

**MINUTES
COOK CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING
DECEMBER 22, 2011 – CITY HALL – 6 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Harold Johnston, Councilors Kim Brunner, Elizabeth Storm and Karen Hollanitsch
ABSENT: Councilor Jody Bixby
OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, John Luecken and Cook News Herald

Mayor Harold Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

TRUTH IN TAXATION:

The purpose of this meeting is to give the taxpayers and the City of Cook the opportunity to discuss the budget and tax levy for the upcoming year 2012. Study sessions were held at 5 PM prior to each regular council meeting to discuss budgets for each department for 2012.

Proposed Revenues for 2012:		\$435,780.00
Proposed Expenses:	General	<u>\$451,358.00</u>
	Deficit	\$(15,578.00)
Proposed Levy Increase 5%:	\$15,578	
2010 Levy	\$302,485	
2011 Levy	\$311,560	
2012 Levy	\$327,138	

Projects for consideration: Future development, paving, sidewalk replacement, 3rd Ave-3rd St SE/1st St SW/4th St SE culvert/drainage/paving, maintenance equipment garage, etc.

The proposed tax levy for the City of Cook is 5%. Expenses have been reduced to a minimum with the 2011 cuts to Local Government Aid and the reduction of the Market Value Credits. Airport expenditures have been reduced and fuel sales increased to eliminate a transfer of a loss from the airport to the general fund. Funds will continue to be transferred for the Storm Sewer \$44,000 and Equipment Replacement (\$7,500). A cost of living increase of 3% for full and part time employees was approved by the council at the Special Study Session prior to this meeting.

Liquor store funds are not used to balance the deficit in the budget which eliminates the need to borrow from the liquor store fund.

Motion by Storm, second by Hollanitsch to approve the final tax levy amount for the year 2011 collectible in 2012 in the amount of \$327,138 (5% tax increase) for the City of Cook. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Brunner, second by Storm to adopt the 2012 proposed budget as presented and attached to these minutes. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Brunner to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:02 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Palm
Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer