

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

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Cook News Herald, The Timberjay, Officer Dan Nylund, Candi Nylund, Josh Nylund, John Jammick – RLK Engineering, Steve Peterson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm

Mayor Dick Edblom called the regular meeting of the Cook City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM: None

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to approve the consent agenda as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of June 26, 2008

Correction to June 26, 2008 Council Minutes. Commission and Staff reports reported Councilor Storm requesting information on the park completion. The report should have read that Councilor Storm requested information on the playground equipment completion.

The June 26, 2008 Minutes, under Council Forum, reported that Councilor Manick would add the gasoline bid report to the agenda for the July 24, 2008 council meeting. Councilor Manick did not add this item to the July agenda as there was not enough information.

The June 26, 2008 Minutes, under Council Forum, reported on animal control for the city. This was not added to the current agenda for non-conclusion on the issue.

B. Acceptance of June Police Department Report

C. Reporting of the June Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2008	\$142,150.65	\$562,099.93
2007	<u>\$155,864.00</u>	<u>\$549,206.10</u>
(-)	(\$ 13,035.86)	\$ 12,893.83

D. Bill Presentation

Paid since last presentation	\$ 78,223.96
Presented for payment	\$ 91,800.86

E. July Airport Operator's Report

F. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of July 21, 2008

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

The City of Cook applied for a wetlands exemption application with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil. This application will allow an exemption for 4000 square feet of wetland impact to construct a parking lot for the City's ball field project and providing a maintenance area along the ball field fence line at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area. Center. All members of the technical evaluation panel along with the MN DNR and Army Corp of Engineers have been notified, public comment period was completed. The City of Cook serves as the local government unit to review wetland applications. Martinson informed Councilor Manick that upon acceptance of the application contracting work may begin and fill can be accepted.

Motion by Danz, second by Manick to approve Application No. 01-2008 for an exemption decision to impact approximately 4000 square feet of wetlands at the SW _ of the SE _ of the SE _, Section 18, Township 62N, Range 18W considered the Doug Johnson Recreation area. **MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Manick requested that the timbers around the playground equipment need fill and was informed that the city will take care of it.

Question was raised regarding a CBDG grant application for \$50,000 for the new building and whether it would impact funds for the city well project. Administrator Martinson reported that the city needs to focus on priorities for funding and that there is other funding sources that could be researched. The plan could also be revisited after the well project is finalized.

Tammy Palmer reported that the proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to replace money borrowed from the building fund to support the playground fund.

Officer Nylund and Steve Peterson, a private computer contractor who works with local law enforcement, reported on the policies and security of the mobile data computer. Steve Peterson reported that St. Louis County tracks information through a log. Information is linked together on a shared network with other law enforcement in other communities. The council was concerned with privacy and security and felt that Steve's explanation covered their concerns. The council also requested detail on how this equipment would benefit Officer Nylund's job. The equipment would save call time and is safer than his current operation. The equipment was donated at a value of approximately \$2000. The council agreed to pay for the installation costs not to exceed \$800 and the monthly service fee of \$30 on a monthly contract.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to install the mobile data computer in the police squad vehicle. **MOTION CARRIED**

The jake break issue along Hwy 53 involving semi trucks and a resident complaint will be researched by Administrator Martinson. The state and county need to approve the

installation of signs on their roads. A cost effective plan needs to be researched as the signs may be too costly.

Motion by Manick, second by Storm to approve appointing Mayor Edblom and Councilor Storm as the Negotiating Committee for contract discussion for law enforcement protection with St. Louis County. **MOTION CARRIED**

The City of Cook for some time has been without a Police Chief. Officer Nylund would like the city to consider the fact that he has and expects to continue performing duties and responsibilities above and beyond his classification.

This would not be a promotion or higher title but additional compensation could be considered until a decision is made regarding the department. This pay could be set for a determined period of time. If these additional duties are not performed by Officer Nylund (reports, etc), the city should identify who will perform those duties.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to hire HR Consultant Paul Ness to review Officer Nylund's additional duties and responsibilities and offer a recommendation for any pay consideration. **MOTION CARRIED**

Candi Nylund questioned the formality and detail of the St. Louis County contract and if the study session will be a final decision. Candi and Officer Nylund requested that other options be researched and that a public hearing be held for citizen input.

Councilor Danz suggested the need to research all options and that the police department is a high expense for the city.

Administrator Martinson provided a copy of the 2007 Fire Relief Association reporting form to the council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Candi Nylund requested that Administrator Martinson provide the results of HR Paul Ness' review of her office assistant position. A pay increase was not recommended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Martinson requested approval to apply to the Northeast Minnesota Environmental Assistance Program, Section 569 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 for the Elevated Water Storage Tank Replacement Project in the amount of \$475,000. This application is submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers and the total project cost is \$1 million. She would also like to utilize Nancy Larson-Community Coaching for this project at a cost of \$1,350 that is 50% reimbursable by Iron Range Resources through their application reimbursement program.

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to approve applying to the Army Corps 569 and utilize services provided by Community Coaching for the Elevated Water Storage Tank Replacement Project. **MOTION CARRIED**

The following election judges have been appointed for 2008: Lois Larson, Karen Lind, Renee Noteboom, Candi Nylund, Doreen Olson, Muriel Simonson, Donna Snyder, and Andrea Vogel.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to appoint the 2008 Election Judges for the City of Cook to conduct the Primary and General Elections. **MOTION CARRIED**

Administrator Martinson requested approval for Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's Cindy Palm, to attend the League of MN Cities Clerk's Orientation Conference. The conference will be held Aug 26 - 28 in St. Paul, MN. The budget will cover conference attendance, meals, lodging and mileage expense.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to approve conference attendance and all applicable expenses. **MOTION CARRIED**

Administrator Martinson asked if there was any comments or interest in serving on the task force for the St. Louis County Management Plan.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm reported on articles from MN Cities Publication. She discussed managing dredged material in storm water plants. Maintenance Supervisor, Bud Ranta, informed her that there are no state mandates or a budget for this. Councilor Storm also reported on the importance of ethical conduct and that the League of MN Cities is working on developing a code for Minnesota Cities.

Councilor Hollanitsch distributed a Cook Hospital Budget Projection sheet regarding the tax levy process.

Councilor Storm commented on Spectrum Assisted Living and the Well Replacement Project. She felt that the land available could be crowded and questioned the effect of the train rails in close proximity to the projects. Administrator Martinson responded the Spectrum developer has seen the site and is moving forward with the plans.

Councilor Manick commented on the new City Hall sign on the front of the building. Ron Maki completed the work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Danz, second by Storm to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer