

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
COOK CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 24, 2008 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: RLK Engineers – Jon Minne, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, Parks and Recreation Secretary Tammy Palmer, Patrol Officer Dan Nylund, Residents Luke Whitney and Gary Edblom, Laura Bergman – Director of Nursing – Cook Hospital, Cook News Herald, The Timberjay, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lynda Hanninen

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

Gary Edblom stated that he is selling his property located at 402 Third Avenue SE. He requested that the City Council allow him to split his property into two properties. He wants to sell the house separately from the shop located on the property. The water line runs in the house out to the shop. A new curb box would need to be installed and the water line will need to be at a T. The potential buyers of the house have agreed to share the water line. Gary Edblom will pay the expense of putting in a new curb box. Gary Edblom stated that the work would be done by the end of March. The water is metered in the house.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm approving Gary Edblom to split his property located at 402 Third Avenue SE into two properties and to also install a new curb box to T the water line between the two properties. **MOTION CARRIED**

RLK Engineers – Jon Minne updated the Council regarding the River Street Streetscape project. He stated that the City of Cook and St. Louis County need to enter into an agreement. A draft of the agreement was provided. The funds were to be administered in the fiscal year of 2009. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has changed this to fiscal year of 2010. MnDOT can advance the construction but the City of Cook will have to cover the grant cost. MnDOT recommended that the City go through the approvals and bid out when the City is ready.

The water tower project is in the second stage of the application process. Rural Development is reviewing the Engineering Report. Based on the project cost, the City's rates would be eligible for 70/30 or 60/40 funding. Jon Minne stated that he has prepared the Engineering Services Agreement and this needs to be reviewed by the City's attorney.

Mayor Edblom questioned whether there is other funding available. Jon Minne stated that Iron Range Resources has prioritized projects for a new business.

Jon Minne stated that the problem with the wells was sediment latent water getting into the casing. The City is operating with one well. The City needs two sources of water to meet the State of Minnesota standards. Jon Minne suggested relocating the well to another location. A study needs to be completed for a new well location. This information can be used for the application process.

Councilor Hollanitsch questioned whether the City would be eligible for different funding because of this issue. Jon Minne stated that because of the environmental conditions of the wells, funding might be a 100% grant.

Mayor Edblom questioned what the earliest timeframe would be. Mr. Minne stated that the earliest would be the summer of 2008.

Councilor Manick questioned if the new well would be outside the capture zone. Jon Minne stated that Northeast Technical Services recommends going across the river. Councilor Manick asked how deep the wells are. Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta stated that the wells are 95 to 105 feet deep.

Jon Minne stated that St. Louis County Development Block Grant might be able to help with funding.

Mayor Edblom questioned if there was a need for a backup pump and motor since only one well is working. Bud Ranta stated that the City does not have a backup pump and motor and that these would be ordered.

Motion by Storm, second by Danz to begin the study for the new well location. **MOTION CARRIED**

Jon Minne updated regarding the water meter project. City Attorney Mark Weir has sent a letter requesting a response by January 15, 2008. Mr. Weir will be contacting the bonding company requesting direction on how to proceed.

Councilor Danz questioned if the valves will be replaced. Jon Minne stated that the reading unit for the meters and the water valves need to be functioning effectively. Jon Minne also stated that there have been problems with cracked valves and the software and antenna systems are not functioning completely and this is not acceptable.

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

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of December 27, 2007
- B. Approval/correction of Special Meeting Minutes of December 27, 2007 (ISD 2142/Budget Meeting)
- C. Acceptance of the December Police Department Report

- D. Reporting of the December Liquor Store Sales
- |             | <u>MTD</u>         | <u>YTD</u>            |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2007        | \$88,208.27        | \$1,268,351.54        |
| <u>2006</u> | <u>\$88,257.45</u> | <u>\$1,241,190.53</u> |
| (-)         | \$ 49.18           | (+)                   |
|             |                    | \$ 27,161.01          |
- E. Bill Presentation
- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Paid since last presentation | \$ 87,698.39        |
| Presented for payment        | <u>\$ 76,203.03</u> |
|                              | \$163,901.42        |
- F. January Airport Operator's Report  
G. Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes – January 14, 2008  
H. Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee Minutes of December 31, 2007  
I. 2008 Mayoral Appointments  
J. 2008 Journal of City Council Meeting Dates  
K. 2008 Journal of Parks and Recreation Committee Meetings  
L. 2008 Journal of Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee Meetings  
M. Administrator Martinson's attendance at MCFOA Annual Conference – March 11 – 14, 2008 – Alexandria  
N. Resolution to approve securities agreement – First National Bank

Discussion was held regarding the newspaper bids for the legal newspaper for 2008. Mayor Edblom questioned the Cook News Herald regarding not signing the bid in regards to the legality disclaimer.

Gary Albertson stated that the Cook News Herald has been a newspaper in Cook for 100 years. He stated that he was directed by his attorney not to sign. Mayor Edblom commented that his might make his bid non-responsive.

Motion by Storm, second by Danz to appoint the Cook News Herald the legal newspaper for the City of Cook for the year of 2008. **MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Storm commented that the Minutes of the City Council meetings would not be published.

Administrator Martinson commented that she has received a verbal resignation from Chief Al Hietala. He will be resigning as of May 30, 2008. Administrator Martinson stated that she would like to personally thank and acknowledge Chief Hietala for his years of service.

Mayor Edblom questioned if there is a type of gesture that the City Council can give him. Administrator Martinson stated that the City could give him a letter and a plaque.

Administrator Martinson stated that the replacement process needs to be started.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to request the Police Commission make a recommendation on how to proceed. **MOTION CARRIED**

Administrator Martinson stated that the Police Commission members continue to be interested in serving on the Police Commission. Councilor Manick will be the chair. Administrator Martinson commented that the commission members would be given a copy of the Annual Report for 1988 through 2007 prepared by Chief Hietala.

Laura Bergman, Director of Nursing at the Cook Hospital stated that police protection is very important to the hospital. Mayor Edblom questioned if the hospital has had problems needing police presence. Laura Bergman stated that the hospital has had problems with people seeking narcotics.

Councilor Storm stated that she has asked the three physicians at the hospital about police presence and stated that all three have said that police presence is necessary. Councilor Storm commented that the business community deserves police protection.

Mayor Edblom asked Patrol Officer Dan Nylund how many calls the police department receives to respond to the hospital and clinic. Dan Nylund commented that it could be any number.

Councilor Hollanitsch updated regarding the airport. The Airport Commission did not have a commission meeting in January. A meeting was held with airport consultant David Dill regarding the airport. Councilor Danz was present at this meeting and stated that it is a matter of being educated and that he is now a believer that the airport is important to the City of Cook. Councilor Storm thanked Administrator Martinson for arranging the meeting.

Tammy Palmer was present to speak regarding Parks and Recreation. Mayor Edblom questioned if everyone was aware of the Chili Contest on January 27, 2008. Tammy Palmer stated that there would be 5 judges. The contest will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Tammy Palmer stated that Parks and Recreation is continuing fund raising efforts for the new community center building. She talked with Chris Ismil of Iron Range Youth In Action regarding the building. He will be meeting with a company regarding developing plans for the building. Tammy Palmer attended the Alango Township meeting requesting an annual donation for Parks and Recreation. If the township decides to donate it will be effective for 2009. She will be attending other township meetings to request donations.

Tammy Palmer requested from the City Council that the City participate in funding for the playground equipment. She stated that she will be meeting with John Winter and he will be looking at the site and recommend a place to put the equipment. Mr. Winter has given a list of possible grants that can be explored.

Mayor Edblom commented that the City needs to have a display of City participation and would like to recommend that the City donate \$17,000 to Parks and Recreation to purchase the playground equipment.

Tammy Palmer stated that there are codes that need to be met to install the equipment. The Parks and Recreation Playground Committee would like to have the equipment installed in 2008.

Councilor Storm questioned if it is possible to reduce the size of the structure and add onto the structure later. Tammy Palmer stated that this is possible. The company has reduced the price of the structure by \$1200.

Councilor Hollanitsch stated that the City has critical service issues with water.

Motion by Edblom, second by Manick to approve committing \$17,000 for playground equipment.

Aye: Mayor Edblom, Councilors Manick and Danz

Abstain: Councilor Hollanitsch and Councilor Storm

**MOTION CARRIED**

Tammy Palmer stated that another ad will be placed in the paper requesting donations and further fundraising will occur for the playground equipment to hopefully lower the city's participation.

Councilor Storm commented that the Regional Emergency Preparedness would be having a surprise drill in the summer of 2008.

Administrator Martinson updated regarding the Highway 53 Task Force. Lee Phillips was present at the December Council Meeting regarding the Task Force. The Chamber of Commerce will be giving \$500 for the lobbying efforts. The City of Mt. Iron has given \$300. Councilor Danz stated that he has spoken with Bill Richards. The federal money for Highway 53 to come to Cook is in place. The State of Minnesota has not given the 20% match. Councilor Danz commented that MnDOT has stated that they believe the money will be found.

Administrator Martinson stated that the Chamber of Commerce is looking at it from an economic development standpoint.

Councilor Danz commented regarding the advisory taskforce for the proposed state park. There are 3000 acres that could be purchased from US Steel. US Steel has consented to allow the State of Minnesota the opportunity to purchase the land. The proposal of the Commissioner is to use lottery proceeds to purchase the land.

Councilor Storm stated that in view of protecting essential water services go to [www.americanwater.com](http://www.americanwater.com) to find ways to conserve water usage.

Councilor Manick commented that in 2007 discussion was held regarding a Personal Conduct Policy and that he did not sign this policy. Councilor Storm stated that a policy was adopted but that no one signed, as this was not made a requirement of the policy. Councilor Manick apologized for his outburst in response to a comment made by Councilor Storm. Councilor Storm accepted his apology.

Discussion was held regarding phasing in the storm sewer payment beginning in 2009. Administrator Martinson commented that there would be a special meeting in the future with Walker, Giroux and Hahne to review enterprise funds.

Mayor Edblom extended condolences to Dan and Linda Manick at the passing of Linda's father.

Councilor Storm cautioned people regarding the Third Ave SE crossing.

Gary Albertson stated that there would be a meeting at the school on February 4, 2008 at 7:00 PM to discuss the future of the Cook School. Councilor Storm stated that there would be an opportunity for the public to write questions that they would like to have addressed.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hanninen  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer