

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2014 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, May 22, 2014 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 Karen Hollanitsch. Absent was Councilor Elizabeth Storm. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Maintenance Superintendent Bud Ranta, Recreation Commission Chair Greg Burckhardt, St. Louis County Commissioner Candidate Kirsten Reichel and Cook News Herald.

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

Add: Public Forum-Friends of the Park Gambling Permit, St. Louis County Commissioner Candidate Kirsten Reichel Introduction and Consent Agenda-Library Board Minutes of May 7, 2014

Move: None

PUBLIC FORUM:

St. Louis County Commissioner Candidate – Kirsten Reichel

Kirsten Reichel is a 4th District St. Louis County Commissioner Candidate with an active community background serving as a local council and chamber member, fire department, first responder, township board, and business owner. The 4th District is the largest coverage in St. Louis County and Kirsten will be visiting many communities and introducing her candidacy and intentions until elections.

Licenses and Permits

Friends of the Park – Tammy Palmer has requested a Gambling Permit for fundraising for June through August.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Brunner to approve a Gambling Permit for Friends of the Park for June through August fundraising. **MOTION CARRIED**

WC Heiam Foundation has requested a Temporary Liquor License for their annual fundraising event to be held August 2, 2014 at the Cook Hospital.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve a Temporary Liquor License for WC Heiam Foundation for their annual fundraising event to be held August 2, 2014 at the Cook Hospital. **MOTION CARRIED**

Timber Days Event

Alex Hejda has requested use of the Doug Johnson ball fields June 13-15, 2014 for a Community Softball Event.

The Chamber will not be sponsoring the sale of beer as a non-profit organization this year and no other local non-profit organization has requested a temporary license to do so.

S.E.H. Engineering has reported that the Master Plan with the new FAA requirements would cost approximately \$250,000 at 90:10 funding with current MNDOT assistance of 5% and the City portion 5% (\$12,500) with possible assistance from the Friends of Aviation for this cost.

Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to proceed with the Master Layout Plan process for the Cook Municipal Airport through FAA funding of 90:10 with 5% funding (\$12,500) for the City of Cook, proceed with the AGIS selection process and proceed with accepting quotes to initiate the runway crack sealing project. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ambulance

Cook Area Ambulance will host an EMS Open House on Saturday May 31, 2014 from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Cook Ambulance-Fire Hall.

Fire

The Cook Fire Relief Association's 2013 Investment Report Card is provided for informational purposes to help assess the relief association's short-term and long-term investment performance.

Library

The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Crystal Phillips as the new Librarian effective May 7, 2014 with an hourly rate of pay at \$16.50 per hour. Vacation benefits follow the full-time accrual structure but are prorated to the actual hours of operation and work of the library hours. Federal Holidays that fall on scheduled library days are granted.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to accept the hiring of Crystal Phillips as the new Librarian effective May 7, 2014 with an hourly rate of pay at \$16.50 per hour. Vacation benefits follow the full-time accrual structure prorated to the actual hours of operation and work of the library hours with Federal Holidays granted on scheduled library days. **MOTION CARRIED**

Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Bud Ranta presented a basic sign retro reflectivity maintenance policy for review and recommendations he has for future sign replacement. A sign committee of Councilors Brunner and Storm and Ranta will review the reflectivity of existing street signs. Mayor Johnston has requested more research on the requirement to adopt the policy and replace the signs before we incur this large expense. St. Louis County Traffic Engineer Vic Lund will be contacted to present more information to the council regarding the law requirements.

Recreation

Commission Chair Greg Burckhardt reported that the original little league field project did not include adequate drainage and it now needs to be addressed. A quote has been received from Gruska Construction to install a French Drain for \$1,642.50 from the recreation budget.

A quote was received from Perpich TV for \$5,590 to install a security camera system in various locations on the community center building at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center. This system would be linked through to the Sheriff's office, off premises, for continuous monitoring.

Council members asked when an anticipated building completion date could be projected and Burckhardt reported that specific volunteer qualifications are needed for the type of work to be completed and it depends on the availability of the volunteer. The project continues to move along and they anticipate ice at the rink for 2015.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to accept a quote from Gruska Construction for \$1,642.50 to install a French Drain on the little league field and accept a quote from Perpich TV for \$5,590 for installation of a camera security system at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center. **MOTION CARRIED**

Voting Aye: Mayor Johnston, Councilors Bixby and Hollanitsch
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilor Storm
Abstain: Councilor Brunner

OLD BUSINESS:

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission Comprehensive Plan

A Public Visioning Session will be held June 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the LaCroix Visitor Center located at 320 Hwy 53 North Cook MN 55723. Flyers will be distributed to a list of planning people who had been identified at the May Comprehensive Planning Meeting.

CN Railroad Disaster Preparedness

CN Railroad Disaster Preparedness originally scheduled for April will be held at the Cook Hospital on Wednesday, June 17, 2014 at 5 PM in the main conference room.

City Bow Hunt

A Public Meeting was held May 20, 2014 to consider a consecutive year bow hunt of deer within the corporate limits of the City of Cook. This meeting was an informational meeting with the MN DNR regarding pertinent bow hunt successes and challenges of the prior year. This meeting gives residents the opportunity to be heard about questions or concerns regarding the bow hunt. After hearing all comments, the Council did proceed with a consecutive year bow hunt. The fee was increased to \$15/hunter and cross bows were disallowed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disability Specialist Inc/IRRRB Grant

Laurentian Holdings Inc., DBA Disability Specialist Inc., is requesting an IRRRB grant agreement for funding of \$70,000 for business upgrades and requesting the grant flow through the City of Cook. Upon receipt of a promissory note between the City of Cook and Laurentian Holdings Inc., these funds can be released.

Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to accept an IRRRB grant agreement for \$70,000 for Laurentian Holdings Inc., DBA Disability Specialist Inc., upon receipt of a promissory note between the City of Cook and Laurentian Holdings Inc., These funds are for business upgrades and are funds that will flow through the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

2014 General Election

2014 is an election year with the Primary in August and General in November. The 2014 Election will be an ongoing agenda item for any business that needs to be conducted at the council meetings up to the election in November.

Congressman Nolan's Office

Congressman Nolan's Office will be at the Cook City Hall on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 from 10 AM to Noon to discuss any federal issues and/or concerns and grant projects.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts

The Spring Art Expo will be held June 6-20th, 2014 with local artist Julie Scheuring photography on display at Cook City Hall.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Karen Hollanitsch commented that the River Street banners, flags and parks look nice.

Mayor Harold Johnston inquired about residents interested in getting driveways paved as part of the City paving project with KGM Contractors. He was informed that City Hall has a contact number for them to call.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was made by Councilor Brunner and second by Councilor Hollanitsch. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

Harold Johnston, Mayor

Recorder: Cindy Palm, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer