

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
MAY 27, 2010 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch, Councilors Jody Bixby, and Elizabeth Storm
ABSENT: Councilor Dan Manick
OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Kotzian, City of Tower Clerk-Treasurer, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm and Cook News Herald

Mayor Hollanitsch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Tim Kotzian was present as a member of the Coalition for Community Schools. This group represents the communities of Cook, Orr, Nett Lake and Tower-Soudan, in support of the schools remaining in the communities. Their concerns are that the new school will be built with a lack of attendance and not enough funding for the new school.

The Coalition for Community Schools believes the leaders of the city need to represent the schools to remain in the communities and would like to form a Joint Powers Agreement between Cook, Orr, Nett Lake and Tower Soudan. This board would be eligible for IRR grant funding to hire an independent consulting firm. The consulting firm would conduct a feasibility study to determine if the existing plan is viable or determine if the existing buildings would be remodeled.

Kotzian asked the City of Cook to join this Joint Powers Agreement. City councilors will review for consideration as long as there is no financial obligation to the city once a complete agreement has been drafted.

RLK Engineer John Jamnick reported that the Water Tower Project is on schedule and should be completed by the end of August. The logo design is included in the original project funding.

The River Street Streetscape Project plans have been approved by St. Louis County and forwarded to MN DOT State Aid where final approval has been received. The county has tentatively set July 12, 2010 as the bid date. This project received funds in the state legislative funding Jobs Bill.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve an addendum for project changes on the River Street Streetscape Project. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Water Treatment Plant project is complete with a punch list of items remaining.

The Disabilities Specialist Utilities project cost is estimated at \$271,000 with IRR funding of \$200,000 and CDBG funding of \$50,000. Utility Systems of America, Inc. was the apparent lower bidder on the project bid on May 18, 2010. A development agreement will be signed between the city and developer, and the bid will be awarded to USA Inc within 60 days.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adopt Resolution No. 100527A accepting the Iron Range Resources Grant # B43-2435 in the amount of \$200,000 for infrastructure and site work for the new Disability Specialist Building Project. The Mayor and Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer are authorized to sign all documents related to this grant. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to adopt Resolution No. 100527B accepting grant funding from St. Louis County and authorizing the Mayor and Administrator to sign all documents. Funding includes a St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant in amount of \$50,000 for the Lift Station Project and a St. Louis County Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the Airport Runway Expansion Project.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of April 22, 2010
- B. Approval/correction of the Special Council Minutes of April 22, 2010-Fiscal Year 2009 Audit
- C. Approval/correction of the Special Council Minutes of May 5, 2010-Cook Chamber Timber Days requests

D. Bill Presentation	Paid since last presentation	\$ 77,709.26
	Presented for payment	\$ 116,862.62

- E. Reporting of the April 2010 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2010	\$85,543.42	\$301,536.74
2009	<u>\$74,508.67</u>	<u>\$281,112.80</u>
	\$11,034.75	\$ 20,423.94

- F. Airport Operator's Report
- G. Ambulance Service Report
- H. Maintenance Department Report
- I. Recreation Committee Minutes of May 24, 2010
- J. Safety Committee Minutes of April 21, 2010
- K. Safety Committee Minutes of May 19, 2010

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

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Commissioner Hollanitsch reported that a special council meeting was held prior to the regular council meeting in regards to the Airport Runway Expansion Project (see minutes).

Maki Sign Art submitted a quote for \$2,200 to re-design the Liquor Store signage on Highway 53 north of Cook. The same format will be used for the sign as is on the Liquor Store.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to accept a bid from Maki Sign Art for \$2,200 to re-design the Liquor Store signage on Highway 53 north of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Recreation Commission has requested that the final \$30,000 CD be transferred from the Cook Area Credit Union to a money market account at First National Bank. These funds are part of the building fund and are being transferred to yield a higher interest rate and are accessible as needed.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to transfer a Community Center Building Fund \$30,000 CD from the Cook Area Credit Union to an accessible Money Market Account at First National Bank. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ted Pakkonen had originally requested permission to build a shed at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Due to a change in his budget, he has requested to change his project to include maintenance on the four ball field dugouts, and fix the bleachers at the softball field.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve a change in Ted Pakkonen's Eagle Scout Project which includes maintenance on the dugouts and bleachers at the softball field at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Storm reported that the Safety Committee met with Jackie Torgerson with the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust. Loss control and roles of the Safety Committee were reviewed.

The Personnel Committee met and performed Administrator Martinson's annual performance evaluation. The committee recommended continued employment stating that Administrator Martinson had a good review and projects good leadership with staying on top of the events of the city.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Field Township has signed a waiver to allow the City of Cook to annex 94.2 acres currently lying in their jurisdiction to allow for the extension of utilities to the Disability Specialist property. This will provide future business opportunities for the City of Cook.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adopt Ordinance No. 1016 for the annexation of 94.2 acres into the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

Scenic Rivers Health Services has requested a Certificate of Support from the City of Cook to complete an application for USDA funding for the new dental facility to be constructed in the City of Cook.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to issue a Certificate of Support from the City of Cook, to complete an application for USDA funding for the new dental facility to be constructed in the City of Cook.

Aye: Councilors Hollanitsch and Bixby

Nay: None

Abstain: Councilor Storm

MOTION CARRIED

Acting Mayor Hollanitsch reported on rules and procedures of council meetings. Specific rules and procedures covered the Public Forum which requires the meeting subject to be on the agenda for a council meeting. A meeting sign in sheet should be utilized for those in attendance and time limits should be put on each agenda item. Open meeting laws could also be violated if council members are exchanging emails regarding city business.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Mayor Hollanitsch reported that Park/Beautification Committee meetings will be starting in June 2010.

CLOSED MEETING SESSION:

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to close the regular council meeting at 7 p.m. to site Attorney/Client Privilege. **MOTION CARRIED**

CLOSED MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adjourn closed meeting session and re-open the regular council meeting at 7:14 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to authorize Colosimo, Patchin, Kearney and Brunfelt LTD to take the necessary steps to protect the City of Cook's legal rights and recourse in the Water Meter Project. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer