

**COOK CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2019 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

---

**TIME AND PLACE:** A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the Cook Public Library.

**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, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry.

**ADDs/DELETES:** None

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**John Jamnick – JPJ Engineering**

Working on moving forward on the demolition project at the airport and the Covenant Church. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve the resolution to authorize the city to apply for the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant for demolition. The Mayor and Clerk are authorized to sign all pertinent documents for this project. **MOTION CARRIED**

**River Street Bridge**

JPJ Engineering provided a punch list of items still to be taken care; it is in the council packet.

**Timber Days**

The Old Muni is requesting to extend their premises to their back area for Timber Days June 7-9, 2019 which is covered under their liquor licensing. They have also requested 10 AM serving for Sunday, June 9, 2019 beyond the City Ordinance of 12 Noon.

The VFW is requesting to extend their premises to a fenced area in the parking lot for a band during Timber Days, June 7-9, 2019 which is covered under their club licensing. This will be for a dance on Saturday night, June 8, 2019. They have also requested a serving time of 10 AM on June 9, 2019, beyond the City Ordinance of 12 Noon.

Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to approve the aforementioned requests for both The Old Muni and the VFW Post 1757. **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 April 25, 2019
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of April 25, 2019 – KLM Water Tower Inspection Informational Meeting
- C. Bill Presentation      Paid since last presentation      \$ 70,603.89  
   Presented for payment              \$ 67,084.66
- D. Reporting of the April 2019 Liquor Store Sales  
   MTD    YTD  
                 2019      \$ 71,892.96                      \$ 272,307.49  
                 2018      \$ 83,100.96                      \$ 335,794.20  
                              \$ -11,208.00                      \$ -63,486.71
- F. Resolution – April 2019 Donations Designated

**COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:**

**Fire Relief**

Annual audit provided in the council packet.

**Lake Vermilion Trail**

Councilor Storm stated that there is nothing new to report.

**Library**

Administration and the Personnel Committee are recommending promoting current librarian, Crystal Phillips, to 40 hours per week; this would make her position full-time. The library offers so many programs and is a main component in our Broadband funding; we need to support our local library. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve 40 hours per week for Crystal Phillips, effective June 1, 2019. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Planning & Zoning**

The Planning & Zoning Committee made two recommendations:

1) to issue a variance to Electro Signs & Design for the purpose of installing an illuminated sign on the outside of the Dollar General building to be located at 119 Hwy 53, Cook, MN 55723; the proposed variance requested from Ordinance No. 901.14; Subdivision 5A Section B. Permit Requirements for Signs along Trunk Hwy 53 Corridor as listed:

- Such signs shall be no more than one hundred twenty square feet in area when not illuminated, or eighty square feet when illuminated. Increase from 80 sq. ft. to 132’9”. Requesting a 51 sq. ft. 3 inch variance.

Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to accept recommendation from Planning and Zoning to grant variance to Electro Signs & Design. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Planning and Zoning continued:**

2) to issue a Conditional Use Permit and Rezone to Heather Chavers for the purpose of building a 64' x 45' storage building (X2), contingent on rezone from SR-1 to C-1 located at parcels 120-0040-00070 and 120-0040-00090 (the corner of Ashawa Road and County Road 24); Proposed Conditional Use Permit and rezone requested from Ordinance No. 901.11 – Suburban Residence District to Ordinance No. 901.09 General Business District as listed:

- The proposed land use request does not conform to Principle Permitted Uses nor Conditional Uses in an SR-1 district. More conforming in the C-1 zone district.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to accept recommendation from Planning and Zoning to grant Conditional Use Permit and Rezone for Heather Chavers. The City's land use zoning map will be updated accordingly.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Safety**

Administrator Martinson and Office Assistant Dawn Kehoe recently met with the city's safety trainer. Approval of Cook's annual safety review is needed. Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to approve Cook's annual safety review. **MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NWFA**

Last month the Council approved the temporary liquor license for Northwoods Friends of the Arts fundraiser set for June 14, 2019. Additional approval is also needed for the NWFA because they are charging admission at an event that is being held in a city building. Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to allow the NWFA to charge admission at their event being held on June 14, 2019 at the Cook Community Center. **MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Memorial Day Celebration**

The Memorial Day Celebration is Monday, May 27, 2019. The parade will leave the VFW at 9:30 AM. The Mayor will be giving a speech. The Veterans Bridge sign will be on display; it was Lee Gustafson who suggested the name for the bridge.

**COUNCIL FORUM:**

Councilor Storm, Cook's Noxious Weed Inspector, reminded everyone that the noxious weed list has been updated; the 2019 Noxious Weed List is posted on the City Hall bulletin board. Councilor Brunner asked if the City Maintenance Dept. could fix and re-position the "Dead End" sign on the east side of Third Ave SE. Councilor Brunner asked if the City had an ordinance or policy in regard to homeless people in town. Councilor Bixby brought up all of the rumors flying around about the Zup's rebuilding and hopes that the Zupancich family shares their plans with the public soon.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 6:27 PM was made by Councilor Brunner and second by Councilor Storm. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

*H Johnston*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Johnston, Mayor

*Theresa Martinson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer

*Stephanie Beaudry*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer