

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 23, 2015 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harold Johnston.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call was Mayor Harold Johnston and City Councilors Jody Bixby, Kim Brunner and Elizabeth Storm. Absent was City Councilor Karen Hollanitsch. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, The Timberjay, HRA Executive Director Reed Erickson and Housing Manager Paula Dorn, Danny Reing, Ivette Reing, Nancy Reing and Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Don Potter

ADDs/DELETES: Mayor Harold Johnston read into the record the revisions to the original agenda.

Add: Public Forum – IRRRB Comprehensive Planning Grant Extension, Dan Reing Law Enforcement Request, Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Equipment Garage Bids

Move: None

The public hearing on approving a resolution for the Issuance and sale of a Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2015 for Cook Area Health Services Inc was called to order. The hearing was held from 6:01 PM until 6:09 PM. Separate minutes are recorded and attached.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve Resolution 150723 for the Issuance and sale of a Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2015 for Cook Area Health Services Inc. DBA Scenic Rivers Health Services.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM:

JPJ Engineering Project Updates/Funding:

None

Cook Housing Authority Resolution 150723A

Cook HRA is applying for St. Louis County HRA funding to offset expenses due to water damage in the Pioneer Apartment building. Funding in the amount of \$125,000 for capital improvements is requested and the City of Cook is asked to support the partnership because of the location in the City of Cook by passing a resolution.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner for Resolution 150723A in support of the partnership between St. Louis County HRA and the Cook HRA for \$125,000 in funding to the Cook HRA for capital improvements-water damages repair within the boundaries of the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ayes: Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Kim Brunner and Elizabeth Storm

Nays: None

Absent: Councilors Jody Bixby and Karen Hollanitsch

Danny Reing – Law Enforcement Request

Danny Reing inquired about the consideration of re-establishing the Police Department in the City of Cook on a full or part time basis. The police department closed its enforcement program in 2008 along with other Range cities for lack of funding. Reing is originally from Cook, has worked as a police officer in Warroad and Breitung Township, and has since relocated back to Cook and is actively seeking law enforcement work.

Reing feels that the city is at risk without law enforcement even though St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is present with an office in the downtown library building. He feels the Sheriff's Office cannot respond as quickly to an emergency or complaint as quickly as a local law enforcement agency could. Cook Ambulance EMT, Nancy Reing also stated that the waiting period for a Sheriff's response to a domestic assault can sometimes be 30 minutes or more and that ambulance personnel have to wait until they arrive to enter the premises.

Reing stated that there are renewable grants available to fund a police department salary and equipment costs and his previous position in Warroad was funded through grants.

The Cook City Council made no commitment and asked for more information on the costs of restoring service and grants that may be available. They indicated that they would further review his proposal but reminded him that he would have to also go through the process of hiring for fair practice if the department was to ever be re-established. The council is not asking Danny Reing to do the research for re-establishing the department but to provide a written proposal of what he already has for review.

Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade

Don Potter stated that they are seeking an IRRRB Grant for construction of the equipment garage. The IRRRB has stated that the requirement of the grant is that it passes through a municipality being they are a non-profit organization.

The IRRRB requires a general contractor be utilized for the project and that an outside engineer does not need to be hired. JPJ Engineering, (City of Cook Engineer) will assist with development of the bid documents and starting the project which will be billable to the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade. Bids will be accepted and opened at the City of Cook.

The building will be used to store the firefighting equipment for Lake Vermilion and will also have a conference room, bathrooms and a kitchen for rental opportunities. The non-profit organization has more flexibility for protection of the lake and isn't sanctioned like other government entities may be.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to allow the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade to bid the equipment garage project under budget allowance guidelines through the City of Cook for IRRRB grant funding requirements.

MOTION CARRIED

IRRRB Grant Extension-Comprehensive Planning

The IRRRB will extend the Comprehensive Plan grant agreement for \$10,000 to December 31, 2015. The council should authorize the Mayor and Administrator to sign the grant extension agreement.

Motion by Storm, Second by Brunner to authorize the Mayor and Administrator to sign the IRRRB Grant Extension Agreement for the Comprehensive Plan for \$10,000 to December 31, 2015. **MOTION CARRIED**

Friends of the Park Gambling Permit

Friends of the Park is requesting approval of a gambling permit for raffle and bingo for Wings and Things for October 3rd, 2015 to be held at the Cook VFW.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve a gambling permit for Friends of the Park for Wings and Things on October 3rd, 2015 at the Cook VFW. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve the Consent Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of June 25, 2015
- B. Bill Presentation
- C. Reporting of the June 2015 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2015	\$ 177,648.65	\$ 657,191.32
2014	<u>\$ 166,169.00</u>	<u>\$ 634,009.74</u>
	\$ 11,479.65	\$ 23,181.58

- D. Resolution – June 2015 Donations Designated

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

Council approval is needed for the Mayor and Administrator to sign and accept Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 09-15 for the 2015 Crack Seal Project.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to authorize the Mayor and Administrator to sign and accept Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 09-15 for the 2015 Crack Seal Project. **MOTION CARRIED**

City Buildings

Council approval is needed to authorize Liquor Store Manager Deb Lindgren and Maintenance Tech Don Flack to award bids for exterior building work for Last Chance Liquors and City Hall and Gazebo work, within the 2015 budget and capital improvement account. Administrator Martinson will exclude herself from the projects for family members bidding on project.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to authorize Liquor Store Manager Deb Lindgren and Maintenance Tech Don Flack to award bids for exterior building work for Last Chance Liquors and City Hall and Gazebo work within the 2015 budget and capital improvement account. **MOTION CARRIED**

Library

Council approval is needed to authorize the hiring of Margaret Jarka as Library Assistant at \$9 per hour starting July 10, 2015. Margaret is replacing William Sobyra who has resigned.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to authorize the hiring of Margaret Jarka as Library Assistant at \$9 per hour starting July 10, 2015. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Library Board is requesting council authorization to accept Bailey Conger to the board to replace Donna Parcyk who has resigned.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to accept Bailey Conger to the Library Board to replace Donna Parcyk who has resigned. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Plan

Councilor Storm and Administrator Martinson met with ARDC and the IRRRB regarding completion of the Comprehensive Plan. Andy Hubley will now be the main contact and will send a questionnaire to the city regarding “10 items the city would like to see”. The Council or Administration can decide who to forward that questionnaire to for input. Andy would like to meet with the council on Friday, September 18th at 10 AM to review the results of those questionnaires and also review a draft document he will prepare. A follow up meeting in October would be held to review the final draft of the plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Propane Bids (2015-2016 Heating Season)

Bids were received from Lakes Gas Co., Range LP Gas and North Country Propane for the propane contract for the 2015-2016 (September 1, 2015 through August 30, 2016) heating season. North Country Propane is the apparent low bidder. They have indicated no additional truck charges for any city deliveries and 24 hour emergency service provided by certified service staff. The city purchases approximately 14,000 gallons per heating season.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to award the 2015-2016 heating propane contract to North Country Propane at a price of \$.865/gallon. The maintenance service rate is \$55/hour (\$82.50 after hours). **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm reported that Music in the Park is very enjoyable and well attended with adults, children and pets. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church is selling food items and Eric Pederson has lined up great musicians for entertainment. The Cook Area Food Shelf has been very busy with many new people.

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM was made by Councilor Brunner and second by Councilor Storm. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

Harold Johnston, Mayor

Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer

Recorder: Cindy Palm, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer