

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
2017 PROPOSED BUDGET AND LEVY
AND
STREETS AND ALLEYS
COOK CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 25, 2016 – CITY HALL – 5 PM**

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

Mayor Harold Johnston called the Special Council Meeting to order at 5 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold monthly special study sessions to discuss budget planning for 2017. Study sessions will be held at 5 PM prior to the monthly regular council meetings for the remainder of the year to discuss the budget and levy for 2017.

The study session focuses on the budget for Streets and Alleys and to propose and adopt a Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for 2017 and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing date.

Streets and Alleys

Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta let the council know that he lowered his supplies and contract services budget numbers for 2017. His budget is \$10,000 lower than last year. He also noted that the state is not providing “Small Cities Assistance” in 2017 as it did previously.

Administrator Martinson began discussion about Streets & Alleys with an inquiry concerning the life of pavement. Mr. Ranta stated it was approximately 20 years. Councilor Storm asked what should be done in the future to maintain the city’s pavement. Mr. Ranta stated that a top-layer could be put down or the city could mill and re-lay. Councilor Storm asked what the paving priorities are in town. Mr. Ranta suggested North River Street and the alleys in Balliet’s Addition. Ranta stated that the city will just have to go by what is happening in the city and stay aware.

Administrator Martinson said that ditch cleaning is another concern; one example is Lund Road. Some citizens might like the “natural” look but it might eventually have a negative impact on the road bed. Some citizens may also consider it “blight”.

Martinson stated that sidewalks are also a concern. Some sidewalks look terrible with all of the weeds coming up. Councilor Storm added that some curb & gutter is falling apart in town. Ranta stated that some of that may be due to the old grader. Councilor Storm asked what could be done to repair the damaged curb and gutter. Ranta stated that a top coat could possibly be a resolution. Administrator Martinson stated that it is important for the city to stay on top of the capital improvements that have taken place; we don’t want to let anything go and to consider a continuing sidewalk system.

Administrator Martinson stated that we need a maintenance facility. Dick Edblom approached the city about his garage/shop. It has one acre. Heating costs are approximately \$200/month. We could build our own but that would mean a cost of \$350,000-\$400,000. Ranta stated that the Steamer/Jetter and the city pickup could be stored in Edblom’s garage. Mr. Edblom has agreed to a sale price of \$85,000. The location is good because it is in close proximity to the lift station. Councilor Bixby asked where the monies would come from to pay for Mr. Edblom’s garage. Administrator Martinson stated the funds would come from operating funds or possible future land sales. Mayor Johnston asked if we didn’t buy Dick’s garage, would it stop planning. Mr. Ranta said no.

Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta has also recommended replacing the snow blower on the skid steer. Councilor Bixby asked about much that would cost. Ranta stated that the cost would be approximately \$6,000.

Motion by Bixby, second by Storm to approve the purchase of a new snow blower. **MOTION CARRIED**

2017 Proposed Budget and Levy

The presented general fund budget primarily covers operating expenses for the city. Major capital projects need further review and grant opportunities considered. Budgeted project funds are designated separately from operating expenses to avoid substantial increases to the tax levy.

A preliminary levy increase of 8% is proposed to the council. The proposed 2017 levy amount would be \$397,221.

2014 LEVY \$357,084 Final
2015 LEVY \$357,084 Final
2016 LEVY \$367,797 Final
2017 LEVY \$397,221 Preliminary

PROPOSED REVENUES	\$517,403
PROPOSED EXPENSES	<u>\$541,819</u>
Deficit	\$(24,416)

AIRPORT	\$(4,450)
GENERAL FUND	\$(25,818)
LEVY 8%	<u>\$ 29,924</u>
	\$ 1,058

The proposed Truth in Taxation meeting date is December 22 at 6 PM at Cook City Hall.

Miscellaneous

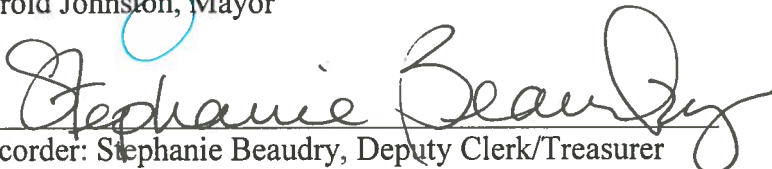
The September budget study session will review the Library and Parks and Beautification budgets.

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adjourn the special study session meeting at 5:56 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**


CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer