

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – STUDY SESSION**  
**COOK CITY COUNCIL**  
**MAY 28, 2009 – CITY HALL – 5:00 PM**

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PRESENT: Mayor Dick Edblom, Councilors Karen Hollanitsch, Elizabeth Storm, Dan Manick and Jody Bixby

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Resident Geri Wilkinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm

Mayor Edblom called the special council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is for the council to hold monthly study sessions regarding the City of Cook for 2009. The residents of Cook are encouraged to attend these sessions and submit ideas for study to City Hall. Items will be discussed on an importance basis.

Meeting times will be at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month before the regular council meetings. At each meeting the council will discuss two main items and agenda item research will be done prior to each meeting.

**Local Government Aid (LGA)**

For the City of Cook, the Governor's proposed LGA cuts are \$23,849 for 2009 and \$49,802 for 2010. No final decisions had been made in the state legislative session, which closed in May. The Governor will now decide on the final LGA cuts and will have a preliminary decision by mid – June. The City of Cook will receive the first half of LGA in July and second half in December for 2009. The City Council will plan for the LGA cuts when reviewing the 2010 budget. The City Council will take the following into consideration for the 2010 budget: Reduced LGA, loss of revenues in enterprise funds, loss of funds for non-payment of taxes and utilities, departmental line item cuts, determination of essential versus non-essential services and possible staff cuts.

**Commissions**

The City Council would like to form a Planning Commission, Historical Commission and fill the seats of the current commissions with the City of Cook. The Council feels that our balance of different commission groups is positive but due to a small city population we need to promote more residential activity on these commissions. Commissions are advisory to the City Council, which makes the final decisions.

Administrator Martinson contacted the League of MN Cities to request information regarding commissions versus boards. It was felt that the library board could possibly be a commission so more research will be done.

Councilor Storm and Administrator Martinson attended the Safety and Loss meeting for small cities and reported that our safety and loss controls are adequate.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the special study meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer