

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COOK CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Maintenance Superintendent Bud Ranta, The Timberjay and Cook News Herald

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

JPJ Engineering has recommended Partial Pay Estimate #4 to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$15,954.30 for the 2012 Drainage Improvements Project. This estimate includes all the seeding and sodding in the project areas. All punch list items have been reviewed and are being addressed and a near future walk through will be completed.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve Partial Pay Estimate #4 to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$15,954.30 for the 2012 Drainage Improvements Project. **MOTION CARRIED**

The sewage ponds are 25 years old and the control structures and valves need refurbishing. Fencing, dredging and a boat ramp to access the ponds for MPCA phosphorous spread requirements need to be addressed. A public works application needs to be completed through CDBG for Wastewater Treatment Improvements. Total cost of project is \$288,000 and the City will apply to CDBG for \$100,000, IRRRB for \$150,000 and remaining \$38,000 from sewer or liquor store funds. The project will not proceed until funding is secured.

The maintenance garage replacement is also a high priority but the sewage ponds will need to be addressed first.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to apply to CDBG for \$100,000 in funding and approve Resolution 120927A authorizing the City of Cook to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Public Works Grant Program for Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project in the amount of \$150,000. **MOTION CARRIED**

Two applications have been received for the IRRRB Residential Demolition Program for two homes and two garages. Funding is 75% IRRRB; 25% homeowner. The grant is based on \$3/square foot.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve Resolution 120927B authorizing the City of Cook to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program. **MOTION CARRIED**

The City of Cook will apply to the IRRRB Commercial Redevelopment Grant Program for the old wastewater plant to be demolished due to safety issues. This property will be considered for future use and a portion of city funds may need to be used. Proposed project costs is \$54,610.00 including demolition, disposal and environmental.

Motion by Bixby, second by Hollanitsch to approve Resolution 120927C authorizing the City of Cook to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Commercial Redevelopment Grant Program. **MOTION CARRIED**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of August 23, 2012
- B. Approval/correction of the Special Council Minutes of August 23, 2012 - 2013 Proposed Budget and Levy
- C. Bill Presentation Presented for payment \$ 60,437.67 Paid since last presentation \$242,872.25
- D. Reporting of the August 2012 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2012	\$ 182,923.15	\$ 1,030,342.02
2011	\$ 174,059.81	\$ 963,667.97
	\$ 8,863.34	\$ 66,674.05
- E. Resolution – August 2012 Donations Designated
- F. Airport Operator’s Report
- G. Ambulance Service Report
- H. Cook Chamber of Commerce Minutes of September 10, 2012
- I. Littlefork/Rat Root River Board & CAC

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

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

The 2013 CIP “Wish List” presents obstruction removal on Runway 7 and Airport Layout Plan update. Under the obstruction removal the sale of the timber will be considered. All airport project and funding requests will be presented to the council before proceeding and will need approval to submit the 2013 CIP List to the state.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve the Cook Municipal Airport 2013 CIP List and submit to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics. **MOTION CARRIED**

Fire

The annual renewal of the St. Louis County Unorganized Township 62-17 and 63-17 Fire Protection Service Agreement is due and receives \$7000 annually towards the Cook Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to accept the St. Louis County Unorganized Township 62-17 and 63-17 Fire Protection Service Agreements and allow Mayor and Clerk to sign necessary documentation. **MOTION CARRIED**

Recreation

Council members will again close the ice skating rink for 2013 until the new building is in full operation due to safety concerns. The council decision can be re-addressed if the building is completed during 2013.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to close the ice skating rink for 2013 until the new building in in full operation due to safety concerns. **MOTION CARRIED**

The vacated Northwoods School playground equipment will be inspected by Safety Committee Member Tim Mankowski. Upon safety approval, authority will be given to Tammy Palmer to submit a letter of intent to acquire the playground equipment for the Doug Johnson Recreation Area.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to give authority to Tammy Palmer and Safety Committee Member Tim Mankowski to acquire playground equipment for the Doug Johnson Recreation Area, upon safety approval, from the vacated Northwoods School by submitting a letter of intent to St. Louis County Schools. **MOTION CARRIED**

Library

The library equipment fund will be utilized for building improvements as approved by the library board. For 2013, anticipated projects include exterior roof repairs, as the seams on the roof are leaking, but the roof itself is in good condition. Council approval is needed to accept a quote from Range Cornice & Roofing Company for \$6,522 for seam work on the roof.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to accept a quote from Range Cornice & Roofing Company for \$6,522 for seam work on the library roof with funds utilized out of the Library Equipment Fund. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Johnston has resigned from the Cook-Orr Health Care District as a representative after 22 years of dedicated service. St. Louis County has recognized a conflict serving also as the Mayor for the City of Cook. Eric Pederson has shown interest to serve for Cook and will need to be accepted at the board meeting based on recommendation. Eric's position will be elected as a write in vote for the November General Election.

The Cemetery Board has rescheduled there meeting due to a scheduling conflict with use of City Hall. The only information reported was that there is an issue with a fallen tree that is being handled by the insurance company.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Martinson and Councilor Storm met with St. Louis County regarding SHIP 2.0 Strategies as part of the NE MN Statewide Health Improvement Program. The focus is to improve safety issues within the City of Cook including sidewalks, streets and highway safety. The city will review continued sidewalks, the busy highway and crosswalks, and the use of busy streets for emergency service transportation. A proposal will need to be submitted to St. Louis County for process selection.

Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to participate in the St. Louis County SHIP 2.0 Strategies program by submitting a proposal for safety improvement for the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

Range Women's Advocates has requested the City of Cook issue a Mayoral Proclamation to End Domestic Violence as October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to issue a Mayoral Proclamation to end Domestic Violence for October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **MOTION CARRIED**

Walker, Giroux, Hahne LTD. presented a proposal to conduct the 2012 audit in the amount of \$18,100.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to accept a proposal by Walker, Giroux, Hahne LTD. to conduct the 2012 audit in the amount of \$18,100. **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm expressed gratitude for the Cook Area Farmer's Market and Music in the Park during the summer months. She encourages enjoyment of the beautiful fall colors.

Councilor Brunner asked if St. Louis County had accepted the City of Cook's letter of intent to purchase the former Rescue Squad Building. Everything has been submitted and anticipation is high that the letter will be accepted.

Councilor Brunner expressed concern over the Highway 24 and 115 intersections and asked if a traffic re-design could be included in the St. Louis County SHIP 2.0 Strategies program discussed earlier in the meeting.

The City has contacted St. Louis County regarding the numerous complaints and recent accidents. The intersection is outside city limits.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the regular council meeting at 6:40 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer