

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 16, 2010 – CITY HALL – 6 PM

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch, Councilors Jody Bixby, Dan Manick and Elizabeth Storm

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, Colosimo Law Office Attorneys’ Mitch Brunfelt and Adam Licari, Cook News Herald, and The Timberjay

Mayor Hollanitsch called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

PUBLIC FORUM:

The River Street Streetscape Project had a contract completion date of October 15, 2010 and the contractors did not complete the project on time. The contractor will be responsible for liquidated damages for each day past the completion date which will now have to be finalized in spring of 2011 due to the inclement weather.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of November 18, 2010
- B. Approval/correction of the Special Council Minutes of November 18, 2010- Proposed 2011 Budget and Levy
- C. Approval/correction of the Special Council Minutes of November 18, 2010 – Southeast Drainage Improvements Project
- D. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$ 66,987.72
 Presented for payment \$ 83,615.81
- E. Reporting of the November 2010 Liquor Store Sales
 MTD YTD
 2010 \$110,091.66 \$1,295,428.90
 2009 \$102,722.57 \$1,255,523.75
 \$ 7,369.09 \$ 39,905.15
- F. Airport Operator Report
- G. Maintenance Department Report
- H. Russell Hyppa letter dated December 8, 2010

Motion by Bixby, second by Manick to approve the consent agenda. **MOTION CARRIED**

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to approve the 2011 license renewals for VFW Post 1757 (Club, Gaming, Off Sale 3.2 Beer and Sunday) and BTL Enterprises Inc. DBA Old Muni Bar and Lounge (On Sale Liquor, Off Sale 3.2 Beer, Sunday, and Gaming). **MOTION CARRIED**

Sidewalk snow removal was addressed due to safety issues, responsibility and complaints. The city ordinance states that it is the owner and occupant's responsibility to remove snow from any sidewalk adjacent to their property. However; the city provided snow removal with the skid-steer equipment, in the past, when maintenance had more staffing.

The following concerns need to be addressed:

If the public is held accountable for snow removal and does not keep the sidewalks clear then who will enforce the safety of this issue within the city for not adhering to the ordinance?

If the city is held accountable for snow removal then more hours are needed for maintenance staff or an outside contractor will need to be hired. Maintenance Supervisor, Bud Ranta, did not feel it was appropriate to take hours away from staff to hire an outside contractor. He felt that we could increase the full and part-time maintenance persons' hours for snow removal.

If the city is held accountable for snow removal then what are the clear limits and definitions and where does the liability fall for public walkways? The city currently has public walkways maintained by City Hall and the Library. The city may need to be responsible for snow removal after so many inches or during a major storm and the public will be responsible for minimal removal. More research needs to be provided.

Motion by Storm to table the city snow removal issue until the January council meeting.

Motion failed for lack of a second

Maintenance Supervisor, Bud Ranta recommended to the council that he and a part-time maintenance person be allowed the extra staff hours for snow removal. The council informed him that he can remove snow as time permits and that he will be responsible for reviewing his budget and handling public snow removal complaints.

The League of Minnesota Cities is holding a Leadership Conference for Experienced Officials. If any member of the council is interested in attending, contact City Hall.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm thanked city staff for all the hard work and a good year for 2010 and looks forward to working with them for the new-year. She also commended Councilor Manick for his service on the city council and Mayor Hollanitsch for completing the vacant Mayor position for 2010.

Councilor Manick commended Mayor Hollanitsch for her job as acting Mayor for the remainder of 2010. He has enjoyed his term as a council member for the city and is proud of the position the council has led in portraying what is best for the City of Cook.

Mayor Hollanitsch thanked city staff for all the hard work for 2010 and Happy Holidays to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adjourn the regular council meeting at 6:45 p.m. and enter into a Closed Meeting Session regarding attorney/client privilege pending litigation. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Manick to re-open the regular council meeting and to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer