant funding as well for an additional \$2,000 to \$3,000. Council members questioned if we should continue to utilize Walker, Giroux and Hahne or be more competitive in price. It was felt that the City has a good relationship with Walker, Giroux and Hahne and that they are very knowledgeable with our city finances. Our financial position is moving in the right direction and it was felt that we should remain with our current auditors for now.

Adjournment

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the special study meeting at 5:46 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm