

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**2013 PROPOSED BUDGET AND LEVY**  
**Library and Parks/Beautification**  
**COOK CITY COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 – CITY HALL – 5 PM**

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PRESENT: Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Kim Brunner, Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm  
ABSENT: Councilor Jody Bixby  
OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm and Librarian Steve Harsin

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 2013. The September study session focuses on the budgets for Library and Parks and Beautification.

Library

The library equipment fund will be utilized for building improvements as approved by the library board. For 2013, anticipated projects include exterior roof repairs as the seams on the roof are leaking, but the roof itself is in good condition.

The library budget covers operational and maintenance expense. Major purchases come from designated accounts such as donations, ALS Reimburse, ALS Best Seller and the Library Equipment Fund. Librarian Harsin utilized the designated accounts to reduce the balances as funds need to be expended annually and to also promote positive change in circulation for the library.

Volunteer help, public promotion and press releases for the library are utilized to promote library services. Book sales reduce old circulation with the funds put back into the library. Books that don't sell are donated to local groups for further community circulation.

Summer through fall has been very busy and has seen an increase in youth readers as well. Two Kindles and two I Pads have been purchased for in-house use to outreach to the electronic market.

Parks and Beautification

Primary expenditures will be for parks maintenance and beautification in downtown Cook. The garden club will continue to maintain the city gardens as they have in the past.

The gardens near city hall were dismantled in 2011 and in 2012 replaced with trees and mulch. The \$2000 designated annually towards River Street Park will be utilized towards the city hall garden replacement in 2012 since the funds were not used in 2011. The Riverfront Park Project was cancelled so those funds will be used towards the city hall garden replacement as well.

The River Street Park murals need to be re-leveled and stained for 2013. This may be a project that a specific group may be interested in with funding provided from the Parks and Beautification budget.

Parks and Beautification focus on maintenance free beautification due to time and resources.

The October budget study session will review the Recreation and Airport budgets.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer