

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
MAY 20, 2014  
POTENTIAL CONSECUTIVE YEAR BOW HUNT**

PRESENT: Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Kim Brunner and Karen Hollanitsch

ABSENT: Councilors Jody Bixby and Elizabeth Storm

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, MN DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch, City Resident Jane Marconett, Bow Hunter Kristian Jankofsky, Cook News Herald and The Timberjay

Mayor Harold Johnston called the Special Council-Public Informational Meeting to order at 6 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider a potential consecutive year bow hunt within the city limits of Cook to control the high population of deer within the city.

MN DNR Tower Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch reminded that the purpose of a hunt is for public safety and long term reduction of deer population.

There was a safety concern regarding the use of a cross bow being used. Rusch explained that the city could eliminate the use of such style of bow.

Rusch explained the harvest. Within Cook's permit area Ten (10) antlerless with one (1) adult buck were taken within a 2.25 square mile radius. This equates to 5-6 deer harvested per square mile in Cook's permit area as compared to less than 1 deer per square mile in the surrounding deer permit area (177).

Concern was asked whether the hunters were provided specialized training. It was shared that an orientation session wasn't required but suggested and 24 of the 25 hunters attended. There were no novice hunters, all were experienced bow hunters.

Rusch explained that the hunt boundary can be changed if the city wishes to consider.

Rusch indicated that this year, except for such specialized hunt areas like Cook, there will be no antlerless permits due to the harsh winter and reduced deer populations in other areas. He indicated that the deer population in the Cook and surrounding area is healthy and higher than most of northern St Louis County.

Councilor Brunner stated that she felt the first year hunt has not made any noted difference in the deer population.

Jane Marconett expressed concern over the length of the season being three months and that she is worried about walking and safety during that hunting period and she has never had a problem with deer in her yard.

It was noted that some residents have had to install fencing to keep the deer from destroying their vegetation.

Rusch indicated that it can be very costly to individuals when they lose vegetation or when they have a deer-vehicle accident.

Kristian Jankofsky, a bow hunter who participated in Cook's hunt last year, provided that he hunted 21 days and indicated that the hunters want to be ethical and show respect in their hunting practices and be safe. He personally harvested one deer and removed it in its entirety from the hunt area for cleaning purposes. He shared that it is a most cost effective way to reduce the deer herd and he appreciated the opportunity to hunt in Cook.

Rusch explained that thinning antlerless deer is the most effective long term strategy for reducing deer problems in the city. They perpetuate quickly in un-hunted areas. They will be more productive when fed annually by people as each doe has 2 or 3 fawns each and every year.

When an inquiry was made about a potential shorter season, Rusch advised against it.

Discussion was held regarding holding a mandatory orientation session so that the public's safety concerns could be clearly stressed to the hunters and that the hunters could be reminded of using safe and ethical hunting practices.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to continue the deer hunt for the total legal length of time, with the elimination of cross bow use and requiring mandatory orientation attendance by all hunters.

Voting Aye: Councilor Brunner and Hollanitsch

Voting Nay: Mayor Johnston

Absent: Councilors Bixby and Storm

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Johnston questioned whether trapping the deer and transplanting was an option. Rusch explained that it was very expensive process that could potentially cost \$1500/deer.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Brunner to increase the city bow hunt fee to \$15/permit.

Voting Aye: Councilor Brunner and Hollanitsch

Abstain: Mayor Johnston

Absent: Councilors Bixby and Storm

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the Special Council-Public Informational Meeting 7:09 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

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Harold Johnston, Mayor

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Recorder and Attest:  
Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer

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