

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2013 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A regular meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harold Johnston with all present reciting.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call were Mayor Harold Johnston and City Councilors Jody Bixby and Elizabeth Storm. Absent were City Councilors Kim Brunner and Karen Hollanitsch. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Maintenance Superintendent Bud Ranta, JPJ Engineer John Jamnick, Cook News Herald, The Timberjay, Recreation Commission Secretary Tammy Palmer, Mike Duame and Andrea Vogel.

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

Add: None

Move: None

PUBLIC FORUM:

Sewer Lease / Property Annexation

Mike Duame has requested annexation of parcel 350-0010-02215 at 1825 Hwy 25 in Field Township. Property owners are requesting annexation to the city to allow sewer extension to the city infrastructure as replacement of the current septic system is difficult by St. Louis County requirements and the home is for sale. The cost for sewer extension is the responsibility of the property owners and does not include water. Attorney Weir stated that the annexation process is lengthy and would recommend a sewer lease until the annexation is finalized.

Mayor Johnston asked if more than one property along this route could be annexed at the same time. Martinson explained that the property owner approached the city; the city did not approach the landowner. The landowner would like to annex due to issues with upgrading the septic for selling the property. The neighboring property recently put in a new septic and could meet the requirements of St. Louis County.

Attorney Mark Weir will be asked to proceed with preparing the sewer lease agreement and the annexation process on this property.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to annex parcel 350-0010-02215 from Field Township to the City of Cook and to immediately enter a sewer lease agreement for up to 3 years or upon final annexation. **MOTION CARRIED**

Licenses and Permits

Tammy Palmer and Andrea Vogel, representing the Brown Building Block Party Benefit Fundraiser, requested the use of River Street Park, a gambling permit for Friends of the Park, a temporary liquor license and street dance for VFW Post 1757, and closing of a block of River Street. The events held on Wednesday, July 17 beginning at 3 PM will include bingo, games and food in conjunction with the Farmer's Market and Music in the Park. On Friday, July 19, 2013 the events will be held from 12-8 PM. Friday's event will include games and food in River Street Park and conclude at VFW Post 1757 from 4-8 PM where a raffle, auction, food and street dance will be held.

Tammy has requested that the council waive the \$25 fee for gambling as the Friends of the Park is a non-profit group with fundraising going directly back into the city parks. Councilor Storm will personally donate \$25 to cover the gambling fee to eliminate fee waivers as precedence for future events.

Street closing may be an issue with the Cook Post Office and neighboring businesses during business hours and was recommended the committee communicate with the establishments prior to closing the street. The committee will also need to contact St. Louis County for barricades if needed.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve use of River Street Park, a gambling permit to Friends of the Park, a temporary liquor license and street dance to VFW Post 1757, and the closing of one block of River Street (with approval by businesses on this block), for the Brown Building Block Party Benefit to be held July 17 and July 19, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED**

2013 Wastewater Improvements/2013 Street Improvements/2012 Drainage Improvements

JPJ Engineering John Jamnick re-bid the project as the original bids exceeded the budget of \$265,000. Jamnick would like to recommend accepting the re-bid base amount of \$249,570 by Utility Systems of America. A pre-awarded change order of \$28,000 will further reduce the bid amount by eliminating secondary pond work on the project.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to accept the low bid by Utility Systems of America for \$249,570 less a pre-awarded change order of \$28,000 by eliminating secondary pond work for the 2013 Wastewater Improvements project. **MOTION CARRIED**

Jamnick also reported that there are minimal remaining punch list items for the 2012 Drainage Improvements Project.

Legislative funding has been allocated for the City of Cook through the remaining distribution of Minnesota taconite tax amounts. Items for council review are street improvements, a new equipment garage and business park development.

JPJ Engineer John Jamnick and Maintenance Superintendent Bud Ranta presented their recommendations as follows:

Paving is recommended due to excessive costs of \$10-12,000 annually for gravel, calcium chloride and grader replacement and maintenance time spent on repairing gravel roads. Jamnick explained that cost savings are significant due to timing as a majority of the roads are prepped from recently added class five and contractors are working in the area this summer reducing the cost of bituminous and mobilization. Legislative funding will cover the entire cost of this project with no cost to the city.

The equipment garage is also a high consideration as heating costs are excessive and the building is in poor shape. Jamnick felt they could continue working on the equipment garage plan with other funding resources in the future.

Jamnick explained that a 4" depth with shouldering would pave all gravel streets in the City of Cook and no curb or gutter. If the council wishes to accept this plan he could advertise for bids and have them accepted at the July Council Meeting.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve an annual contract with North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) for wetland administration professional services for the City of Cook in the amount of \$1,500. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation requested approval for a temporary liquor license for their event to be held August 17, 2013.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve a temporary liquor license for W.C. Heiam Foundation for their event to be held August 17, 2013.

Voting Aye: Councilors Jody Bixby and Elizabeth Storm

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Kim Brunner and Karen Hollanitsch

Abstain: Mayor Harold Johnston

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Johnston has addressed that community needs have changed and will work with Administrator Martinson on a community study and market analysis for the City of Cook.

Currently, the city is utilizing IRRRB grant monies for demolition of commercial and residential properties within the community for 2013. Administration will go through a market analysis to determine the needs for the old school building to consider its worth versus demolition costs to remove. Research will also be done to determine if a Comprehensive Plan should be considered for the City of Cook.

The 2014 Budget Study Sessions will begin August 22, 2013 through November 21, 2013 at 5 PM, prior to the Regular Council Meetings.

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm commended Lois Pajari for her dedicated commitment to her downtown business and rentals that recently burned. She also thanked the volunteers who organize fundraisers, the Farmer's Market and Music in the Park for their continuous efforts.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:05 PM was made by Councilor Bixby and second by Councilor Storm. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

Harold Johnston, Mayor

Recorder: Cindy Palm, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer