

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – STUDY SESSION
COOK CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 22, 2009 – CITY HALL – 5:00 PM

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

ABSENT: Councilor Karen Hollanitsch

OTHERS PRESENT: 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. The October meeting addresses the 2010 budget planning and discussion.

Revenues

The HRA Pilot Program that pays shelter rents in lieu of taxes should increase slightly for 2010. Shelter income from HUD housing programs issued a freeze in increasing rents from 2004-2009. The amount paid to the city is formulated at 10% of shelter rents charged.

Property tax revenue for the City of Cook for 2008 was \$232,057.80 and of that \$8549.77 is delinquent. These tax payments should be reviewed each year in budget planning for the city.

Expenses

City staff presented the council with lighting costs for River Street and Vermilion Drive. The council would like to consider cost savings if some of the lighting was shut off but are also aware of safety concerns. River Street has 38 streetlights and Vermilion Drive as 5 streetlights and 6 cobra lights. The streetlights use 85 watt bulbs and the cobra lights use 250 watt bulbs. The Vermilion Drive lights have a built in timer to turn lighting off at certain times of night where River street lights would have to either have a timer installed or every other light bulb manually removed. The Vermilion Drive lights are slightly more expensive than the River Street lights to operate.

A 3% Cost Of Living increase for part – time employees was provided at \$2,101.00. Seasonal part-time employees are not considered in this increase.

The water and sewer enterprise funds are now budgeted for 2010 and had not been for previous years. A rate study will be conducted in 2010 using information from MN Rural Water and compared to the newly budgeted numbers.

The council salaries will remain in the 2010 budget and salaries can be donated back to the city if desired.

The November 19 Special Council Meeting will review the 2010 general and enterprise fund budgets.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to adjourn the special study meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer