

**COOK CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 25, 2013 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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**TIME AND PLACE:** A regular meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, April 25, 2013 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 lead by Mayor Harold Johnston with all present reciting.

**ATTENDANCE:** Present at roll call were Mayor Harold Johnston (arrived at 6:05 PM) and City Councilors Jody Bixby, Kim Brunner, Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm. Absent were none. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Librarian Steve Harsin, Cook News Herald, The Timberjay and Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Ojanen.

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

**Add:** Commission & Staff Reports will include a report from the Library given by Librarian Steve Harsin

**Move:** None

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Licenses and Permits**

The Cook Chamber of Commerce requested a gambling permit for selling raffle tickets (drawing during Timber Days). The raffle event will encourage Northwood's Grizzlies students to sell tickets in lieu of the royalty coronation as in the past with a percentage to the classrooms and cash prizes to the winners. They also requested a temporary liquor license for the Timber Days Softball Tournament June 7-9, 2013.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve a temporary liquor license for a softball tournament and a gambling permit for the Timber Days Celebration sponsored by the Cook Chamber of Commerce to be held June 7-9, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Old Muni is requesting to extend their premises to a fenced area in the back parking lot for Timber Days June 7-9, 2013, which is covered under their liquor licensing. They have also requested 10 AM serving for Sunday, June 9, 2013 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 PM.

The council previously approved a street dance to be held off premises by the Old Muni on June 8, 2013 from 7 PM to 12 midnight on condition that special event insurance is purchased.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to allow The Old Muni to extend their premises to a fenced area in the back parking lot for Timber Days, June 7-9, 2013 and to allow Sunday serving time of 10 AM, on June 9, 2013 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

VFW Post 1757 is requesting to extend their premises to a fenced area in the parking lot for Timber Days, June 7, 2013, which is covered under their liquor licensing. The extended premises will include a band and dance from 8 PM to 12 midnight. They have also requested 10 AM serving for Sunday, June 9, 2013 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 PM.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to allow VFW Post 1757 to extend their premises to a fenced area in the parking lot for Timber Days June 7, 2013 from 8 PM to 12 midnight and to include a band and dance. Also to allow Sunday serving time of 10 AM on June 9, 2013 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

Tiffany Briggs requested council approval to use River Street Park for a Farmers' Market, starting after Timber Days, on Saturdays from 8 AM to 1 PM and Wednesdays from 5 PM to 8 PM during the summer months.

Wednesdays will coincide with the Cook Chamber of Commerce Music in the Park event as well. A \$25.00 fee will be paid with liability insurance coverage and vendor waivers provided.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm granting approval of the Cook Area Farmer's Market use of River Street Park. **MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** See Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of March 28, 2013
- B. Bill Presentation      Paid since last presentation      \$ 87,430.88  
    Presented for payment      \$ 49,039.02
- C. Reporting of the March 2013 Liquor Store Sales
 

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2013	\$85,590.31	\$242,624.02
2012	<u>\$86,658.57</u>	<u>\$236,645.70</u>
	\$ 1,068.26	\$ 5,978.32
- D. Resolution – March 2013 Donations Designated
- E. Airport Monthly Report
- F. Ambulance Service Report
- G. Maintenance Department Report
- H. Administrator attendance at Land Use Planning Workshop
- I. Administrator attendance at MCFOA Regional Meeting
- J. Recreation Commission Minutes of March 19, 2013
- K. Cook Chamber of Commerce Minutes of April 4, 2013

#### **COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Ambulance**

The Ambulance Annual Meeting was held March 4, 2013 and budgets were approved by the advisory board.

Beatty Township will be sent a letter regarding their seasonal residential charges in arrears. If payment is not received, the town board representative will become a non-voting member. Beatty Township does not currently have a signed Ambulance Service Agreement with Cook Area Ambulance.

Capital Improvements/Purchases: Ambulance #2 will be replaced and defibrillator batteries will be replaced for the AED's in 2013.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve recommendations from the Ambulance Advisory Board for 2013 as approved at the March 4, 2013 Ambulance Annual Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Fire**

The Fire Annual Meeting was held March 4, 2013 and budgets were approved by the advisory board.

The Fire Department received a donation of a used pontoon boat to be used for Elbow Lake.

A request for increasing the amount for the Unorganized Township 63-17 funding protection to St. Louis County was approved. The 2014 funding request needs to be in before July 2013. The increased amount requested is \$7000 and would be transferred to the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade. These funds will be used to assist with expenses.

The association agreement wording has been modified to include the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade (LVFB) and agreements will be sent for signature and return to Cook City Hall.

Building repairs to the ambulance/fire hall and old county garage are needed and estimates will be obtained.

Chairperson Steve Fogelberg has retired and Jeri Bonnette has volunteered to take his place.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve recommendations from the Fire Advisory Board for 2013 as approved at the March 4, 2013 Fire Annual Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Recreation Commission**

The Recreation Commission has recommended appointing Tom Beaudry to serve as a new Recreation Commission Board Member starting 2013. Mayor Harold Johnston expressed concern regarding appointing Tom Beaudry as a board member due to his leadership on the school board with the building of the new school.

Motion by Storm, second by Johnston to appoint Tom Beaudry to the Recreation Commission starting 2013. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Library - Steve Harsin - Librarian**

Librarian Harsin has requested a test run of extended hours on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 10 PM during June and July due to community interest. The minimal additional expense would be covered by the Library Equipment Fund as approved by the board. The additional hours would coincide with the Farmers' Market and Music in the Park.

Librarian Harsin reported that circulation in the library has doubled from one year ago. There are 10 active volunteers and the library assistant hours have been increased for the summer months. An anonymous donor has been purchasing books for the library as well.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve a test run of extended library hours on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 10 PM during June and July to coincide with the Farmers' Market and Music in the Park. **MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

MN DNR Tom Rusch reported that there is not a feasible way to count the deer population for the potential bow hunt for the City of Cook. He suggested a lottery type hunt as done in other communities. If the city wishes to proceed, a decision would need to be made by May 7, 2013.

Councilors have not received additional input from the public but wish to try the hunt for one year, even though a continuous hunt is more successful for the returning deer population.

Councilors Kim Brunner and Elizabeth Storm will be appointed to work with Administrator Martinson on moving forward with the bow hunt in city limits.

Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to hold a public bow hunt in the City of Cook for 2013 and appoint Councilor Brunner and Storm to work with Administrator Martinson on this program. **MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

St. Mary's Catholic Church has requested a gambling permit for Timber Days. Because the projected proceeds are below the state requirements, they do not need a state permit.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to grant approval of a gambling permit for St. Mary's Catholic Church for Timber Days held June 7-9, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mediacom submitted a letter describing rate adjustments effective May 1, 2013.

Bid opening for the 2013 Wastewater Improvements Project will be May 9, 2013 at 2 PM. A special meeting of the council will be held at 3 PM to meet with JPJ Engineer John Jamnick to review the project costs, details and to consider accepting the low bid. A quorum of three councilors will need to be present for this special meeting.

**COUNCIL FORUM:**

Councilor Brunner recommended pest control be contacted again as pigeons are back in the pavilion.

Councilor Hollanitsch commented on how great the City of Cook looks and the added benefits to keeping the community clean.

Councilor Storm thanked the maintenance department for the attentiveness to snow removal for the year. The season brought a high volume of snow.

Councilor Bixby asked what the school district's intentions are with the vacant school building in the City of Cook. A council representative should be appointed to work directly with the school district. Mayor Harold Johnston has offered to represent the City of Cook as the contact person.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to appoint Mayor Harold Johnston to represent the City of Cook as the contact for Independent School District 2142 regarding the vacant school building in city limits. **MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:07 PM was made by Councilor Storm and second by Councilor Bixby. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

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Harold Johnston, Mayor

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Recorder: Cindy Palm - Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

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Attest: Theresa Martinson - Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer