

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – STUDY SESSION
COOK CITY COUNCIL
March 26, 2009 – CITY HALL – 5:00 PM

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

ABSENT: Councilor Karen Hollanitsch

OTHERS PRESENT: The Timberjay, Geri Wilkinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, RLK Engineer John Jamnick, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, and Ambulance Director Penny Buckingham

The special council meeting was called to order by Mayor Edblom 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 4th 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.

(1) Local Government Aid (LGA)

The League of Minnesota Cities is working with cities to educate them on how to address budget cuts with the declining LGA funds. According to the League of Minnesota Cities, the City of Cook could face a potential \$73,000 funding cut over the next two years; however, this has not been approved. This figure is Governor Pawlenty's proposal and would need House and Senate to approval.

(2) Annexation

RLK Engineer John Jamnick, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta and Administrator Martinson will continue working on a detailed listing of city owned properties that are both occupied and vacant. The city will focus on keeping land available for economic development opportunities.

The city cost of providing city utility services will be considered as part of the annexation process. The cost of utility services should not defer annexation of land for economic development opportunities. The city impact of annexation will also be researched to avoid a lengthy and expensive process to complete. City ordinance and state laws will need to be reviewed as well as the possibility of contacting other cities for information.

Letters will need to be drafted to contact parties regarding an interest in community annexation. RLK Engineer John Jamnick also reported that the new water tower and plant will include the capacity to support community expansion.

Motion by Manick, second by Bixby to adjourn the special study meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer