

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2017 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call was Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch and City Councilors Jody Bixby, Kim Brunner and Elizabeth Storm. Absent was Mayor Harold Johnston. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, Timber Days committee members Diane Brunner and Lynn Polich, Farmer's Market members Robin Pliml, George Pliml, and Kelly Dahl, Northwoods Friends of the Arts member Lisa Hyppa, The Timberjay, and Cook News Herald.

ADDs/DELETEDs: None

PUBLIC FORUM:

Timber Days

Timber Days committee member Lynn Polich requested that the fee of \$250 for the use of the park ball fields be waived for the Timber Days Softball Tournament, June 10th & 11th, 2017. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to waive the \$250 fee. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Old Muni

The Old Muni is requesting to extend their premises to their back area for Timber Days June 9-11, 2017 which is covered under their liquor licensing. They have also requested 10 AM serving for Sunday, June 11, 2017 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 Noon. The Old Muni is also requesting approval of a street dance on River Street for Friday, June 9 only, approx. 8 PM – Midnight. They will be asked to have controlled access. The city's insurance agent, Dane Francis, had previously advised against liquor on the street. Jack Luecken also stated that he will be handling a car show on River Street.

VFW Post 1757

The VFW is requesting to extend their premises to a fenced area in the parking lot for a band during Timber Days, June 9-11, 2017, which is covered under their club licensing. This will be for a dance on Saturday night, June 10, 2017. They have also requested a serving time of 10 AM on June 11, 2017, beyond the City Ordinance of 12 Noon.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to approve the aforementioned requests for both The Old Muni and the VFW Post 1757. **MOTION CARRIED**

NWFA

Lisa Hyppa, representing Northwoods Friends of the Arts, asked for a letter of support from the council in regards to the Peace Pole which the group is trying to obtain funding for.

NWFA continued

Hyppa shared that the pole would be partially covered in tiles made during the summer arts program and extra tiles may possibly be laid in the ground around the pole; it will be a four-sided pole with writings in different languages on each side. Councilor Storm suggested a specific empty area outside of City Hall where a tree used to stand, for the location of the Peace Pole. Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to write a letter of support of NWFA for a Peace Pole in the River Street Park with the condition that the NWFA maintain it and that it is placed in a location of the Council’s choosing. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cook Farmer’s Market

Cook Area Farmer’s Market requests council approval to use River Street Park for a Farmer’s Market on Saturdays from 8 AM to 1 PM during the summer months, starting after Timber Days until the end of September/early October 2017. A \$25.00 fee has been paid with liability insurance coverage and vendor waivers provided. Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to grant approval for the Cook Area Farmer’s Market to use River Street Park on Saturdays from 8 AM - 1 PM contingent upon all necessary requirements met. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of March 23, 2017
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of April 13, 2017 – Ambulance Rates & Staff Hours
- C. Bill Presentation
- D. Ambulance Service April 2017 Report
- E. Recreation Commission Minutes of April 11, 2017
- F. Reporting of the March 2017 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2017	\$ 82,991.59	\$ 236,982.36
2016	\$ 81,615.16	\$ 240,391.47
	\$ 1,376.43	\$ (3,409.11)

- D. Resolution – March 2017 Donations Designated

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

The FAA has new wind data; due to this new data, they feel that the crosswind runway is no longer necessary. If the city chooses to maintain it, the city would jeopardize future projects. Councilor Brunner asked how exactly the city closes the crosswind runway. Councilor Hollanitsch said the airport would issue a NOTAM and pull the cones. Pilots may still choose to use it but the liability is on them. Also, the culvert which was installed last year, will have to be removed because it was not installed appropriately; the land it was placed needs to be restored to its original condition. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to close the crosswind runway and remove culvert & restore area in which culvert is located. **MOTION CARRIED**

Jon Jacobson has been hired as the new Airport Operator. His start date is April 25, 2017, at the rate of \$10.56/hour. Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to approve the hiring of Airport Operator Jon Jacobson with the aforementioned start date and pay rate. **MOTION CARRIED**

Broadband

The broadband application has gone in; the steering committee is now waiting to hear what will come of it. There is going to be another broadband meeting in May but no specific date has been selected at this time.

Lake Vermilion Trail

Councilor Storm reported that the joint power agreements have been examined by most of the townships. Members on the east end of the trail area met and discussed routes. Fundraising continues to be discussed because the original ARDC funds have been used up, so additional funding is very important.

Last Chance Liquor

Approval needed for new hire, Irene Sieckert, at a starting pay of \$10.56/hr. Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to hire Irene Sieckert for the liquor store at a starting pay of \$10.56/hr. **MOTION CARRIED**

Library

Our library has been recognized by WebJunction, an organization based in Seattle that helps libraries by providing knowledge, skills, and support through web-based knowledge. This is a very exciting acknowledgement of our small town library.

A motion is needed to support a resolution in which the City of Cook supports appropriations from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for Minnesota regional public library systems. This resolution is not binding in any way for the city. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to support the resolution. **MOTION CARRIED**

Recreation

Approval needed for new Recreation Attendant, Mikaela Schelde, with a start date of April 12, 2017 at a rate of \$9.50/hr. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to hire Mikaela Schelde at a starting pay of \$9.50/hr. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

2017 Bow Hunt

Approval needed for 2017 city bow hunt based on DNR recommended bow hunt numbers with no cross bows allowed. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve the 2017 city bow hunt based on DNR recommendations and no cross bows. **MOTION CARRIED**

Township of Vermilion Lake & Greenwood Township

After receiving letters from both of the aforementioned townships, the council reiterated that it is not the city's position to direct the townships in how they decide to act in regard to the Cook-Orr Healthcare District. This is a hospital board issue. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Congressman Nolan

Congressman Nolan is having a "Congress Comes to You" meeting at Cook City Hall on Thursday, May 4, 2017, from 11 AM to Noon.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Brunner asked about the old wooden liquor store billboard north of town; it looks terrible. Administrator Martinson stated that it is going to be taken down. The city has already worked with property owners about this issue.

Councilor Bixby expressed concern about the local post office parking lot; she was directed to talk with Postmaster Margaret Fulcher.

Councilor Storm noted that the noxious weed seminar is next Wednesday, May 3, from 9 AM – Noon at the community center. It is not open to the public. Councilor Storm will be the City of Cook’s representative; it should be very informative. Melissa Roach of the Timberjay shared that George Pliml is currently communicating and working with St. Louis County to find eco-friendly ways to take care of such issues and suggested that he may be a good resource.


ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 6:38 PM was made by Councilor Storm and second by Councilor Bixby. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer