

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2016 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6 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 Jody Bixby, Kim Brunner and Elizabeth Storm. Absent was City Councilor Karen Hollanitsch. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, Cook News Herald, The Timberjay, Brad Dekkers of the MN DNR, Recreation Committee member Tammy Palmer, John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, and guest, Bruce Auchley.

AGENDA – Additions or Deletions: None.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Brad Dekkers, MN DNR

Brad Dekkers of the DNR Office of Parks & Trails came to the council meeting to discuss if the city would be interested in the possible creation of a Little Fork River access in Cook. He stated that the first river access the DNR created was in the Linden Grove area; it would be great to have an access further north. Councilor Storm asked what funds are available for such an undertaking. Mr. Dekker stated that in Little Fork the DNR did a plank agreement: the DNR did the work and the city provided materials, with the city then taking over maintenance of the access. Councilor Bixby asked if there was a specific area that the DNR was looking at. Mr. Dekker stated that there were different options. Councilor Storm asked if the DNR makes a parking lot; Mr. Dekker responded that they could. He also made a comment about liability; if recreation is provided freely the city isn't liable due to Tort Liability. Mr. Dekker shared some water trail maps and said they are updated regularly and can be obtained from the DNR office in St. Paul. Administrator Martinson asked where the city goes from this point. Mr. Dekker said the city should reach out to him and discussions can be started.

John Jamnick – JPJ Engineering – Project Updates/Funding:

2016 Infrastructure Improvements: 5th & 6th Streets and 4th & 5th Streets, with alternate overlay on 5th Street. These are contingent upon a development agreement with the hospital. Mr. Jamnick and Administrator Martinson met with the hospital and the IRRRB. Jamnick stated that the hospital does not want to go ahead with proposed parking lot improvements on the north side of Vermilion Blvd.

Jamnick said that grants available consist of \$200,000 (care center) for site work, \$50,000 (care center) for demo work, and \$103,000 (city) for streets. Additional components would be \$23,077 for milling and overlay on 5th Street and \$31,890 for additional sidewalk down 5th Street to 3rd Avenue. The \$31,890 would redefine the project to \$201,000.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to remove the proposed parking on north side of Vermilion from 5th to 6th Streets. **MOTION CARRIED.** Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to spot repair Vermilion Blvd, 4th Street, 1 5th Street & overlay. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to mill and overlay 5th Street to 3rd Avenue. **MOTION CARRIED** Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to add sidewalk to 5th Street, from the Pioneer building to 3rd Avenue. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Jamnick stated that the city share went from \$95,000 to \$74,000 due to not having to match funds. Administrator Martinson inquired with Mr. Jamnick about the cost of paving the community center parking lot. Jamnick stated that a close estimate would be \$66,000. Councilor Storm requested another month to think about it. Jamnick mentioned that the Infrastructure Project paving won't be finished until next spring. Administrator Martinson stated that the city then could potentially budget for this in 2017. Martinson thanked Jamnick for all of his work on the projects.

JPJ Invoice #2 in the amount of \$4,200.00 for street design (2016 Infrastructure Improvements) was presented for approval. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve the JPJ invoice in the amount \$4,200.00 for street design. **MOTION CARRIED**

Vermilion Motel:

Final Pay Estimate from Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$24,764.20 for the Vermilion Motel was presented for payment. Included in the \$24,764.20 was Change Order No. 1 in the amount of -\$18,765.00; this was due to the removal of landscaping from the project. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve the Change Order and payment to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$24,764.20. The IRRRB final payout and grant reimbursement was also approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

Heiam Foundation

The Heiam Foundation would like to request a temporary license for August 20, 2016 when they have their annual fundraiser. Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve temporary liquor license for the Heiam Foundation. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of May 26, 2016
- B. Bill Presentation
- C. Reporting of the May 2016 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2016	\$ 153,766.53	\$ 486,226.70
2015	\$ 153,196.35	\$ 479,542.67
	\$ 570.18	\$ 6,684.03

- D. Resolution – May 2016 Donations Designated
- E. Ambulance Service May-June 2016 Report
- F. Recreation Commission Minutes of June 6, 2016

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Personnel

Liquor store manager, Debbie Lindgren, will be retiring later this year. Administrator Martinson asked that the council give the Personnel Committee authority to move forward with the hiring process. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to give the Personnel Committee authority to move forward with the hiring process for a new liquor store manager. **MOTION CARRIED**

City airport employee, Ernie Seppala, will also be retiring on September 30, 2016. Administrator Martinson recommends hiring Mike Christiansen as a temporary worker with a starting wage of \$11.94/hr.; he would work under Jim Prepodnik and Ernie Seppala and would start next week. Upon Seppala's retirement, Prepodnik would be promoted to the coordinator position and Christenson would be promoted to operator. Administrator Martinson also asked that the council approve a wage increase for Jim Prepodnik of \$13.00/hr. starting July 1, 2016. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve the hiring of Mike Christiansen at \$11.94/hr. and an increase to \$13.00/hr. for Jim Prepodnik. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mayor Johnston thanked Ernie for all of his hard work at the airport.

Administrator Martinson reminded the council that Councilor Hollanitsch will be absent for the summer. Martinson recommends the appointment of Councilor Bixby on the Personnel Committee during Hollanitsch's absence. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to have Councilor Bixby stand-in for Councilor Hollanitsch on the Personnel Committee during Hollanitsch's absence. **MOTION CARRIED**

Recreation

Recreation Committee member Tammy Palmer stated that the Rec Board would like to re-name the community center. They are not recommending North Star Credit Union CEO Rich Crettol's suggested name, but have instead given the council three other suggestions: "Cook Area Community Center", "Cook Community Center", and "Cook Community Youth Center". Councilor Storm said that it is hard to turn down the money/donation from the credit union. Palmer stated that Mr. Crettol was very specific in his conditions regarding the donation and the naming of the community center. She did state that regardless of the Recreation Committee's recommendation and the Council's decision, the credit union would still be a supporter of the community center and the community as a whole. Palmer said the Recreation Committee is recommending naming the community center "Cook Community Center". Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to officially name the community center "Cook Community Center". **MOTION CARRIED.** Palmer stated that new equipment has been order for the park and they are also working with Perpich TV to get a sound system installed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lake Vermilion Trail

Councilor Storm shared that the logo contest is over; there were 23 entries and four judges. Bois Forte donated \$500 for a prize. The winner was Sue Wolfe. The Runners-up also received prizes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election 2016 Items


Administration Martinson asked for a motion to approve an AB Board and election judge appointment for the 2016 election. Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve the 2016 Primary and General Election Resolution appointing the slate of 2016 Election Judges, Head Judge, Healthcare Judges and AB Board. In the case of a vacancy, clerk and or head judge is authorized to appoint replacement judges. Compensation is \$10/hour with the current mileage rate reimbursement for all expected travel. **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Storm thanked city crews for their hard work during Timber Days and also the Thistledew crews for their work. Councilor Brunner said that there was a great turnout for Timber Days. Councilor Storm reminded everyone about the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings and Music in the Park on Wednesday evenings. Storm also stated that the Lion's Sale went well and they are planning on having another sale in October of this year like they did last year.

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM was made by Councilor Bixby and second by Councilor Brunner. **MOTION CARRIED**


CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer