

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Library - Parks and Beautification**  
**2020 Budget**  
**COOK CITY COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 – CITY HALL – 5:30 PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Karen Hollanitsch and Elizabeth Storm  
**ABSENT:** Councilors Kim Brunner and Jody Bixby  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Library Director Crystal Phillips, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, and the Timberjay

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Harold Johnston called the Special Council Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold monthly special study sessions to discuss budget planning for 2020. Study sessions will be held at 5:30 PM prior to the monthly regular council meetings for the remainder of the year to discuss the budget and levy for 2020.

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

**Library**

Administrator Martinson walked through various budget line items. There is an increase in salaries for the library director due to the change to full-time status. Director Phillips shared some thoughts regarding the library and its budget. She stated that computer upgrades will be something to think about in the future. The conference expense line item was lowered due to Phillips being on the Arrowhead Library Governing Board; ALS covers Phillips' conference costs while she holds that board position. Councilor Storm asked what was going to be done with the moose restoration. Administrator Martinson suggested that someone ask a local taxidermist to come in and take a look at the moose and provide advice. Councilor Hollanitsch thanked Phillips for the great programming which is held at the library. Phillips stated that Legacy Funds are very important to the library's programming.

**Parks and Beautification**

Administrator Martinson reviewed Parks and Beautification budget for 2020.

Councilor Hollanitsch asked if the City wanted to ever change its colors from the maroon and gold. Councilor Storm suggested that since the library maintains the same colors with its sign and that the City has used those colors for so long that it should not be changed at this time. Councilor Storm inquired about the "Stop for Pedestrians" signs for the middle of River Street; Deputy Clerk Beaudry will follow up with the Office Assistant on this. Councilor Storm also suggested that perhaps another post with "Doggie Bags" and "Pick up after Your Dog" might have to be placed down by the Dan Swanson Field, as people seem to be taking their dogs there. Administrator Martinson shared that she would really like the City to think about the river area by the old Lakes Gas building for future park development. Along those same lines, Councilor Hollanitsch would like to see a bench where the purple house was torn down; it might make some good green space if it were cleaned up.

Administrator Martinson shared with the council that with the help of North Star Insurance Agency, the switch from Traveler's Insurance to League of Minnesota Cities Trust Insurance, the City was able to obtain a cost savings of just over \$20,000.

The October Budget Study Session will review the Airport and Recreation budgets.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to adjourn the special study session meeting at 5:55 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



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Mayor Harold Johnston



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Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



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Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer