

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
COOK CITY COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 27, 2007 – 6 PM – CITY HALL**

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PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors David Danz, Dan Manick and Elizabeth Storm

ABSENT: Councilor Karen Hollanitsch

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynda Hanninen, Patrol Officer Dan Nylund, The Timberjay, Cook News Herald, Tammy Palmer and Lee Phillips

Mayor Edblom called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Discussion was held regarding the Highway 53 Task Force. Administrator Martinson stated that she had spoken with Deputy Auditor Ann Scholler of Koochiching County regarding the request for funding for the Highway 53 Task Force lobbying efforts. Administrator Martinson was told that each of the six entities that have been asked to give monies would pay \$1,714.00 for the year of 2008.

Lee Phillips stated that he had spoken with Bob Anderson, the Highway 53 Task Force Chairman and was told that the funding request would be between \$1000 and \$1100 per year and may be in conjunction with Orr.

Councilor Danz commented that he had spoken with Bill Richard, Chief of Staff for Congressman Oberstar's Office. Councilor Danz was told that a feasibility study was completed up to International Falls and that the federal funding is in place. It was also stated that the state funding is not in place and that there is a 20% match requirement with the state funding.

Councilor Storm thanked Councilor Danz and Lee Phillips for their research and also questioned Lee Phillips if it would be possible for the Chamber of Commerce to participate in funding. Lee Phillips stated that he would have an answer regarding participation in funding by the Chamber for the January Council meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the Consent Agenda. Councilor Manick had questions regarding fuel purchases and whether one of the fuel stations would consider giving a discount. Administrator Martinson stated that she would discuss this option with the owners of the stations.

Motion by Manick, second by Danz to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of November 22, 2007
- B. Approval/correction of Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes of December 3, 2007
- C. Acceptance of the November Police Department Report
- D. Reporting of the November Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2007	\$101,790.46	\$1,180,143.27
2006	\$ 95,522.36	\$1,152,933.08
(+)	\$ 6,268.10	\$ 27,210.19

- E. Bill Presentation
  - Paid since last presentation \$ 68,196.84
  - Presented for payment \$ 84,863.84
  - \$153,060.68
- F. December 2007 Airport Operator's Report
- G. Cook Chamber Minutes

**MOTION CARRIED**

Tammy Palmer was present to speak for the Parks and Recreation Commission. She commented that Anthony Bisbee has been doing a fantastic job as recreation attendant. Ben Anderson had requested that the Doug Johnson Recreation Center have extended hours on Tuesdays. A men's hockey team would pay \$50 per month for private ice time.

Mackenzie Reing will be offering skating lessons in January. There were 40 kids and adults taking lessons last year.

Mayor Edblom questioned if the cleaning of the ice has been good. Tammy Palmer replied that the rink has been clean and that the sidewalks are shoveled and clean as well.

Tammy Palmer stated that Parks and Recreation received a \$3,000 Operation Round Up grant from Lake Country Power. Parks and Recreation is requesting a contribution from the City for the playground equipment structure.

Mayor Edblom questioned if Parks and Recreation has exhausted all options for funding and grants. Tammy Palmer stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has decided to request funds from the Townships for the new community center building and not for the playground equipment. Administrator Martinson stated that Eveleth was funded for their playground equipment with a DNR recreation grant and would like to have this option explored. Any contribution made by the City for the playground equipment would be taken out of liquor store funds. Mayor Edblom stated that he recommends exploring the DNR grant possibility before any decision was made regarding City participation.

Tammy Palmer volunteered to approach the Townships to request donations for the Doug Johnson Recreation Center. She stated that she would request an initial donation for the new community center building. Administrator Martinson stated that she would contact each township to request to be put on their agendas. Councilor Storm stated that it would be a good time for Ambulance Director Penny Buckingham to request for funding and recruit for EMT volunteers.

Fundraisers that will be held include a chili contest on January 27, the annual broomball challenge on February 24 and a snow-golf tournament at the same time. The entry fees will go to the new community center fund.

Administrator Martinson commented that Bob Thomas of Minnesota Pastimes in Virginia donated 12 pool sticks to the recreation center. Administrator Martinson also thanked the Cook News Herald, The Timberjay and Mr. Don Simonson for all the press coverage for the recreation center.

Discussion was held regarding purchasing signs for the Doug Johnson Recreation Center on Highway 53. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends purchasing the signs. The Department of Transportation will install the signs. There is \$1,200 in the budget to purchase the signs.

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to purchase the signs for the Doug Johnson Recreation Center to be placed on Highway 53. **MOTION CARRIED**

Lee Phillips questioned regarding the road to the park. Mayor Edblom, Administrator Martinson and Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta met with St. Louis County. The funding is in place but the project is on administrative hold.

Discussion was held regarding the cost of living increase for full-time employees that was motioned at the Special Council Meeting at 5:00 PM. Councilor Danz was not present at this meeting. Mayor Edblom informed Councilor Danz that a 1% cost of living increase was motioned and carried.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to adopt the final 2008 levy for the City of Cook at \$285,121.00 which is a total 23% increase over last year's levy. **MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held regarding the 2008 budget. Councilor Manick stated that the public comments at the public hearing that was held to discuss the budget and levy were noted. Councilor Storm stated that she will be making a charitable donation of her salary for 2008 and will request that it is designated to a specific service.

Motion by Storm, second by Danz to accept the 2008 budget as presented below:

#### **GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2008 - FINAL**

PROPOSED REVENUES	\$406,660.00
PROPOSED EXPENSES	<u>\$468,192.10</u>
DIFFERENCE	(\$ 61,532.10)
PROPOSED LEVY INCREASE 23%	\$ 53,315.00
GENERAL FUND	(\$61,532.10)
<u>LEVY 23%</u>	<u>\$ 53,315.00</u>
	(\$ 8,217.10)
AIRPORT REVENUES	\$ 63,355.00
AIRPORT EXPENSES	<u>\$ 84,634.00</u>
DIFFERENCE	(\$ 21,279.00)
<i>Transfer from liquor store fund:</i>	
GENERAL FUND	(\$ 8,217.10)
AIRPORT	<u>(\$21,279.00)</u>
<b>TRANSFER</b>	<b>( 29,496.10)</b>

NO MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INCLUDED, THESE JUST SHOW OPERATING COSTS. MAJOR PURCHASES WILL BE APPROVED AS REQUESTED NOT A PART OF THIS BUDGET.

STORM SEWER LOAN ALSO TRANSFERRED FROM LIQUOR STORE (approximately \$44,000).

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Danz thanked Councilor Storm for donating her salary to the City. Councilor Storm has donated her salary in previous years.

Administrator Martinson requested approval to submit payments for the City Hall ADA project as per Dave Jordan of Architectural Resources, engineer on project.

Motion by Storm, second by Manick to approve payments for the City Hall ADA project.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Storm commented regarding the rent at the airport. She stated that there is a rural trailer being rented for \$600 plus utilities.

Administrator Martinson mentioned that there is League of MN Cities training for Experienced Officials January 18 & 19 in Bloomington. City Hall will register anyone who is interested.

Councilor Storm thanked Friends of Aviation, Friends of the Library, citizens for shoveling sidewalks and city crew for plowing, citizens for attending the Truth In Taxation hearing and for contributions to the park.

Councilor Storm asked what happened to the liquor store sign north of Virginia on Hwy 53. Administrator Martinson stated that it was a yearly lease. The City has the face of the sign and would like to place a sign on Hwy 53 by the airport that would advertise the liquor store on the northbound side and the airport on the southbound side.

Mayor Edblom commented that the water meter project will be going to legal action.

Discussion was held regarding parking on River Street. It was questioned whether the City would be willing to relax the no parking during the summer months. Patrol Officer Nylund stated that he would not recommend it as the City has put the signs in place.

Motion by Manick, second by Danz to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hanninen  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer