

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at the Cook City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harold Johnston.

ATTENDANCE: Present at Roll Call was Mayor Harold Johnston and City Councilors Elizabeth Storm and Kim Brunner. Absent were City Councilors Karen Hollanitsch and Jody Bixby. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, Librarian Crystal Phillips, and Cook News Herald.

ADDs/DELETEs: None

PUBLIC FORUM:

CDBG funding resolution

Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to pass Resolution 170928, authorizing the City of Cook to apply for St. Louis County CDBG funding for the Commercial Rehabilitation Project. Mayor and clerk are authorized to execute all necessary documents, agreements, or contracts which result from this application to St. Louis County. **MOTION CARRIED**

JPJ Engineering

Administrator Martinson reported that there are no updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve the Consent Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED

- A. Approval/correction of the Regular Council Minutes of August 24, 2017
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2017 – 2018 Proposed Budget and Levy & Streets and Alleys budget
- C. Bill Presentation
- D. Ambulance Service September 2017 Report
- E. Reporting of the August 2017 Liquor Store sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2017	\$184,459.44	\$ 1,071,402.61
2016	<u>\$185,976.98</u>	<u>\$ 1,066,810.60</u>
	\$ (1,517.54)	\$ 4,592.01

- F. Resolution – August 2017 Donations Designated
- G. Recreation Commission Minutes of July 11, 2017 & September 18, 2017
- H. MN's Telecommunication Right-of-Way User Law

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Airport

An on-site inspection of the Cook Municipal Airport was conducted under the FAA's Airport Master Record (Form 5010) Program. The inspector collected the most current information concerning the physical condition or status of the facility, the visual landing aids, and the obstructions surrounding the airport. In Minnesota, the Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics performs many of these inspections under contract to the FAA. This report is included in the council packet.

Ambulance

Proposed EMR tier pay is suggested for any new EMR coming on the service. A newly hired EMR would receive 50% of what experienced EMRs receive. After one year of service, consideration would be given to increase the rate of pay to current EMR rates. The run rates are as follows: Cook - \$25, Virginia - \$30, Hibbing - \$40, Duluth - \$50 and over 100 miles - \$125. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to approve the tiered pay for new EMRs. **MOTION CARRIED**

Broadband Steering Committee

Librarian Crystal Phillips shared that the Cook Library has received a lot of good things from this project: two access points at the library for Wi-Fi, computer classes, five laptops for training, and perhaps more PCs to come. The hotspots are also in and cases for them have been ordered. Hopefully, checkouts will start in October. The library does need some new wiring; more outlets are needed. This should be taken care of in the next round of grants. Amy Shuster of the Cook News Herald asked if the new storage building is being used yet. Library Phillips shared that, yes, it is.

Lake Vermilion Trail

Councilor Storm shared that the City of Tower has signed the final version of the Joint Powers Agreement. The annual JPA membership dues would be \$1 per capita. The steering committee will eventually dissolve and a formal board will need to be hired. Administrator Martinson thanked Storm for her attendance at the LVT meetings. The next meeting will be October 11, 2017, at the La Croix Ranger Station in Cook.

Last Chance Liquors

Liquor store employee Ron Malone is going to be promoted to full-time, effective October 1, 2017. He is waiving employee health insurance that the city offers. He will now be eligible for sick time, vacation time, and holiday pay. Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to promote Ron Malone to full-time as of October 1, 2017. **MOTION CARRIED**

Library

The Cook Library Board has written a letter to the Council thanking them for their continued support of the library and for extending the building and staff hours. The moveable shelves for the DVDs & books on tape will be arriving soon. Librarian Phillips will be attending the ILA (Iowa Library Association) Conference October 19-20, 2017. Library volunteer Mo Fontana has been recognized by the MN Association of Library Friends as a "Stand Up" honoree for all of the time and effort she has given to the library. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to recognize Mo Fontana for her contributions to the Cook Library. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

City – HRA Commercial Rehabilitation Project

Administrator Martinson stated that a meeting was held with local businesses in regard to this possible project. There was good attendance and interest. If Cook is selected, this project will take place in 2018. Hopefully it will lead to big and better things for our city and continued discussion about how to make Cook even more vibrant.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts

North Woods Friends of the Arts is holding a Peace Pole planting on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at noon. It will take place outside of Cook City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chicken Ordinance

It was discussed if it was necessary for the City to pass an ordinance relating to the possession of chickens. There are a few residents in town who have chickens that are not being controlled; this could become a larger issue or nuisance. Councilor Brunner asked if we could just limit how many chickens a resident can have. It was stated that in order to do that, the city would have to pass an ordinance. Mayor Johnston didn't feel that we needed to take action at this time. The issue will be tabled at this time.

2017 Audit – WGH proposal

Recommendation to approve the audit proposal, with expenses not to exceed \$22,000. Motion by Storm, second by Brunner to approve the Walker, Giroux, and Hahne 2017 audit proposal as stated. **MOTION CARRIED**

COUNCIL FORUM:

Councilor Brunner wanted to thank Mediacom for cleaning up their boxes and filling their holes. Councilor Storm thanked the Farmer's Market for their presence in town on Saturday mornings in the summer and for providing a social outlet for residents. The last Farmer's Market is September 30, 2017. There is a concert at St. Mary's Church on October 5, 2017, with artists from the Piatigorsky Foundation; it should be good. Administrator Martinson thanked the Cook News Herald for its coverage of all of the events and happenings within the City of Cook.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business brought before the Council, Motion to adjourn at 6:49 PM by Brunner, second by Storm. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723

HD Johnston 11/1/17
Harold Johnston, Mayor

Theresa Martinson
Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer

Stephanie Beaudry
Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer