

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
2012 PROPOSED BUDGET AND LEVY  
COOK CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 22, 2011 – CITY HALL – 5 PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Kim Brunner, Elizabeth Storm and Karen Hollanitsch  
**ABSENT:** Councilor Jody Bixby  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm and Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta

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

The purpose of this meeting is to hold monthly special study sessions to discuss budget planning for 2012. The final December study session focuses on all departments and allows an opportunity for questions and comments before finalizing the 2012 budget at the Regular Council Meeting.

The council was presented with a 3% cost of living increase for full and part time employees for 2012. A presentation was provided detailing the national and Midwest cost of living increases to be between 3.6-3.8%. Neighboring communities are seeking 3% as well and city employees did not receive an increase for 2011 and 1% for 2010. There is no PERA retirement increase for 2012. The total cost of living increase is 1% of the total general fund budget. Senior employees are maxed out in the city adopted step structure for incremental wage increases and 2012 will have a change over in employees so not all will receive the increase.

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve a 3% Cost of Living increase for full and part time employees for 2012. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer