

**COOK CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 28, 2018 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

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**TIME AND PLACE:** A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, June 28, 2018 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, County Commissioner candidate Paul Kess, Ely resident Angela Campbell, Reverend Daniel Kerr, Cook resident Darcie Meehan and Robert Strand.

**AGENDA:**

**Additions or Deletions - None**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**John Jamnick – JPJ Engineering – project updates**

*River Street Bridge project:* Approval is needed for two invoices: JPJ Engineering invoice #9 in the amount of \$7,159.37 and Erickson Engineering invoice #12611 in the amount of \$1,407.34. Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve the aforementioned invoices. **MOTION CARRIED.** It was also noted that the Bridge project will have a start date of July 9, 2018.

**Paul Kess**

St. Louis County Commissioner candidate for District 4, Paul Kess, introduced himself to the city council while also sharing some of his history and views.

**Darcie Meehan**

Cook resident, Darcie Meehan, spoke to the City Council about her concerns regarding weed spraying in the City parks. She wondered if the City had other options. Administrator Martinson stated that the City has looked at the current products as well as spoken to the owner of Green Again (the current weed control company which the City uses). Councilor Storm stated that she has seen residents remove weeds directly from areas which they felt needed attention. Mayor Johnston suggested that perhaps there could be an organic option but wondered if it would be as effective. The City receives complaints when there are too many dandelions, so the City hears both sides of this issue. It was suggested that perhaps Meehan could do some research into other alternatives, looking into if other cities use effective “green” weed control methods. Meehan stated that she would do just that.

**Heiam Foundation**

The Heiam Foundation would like to request a temporary license for August 11, 2018 when they have their annual fundraiser. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve temporary liquor license for the Heiam Foundation. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Junior Legion Baseball**

Local residents have spearheaded the creation of a Junior Legion baseball team; this is sponsored by the VFW. The City of Cook used to have one years ago. This team is for the age group just above where Cook’s current youth baseball league has its cut-off. Cook resident, Dan Manick, will be the coach this season. The group needs approval to use the ball fields at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve Junior Legion Baseball to use Cook’s ball fields pursuant upon them working with the current youth baseball organization and its schedule. **MOTION CARRIED**

**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 May 24, 2018
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of May 24, 2018 – 2017 Audit
- C. Approval/correction of Planning & Zoning Minutes of May 24, 2018 – Matts Deck Variance
- D. Bill Presentation      Paid since last presentation      \$ 128,809.73  
   Presented for payment                      \$ 100,704.07
- E. Ambulance Service June 2018 Report
- F. Fire Dept. June 2018 Report
- G. Reporting of the May 2018 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2018	\$ 154,205.86	\$ 490,000.06
2017	<u>\$ 149,065.09</u>	<u>\$ 474,448.27</u>
	\$ 5,140.77	\$ 15,551.79

- D. Resolution – May 2018 Donations Designated

**COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:**

**Airport**

Approval is needed for the Airport Access Road bid award; SEH recommends KGM. The estimated project cost will be \$289,074.00. Also needing approval is the SEH Contract Proposal for engineering (\$44,800) including Braun Intertec (\$7,696.00) which is in the council packet. Lastly, SEH invoice #351317 for the Airport Master Plan in the amount of \$26,810.00 needs approval. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to approve KGM as the bid award winner, SEH’s contract proposal, and SEH invoice #351317. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Ambulance**

Administrator Martinson made a recommendation to increase ambulance director Nancy Reing’s pay as of July 1, 2018, from \$200/month to \$500/month. Martinson stated that Reing does a lot of work for just \$200 a month. Motion by Storm, second by Johnston to increase Reing’s pay to \$500/month beginning July 1, 2018.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Broadband**

The “PCs for People” computers were distributed but there is a problem with them and they have to be returned. A new shipment will be sent to Cook in the very near future to be re-distributed to those who had originally received one. There is going to be a “Strut Your Stuff” event/meeting at the Cook Community Center on Wednesday, July 11. Blandin representatives will be present as well as local representatives to hear about the successes due to the Blandin Broadband grant monies.

## **HRA**

The HRA bylaws have been updated and reviewed by City attorney, Mark Weir. The change was made in Section 6. Voting on the bylaws was tabled.

Mayor Johnston made the recommendation of appointing Sharon Ratai as a new HRA board member due to the retirement of board member Lois Trygg. Casual interviews were done with the two applicants interested in the position. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve Sharon Ratai as the new HRA board member.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Lake Vermilion Trail**

Councilor Storm stated that the Lake Vermilion Trail group had a booth at Timber Days to recruit volunteers. Other notes and information are in the council packets.

## **Safety**

Presenting for approval and acceptance – the updated safety programs for the City of Cook: AWAIR, Employee Right to Know, Bloodborne Pathogens, Emergency Action Plan, Personal Protective Equipment, Hazardous Energy Control – Lockout/Tagout, Permit Required Confined Spaces, Excavating and Trenching.

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve the updated safety programs. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **Planning & Zoning**

Ron Bushbaum has agreed to be a member of Planning & Zoning; he is a resident of the City. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to approve the appointment of Ron Bushbaum as a member of the Planning & Zoning Committee. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2018 Election**

No updates

### **State Demographer estimate**

The estimate has us at a population of 558.

### **Music in the Park**

Music in the Park is back for 2018. The schedule is in the packet. It runs every Wednesday evening at 6 PM from June 13 – August 29, 2018.

## **COUNCIL FORUM:**

Administrator Martinson stated that the City has been sharing the Business Energy Retrofit program materials with local businesses. Councilor Storm reminded everyone that the Cook Farmer's Market has the P.O.P. (Power of Produce) Program; it allows children to receive a token for free produce. Councilor Storm also added a big thank you to these people for their part in Timber Days: the City of Cook maintenance department, the Timber Days committee, all of the vendors & musicians, the local property owners, the Sheriff's Department, and all of the local business owners.

Administrator Martinson thanked the NWFA and their art expo, as well as the Montana Café for being open.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 6:35 PM was made by Councilor Storm and second by Councilor Bixby. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

Harold Johnston (H J Johnston)  
Harold Johnston, Mayor

Stephanie Beaudry  
Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Theresa Martinson  
Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer