

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY
COOK CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 21, 2019 – CITY HALL – 5:30 PM

TIME AND PLACE: A Special Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 5:30 PM on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the Special Council Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE: Present were Mayor Harold Johnston, City Councilors Elizabeth Storm, Jody Bixby, Karen Hollanitsch, and Kim Brunner. Also present was Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold monthly special study sessions to discuss budget planning for 2020. The final November study session focuses on all departments and allows an opportunity for questions and comments before finalizing the 2020 budget at the regular council meeting on December 19, 2019.

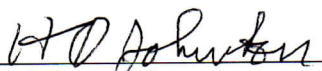
The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on December 19, 2019 at 6 PM.

The preliminary 2020 General Fund budget was reviewed. The City has proposed revenues for 2020 of \$572,780.00 and proposed expenses of \$582,130.00. An operating levy of 5% is being proposed which is down from the original 8%. The city has had low levy percentages for many years. There are a lot of City projects and expenses that we have to think about. Councilor Hollanitsch stated that we have made so much positive progress that if we have to sometimes go up with the levy percentage, we should; in the past we have always kept things low. The Administration expenses are higher for 2020 mainly due to the purchase of a new server and new computer stations which is necessary. Councilor Hollanitsch felt that the HRA PILT percentage should increase back to 10%. The city council had previously approved the percentage to remain at 5% for three years, with the final year being 2019, payable in 2020. It was agreed that this will be looked at in early 2020. The City should look again at hangar fees next year. Councilor Hollanitsch shared that the Beatty Township annual donation for the airport will continue. Regarding the airport, Hollanitsch also noted that the Friends of Aviation group is not disbanding and is a good supporter of the Cook Airport. Water rates have not gone up in quite some time; more homework on water & sewer fees needs to be done. An assessment policy should also be researched. Due to retirements, staffing will be reviewed at the liquor store.

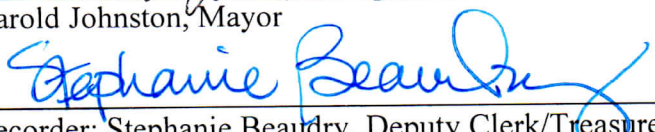
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 5:52 PM was made by Councilor Hollanitsch and seconded by Councilor Storm. **MOTION CARRIED**

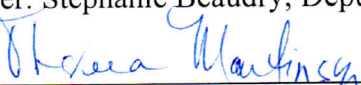
CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer