

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
COOK CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 24, 2012 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

---

PRESENT: Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Jody Bixby, Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm

ABSENT: Councilor Kim Brunner

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, JPJ Engineer John Jamnick, Don Potter and Cook News Herald

Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Don Potter, representing the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, was present to request the council allow the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade to become a member of the Cook Fire Department. This would allow the Cook Fire Department the use of the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade boat in exchange for fire protection services.

City Attorney Mark Weir issued a memorandum recommending the city council pass a resolution to authorize the Cook Fire Department to serve areas outside city limits. He suggests that the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade be incorporated into written fire protections services agreements already in existence between the City of Cook and surrounding townships.

Councilors are concerned with certain language in the contracts and do not want to enter into agreements that will hurt both the city and the fire brigade. The council decided to table the contract agreement for further discussion and communication until further notice.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to table a contract agreement between the City of Cook and Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade for fire services until further notice. **MOTION CARRIED**

JPJ Engineer John Jamnick informed the council that the 2012 Utility and Drainage Improvements Project will start the week of June 28<sup>th</sup> at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW as weather permits. The project will continue to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, then to 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE with estimated completion in July.

Mesabi Bituminous is the low bidder for the project and will be accepted upon completion of the River Street Streetscape project. This has been added to the contract for the 2012 Utility and Drainage Improvements Project.

Mesabi Bituminous has been requested to complete the following scope of work on the River Street Streetscape Project prior to accepting their low bid on the 2012 Utility and Drainage Improvements Project: the paving of alleys behind city hall and the post office, repair of bump outs on River Street as the concrete has cracked due to poor quality, poor joint cuts and timing of completion.

John Jamnick has also met with Bud Ranta, Maintenance Supervisor, to finalize a design plan for the equipment maintenance garage and to get an estimate of construction cost.



A longer term goal and research would need to be done in the future to see if the community was willing to make such an investment and where it would be prioritized.

**COUNCIL FORUM:**

Councilor Storm reported that the Lion's Club will hold the annual rummage sale on June 22-24 at the Northwood's School. Lion's members will accept donations at their building on Saturdays from 9-12 noon and will pick up items on request.

Councilor Storm complimented the trees planted through efforts of the Parks and Beautification Committee by City Hall. A Mountain Ash, Maple and Flowering Crab trees were planted in place of the old gardens.

Councilor Storm complimented the Northwood's Friends of the Arts group who hosted the recent Spring Expo held May 25-June 10, 2012. Approximately 50 artists displayed their work in local businesses. Former Librarian Lois Larson and Mayor Harold Johnston displayed their artwork at city hall.

Councilor Hollanitsch reported that a Memorial Day parade will start at VFW Post 1757 and move along River Street to the bridge by River Front Park. The parade will be moved to the Northwood's School if it rains.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to adjourn the regular council meeting at 6:45 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer