

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2017 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, March 23, 2017 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 Karen Hollanitsch, Elizabeth Storm, Jody Bixby, and Kim Brunner. Also present was Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, Cook-Orr Healthcare District board member Eric Pederson, Cook Ambulance staff and volunteers: Marilyn Hannan, Karen Schultz, Nancy Reing, Daniel Reing, Danny Reing, Christina Rothleutner, Cameron Nicholas, Jessica Graves, and William Fischer; guests Laurie and Don Potter, and the Cook News Herald.

AGENDA:

Additions or Deletions – None

PUBLIC FORUM:

Eric Pederson, Cook-Orr Healthcare District

Board member Pederson asked for the council's support in asking the legislature to require all residents of the original Hospital District to be assessed their fair share of the Hospital District's annual levy. The council did not feel that it was their place to *force* anyone to be a part of the District. Mayor Johnston stated that the council would support a letter which *encouraged* or *strongly recommended* participation in the District. Mr. Pederson is going to take the council's comments back to the board. Pederson also provided the 2016 Annual Report of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District to the council.

Ambulance staffing discussion

Ambulance Co-Director Nancy Reing spoke for the ambulance service, stating that people have been working hard on the service and they are a passionate crew; many are discouraged. Earlier in the week, a proposal for increasing the run rate to \$4/hour, increasing local runs to \$12.50/hour, and increasing runs over 10 miles to \$15/hour was discussed. William Fischer stated that the city doesn't have the staff or the volunteers; we need more people. The City needs to have something to offer and a fourth full-time person would be good to have. He stated that other cities are paying more to their volunteers. Administrator stated that it is hard to compare services, but the City has looked at what other services are doing; we need to know what the crew wants. Nancy Reing stated that she feels the crew is splitting. Councilor Hollanitsch stated that we have looked at many options and have to remain fiscally responsible. Daniel Reing stated that unless the City starts offering more, it is going to lose volunteers. Nancy Reing asked about having four people on staff. Councilor Bixby asked what four people looks like financially. Mayor Johnston stated that we are required to provide a local service; the transfers are the hospital's responsibility; perhaps we need to focus just on our 911 calls. Will Fischer stated that almost half our calls are transfers; it is good money. Councilor Storm stated that what we bill is not necessarily what we receive in payment. Councilor Bixby stated that we don't have the facts in front of us; we can't make a decision. The crew needs to get together and figure out what they want; they are not on the same page. They need to meet, come up with a few options, and bring them back to the council. The crew and staff were thanked for all that they have done for the community and thanked for attending the council meeting.

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 February 23, 2017
- B. Approval/correction of the Planning & Zoning Hearing Minutes of February 23, 2017 – Brunner/Watering Can CUPs (Greenhouses)
- C. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$ 72,099.05
 Presented for payment \$ 36,653.86
- D. Ambulance Service March 2017 Report
- E. Recreation Commission Minutes of February 13, 2017
- F. Reporting of the February 2017 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2017	\$ 77,537.74	\$ 153,990.77
2016	\$ 77,993.75	\$ 158,776.31
	\$ (456.01)	\$ (4,785.54)
- G. Resolution – February 2017 Donations Designated

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

We are having issues with the fuel system; SEH is looking into it. There also might be an issue with our beacon which we may have to deal with earlier than we had projected. We need approval to have Councilor Hollanitsch and Administrator Martinson begin the grant work on both issues. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve the aforementioned grant work. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ambulance

The council stated that they will table the personnel and staffing issues discussed during the Public Forum. Motion by Bixby, second by Brunner to table any decisions about personnel/service rates discussed in the Public Forum. **MOTION CARRIED**

Recommendations made by the Ambulance Board need approval:

- Increasing the service rates as follows: Base rate - \$1300; Advanced Life Support Rate - \$1600; and Rescue Sled Rate - \$850. Effective April 1, 2017.
- \$1/year per capita increase for city and townships for the next five years 2017-2021.
- Budget 2017 and financials 2016 approved. 2016 minutes approved.
- Annual township contributions restricted to capital fund.
- Cook Hospital donation of \$2000 to First Responders for AED trainers and CPR manikins.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to approve Ambulance Board recommendations. **MOTION CARRIED**

Broadband

There is no update. As stated last month, the grant deadline is coming up; from this grant, the City of Cook hopes to obtain five hotspots for people to check out from the library.

Fire

Councilor Hollanitsch shared that the annual meeting went well; it was well attended. Annual meeting recommendations were shared with the council in their packet and need approval:

- 2016 minutes and financials approved. 2017 Budget. 2016 Calls.
- Former rescue squad electrical upgrades of approx. \$7000.
- Three turnout gear sets purchased from cash fund. \$2500-\$3000/each.
- Seeking grants for air packs. Approx. \$50,000 project.
- Updating all procedures and safety code requirements.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve Fire Board recommendations. **MOTION CARRIED**

Lake Vermilion Trail

Councilor Storm shared that there is nothing new to report. The next Lake Vermilion Trail meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12, at 10 AM at the DNR Headquarters in Tower.

Last Chance Liquors

Discussion will take place soon regarding the new Sunday sales legislation. Mayor Johnston asked if we *have to* be open. Administrator Martinson stated that we don't have to be open but she will be meeting with the Liquor Store manager soon to discuss options. Approval is needed for a new hire at the liquor store. Cassidy Mancina was hired to work Wednesdays and Saturdays starting March 15, 2017, at \$10.30/hour. Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve the hiring of Cassidy Mancina at \$10.30/hour. **MOTION CARRIED**

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is applying for 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

Maintenance

The City of Cook Maintenance Department received a 2016 Wastewater Treatment Facility Operation Award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It is for outstanding operation, maintenance, and management of the wastewater treatment system. Congratulation to our maintenance department on a job well done!

Weed Inspector

Councilor Storm volunteered to be the noxious weed inspector for the City of Cook.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayoral Proclamation Request

Mayor Johnston requests to proclaim April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month". We do have sexual assaults in our area; it is a serious issue. She reminded everyone that the City of Cook does require background checks for all employees and volunteers. Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Storm to approve the proclamation.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL FORUM:

The Cook City Council congratulates the North Woods School boys' basketball team on their Section 7 Championship and their State Single A Runner-Up finish at the State Basketball Tournament!

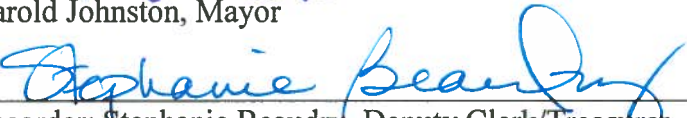
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM was made by Councilor Bixby and second by Councilor Brunner. **MOTION CARRIED**

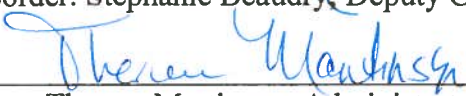
CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer