

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 31, 2018 – COOK CITY HALL – 3 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 3 PM on Thursday, July 31, 2018 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 3 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 Kim Brunner, Elizabeth Storm, and Jody Bixby. Absent was City Councilor Karen Hollanitsch. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, City maintenance staff member Tim Lilya, County Commissioner candidate Christine Schlotec, HRA director Reed Erickson, Cook News Herald and The Timberjay.

AGENDA:

Additions or Deletions: None

PUBLIC FORUM:

John Jamnick – JPJ Engineering

Approval needed for two River Street bridge project invoices. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve JPJ Engineering invoice #10 in the amount of \$5,862.51 and Erickson Engineering invoice #12683 in the amount of \$133.50. **MOTION CARRIED**

Reed Erickson – HRA

HRA Director, Reed Erickson, was present to answer questions about the HRA financials which were in the council packets. This was a council requirement due to the lowering of the PILT % from 10% to 5% for three years. Mayor Johnston asked if Erickson was requesting additional funding. Erickson said no. Erickson shared with the council about future repairs that will be made, such as repairs to the elevators and heat pumps. He also shared that the vacancy rate in the HRA units is 98-100%. The current waiting list has about 15 people on it and Erickson explained how someone moves on the waiting list. Councilor Brunner asked if there was a ratio in the Pioneer and Homestead buildings of young people to old people. Erickson explained that the laws changed in 2010 to prohibit discrimination against any age group. He did state, however, that preference is given to the elderly and the disabled. Administrator Martinson asked if there are long-term goals for additional housing. Erickson stated that it has been talked about but is very expensive, and there has to be a need for the additional housing; available housing in neighboring cities plays a part in such a decision as well. Last month the council tabled the updating of the HRA bylaws. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to update the HRA bylaws as approved by the HRA board and reviewed by City Attorney Weir. **MOTION CARRIED**

Christine Schlotec

St. Louis County Commissioner candidate for District 4, Christine Schlotec, introduced herself to the City Council while also sharing some of her history and views.

Maintenance

City Hall and the River Street Park gazebo need new roofs. There are two bids in the council packet. Councilor Brunner asked what the start date is for installation. City maintenance employee Tim Lilya shared that there is no start date set yet. Councilor Bixby asked where the funds to pay for the improvements are coming from. Administrator Martinson stated that the repairs will be made with monies from the operating-cash fund. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to accept the bid from Peak Construction Roofing for replacing the City Hall and gazebo roofs in the amount of \$14,200.00. **MOTION CARRIED**

The back wall of the fire hall needs repair. Metal sheeting is going to be installed on the back of the building. The repairs have been approved by both the fire chief and the ambulance director. The monies will be out of each department’s capital funds. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to accept the bid from Range Cornice & Roofing Company in the amount of \$21,733.00 for the metal sheeting and installation on the back wall of the fire hall. **MOTION CARRIED**

There is a water tower inspection report in the council packet. A KLM representative will be coming in September to share the findings with the council.

A big thank you to the Cook Maintenance Department for their hard work and the great job that they do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve the Consent Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of June 28, 2018
- B. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$127,222.23
 Presented for payment \$124,697.62
- C. Ambulance Service July 2018 Report
- D. Fire Dept. July 2018 Report
- E. Reporting of the June 2018 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2018	\$ 168,308.83	\$ 658,308.89
2017	<u>\$ 180,594.85</u>	<u>\$ 655,982.34</u>
	\$ -12,286.02	\$ 2,326.55

Resolution – June 2018 Donations Designated

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

City airport employee’s Jon Jacobson and Allen Hoover are going to be switching roles as well as pay rates. Both employees have spoken with Administrator Martinson. For personal reasons, Jacobson would like less responsibility; Hoover is willing to take on additional responsibilities. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve the aforementioned position and pay rate change between Jon Jacobson and Allen Hoover, effective August 1, 2018. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to approve SEH invoice #352169 in the amount of \$1,395.00 for the Airport Access Road project. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ambulance

Community Night Out is August 7, 2018, from 5-8 PM at the Cook Community Center. This is being planned by the Cook Ambulance Service. Please try and attend. They have worked hard to gather donations and participation from local businesses.

Broadband

Councilor Storm reminded the council that information is in the packet about broadband. A lot of hard work made the Grizzlies Broadband Project a reality. The project provided such things as computer classes and free PCs. Mayor Johnston asked how somebody receives a free computer. Administrator Martinson shared that a resident who lives within the “grizzlies” broadband area can apply; the program is income dependent.

Fire Relief

The Fire Relief report card is in the council packet.

Lake Vermilion Trail

Councilor Storm shared the Lake Vermilion Trail (LVT) has receive a “Regional Trail” designation from the Greater Minnesota regional Parks Commission. That means that the LVT will be eligible for Legacy funding for trail development.

Planning & Zoning

Cook resident, William Lange, requested a variance. There was no quorum at the Planning & Zoning meeting. A recommendation was made to approve the variance as long as property owner deals with any possible drainage issues. Councilor Bixby asked if Lange is in a flood plain. Lange property is not in the flood plain. Mayor Johnston commented on the lot size, questioning if Lange is going to combine his three lots. Councilor Bixby thinks it is wonderful that a new building is going to be built but neighboring property owners need to be protected. Councilor Brunner wondered if it could be sent back to Planning & Zoning for more discussion. Administrator Martinson reminded everyone that the City of Cook doesn’t have a building code.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Propane Bids (2018-2019 Heating Season)

Bids were received from Lakes Gas Co. and Como Oil & Propane for the 2018-2019 (September 1, 2018 through August 30, 2019) heating season. Lakes Gas is the apparent low bidder. The city purchases approximately 16,000 gallons per heating season.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to award the 2018-2019 heating propane contract to Lakes Gas Co. at a price of \$.945/gallon. The maintenance service rate is \$65/hour. **MOTION CARRIED**

Bow Hunt

The city bow hunt orientation is going to take place on September 5, 2018, from 6-8 PM at the Cook Community Center. The DNR will be publishing participation details in August. Administrator Martinson shared an email from a concerned citizen regarding residents feeding deer; he is not happy with it. The City can’t police everyone’s yards; those concerned will be encouraged to attend the bow hunt orientation to learn more about the hunt.

2018 Election

Filings are open. The local Primary Election is being held at the Cook Community Center on August 14, 2018.

City Council Meeting – July 31, 2018

COUNCIL FORUM:

Administrator Martinson shared that Representative Rob Ecklund has been selected as a League of Minnesota Cities Legislator of Distinction for 2018. Martinson also wanted to recognize local businesses and organizations for their contributions to our community: The Washhouse, the Watering Can, and The Northwoods Friends of the Arts. Letters will be sent to them from the mayor, thanking them for their contributions to our city.


Councilor Bixby asked if there was such a thing as a blight grant to help a city clean up blight issues.

Councilor Storm shared that a resident inquired with her about the future possibility of a dog park. It might be a nice addition to the community.

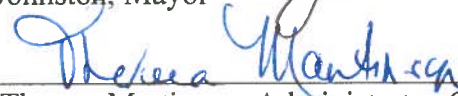
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 3:55 PM was made by Councilor Bixby and second by Councilor Brunner. **MOTION CARRIED**


CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer