

**COOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2019 – COOK CITY HALL – 6 PM**

TIME AND PLACE: A Regular Meeting of the Cook City Council was held at 6 PM on Thursday, August 22, 2019 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 Jody Bixby, Kim Brunner, and Karen Hollanitsch. Absent was City Councilor Elizabeth Storm. Also present were Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, Bruce Beste of Voyager Country ATV Club, The Timberjay, and Cook News Herald.

ADDs/DELETES:

Additions to New Business – Ecklund letter, Artists on Main Street visit, and DNR open house for the David Dill – Arrowhead State Trail Arrowhead. Motion by Bixby, second by Hollanitsch to approve the three additions to new business. **MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC FORUM:

JPJ Engineering—Project updates

North River Street Bridge – JPJ Engineering invoice #18 in the amount of \$4,891.84 and JPJ Engineering invoice #19 in the amount of \$622.50 need approval.

Library ADA project – JPJ Engineering invoice #1 in the amount of \$2,500.00 needs approval.

TH 53 Commercial Corridor Infrastructure – JPJ Engineering invoice #1 in the amount of \$11,632.50 needs approval.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to approve the four aforementioned invoices. **MOTION CARRIED**

Voyager Country ATV

Bruce Beste shared an update with the council on what the ATV group is doing in regard to their current projects. Administrator Martinson asked Beste if the group had thought about a route through Cook or if they had communicated with the snowmobile club regarding their routes. Beste stated that he wanted to update the council on what is happening near and around Cook; they have not met specifically with the Cook Timberwolves Club at this time. Mayor Johnston inquired about ATV trail proximities to Cook and Beste pulled out maps and proceeded to share trail information. Administrator Martinson ended the discussion by saying the topic of ATVs in Cook probably requires a public hearing for resident and business input and suggested that in the future there should be a meeting between the City, the ATV Club, and the Snowmobile Club.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: See Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Brunner asked about CN—if any information was out there about possible rail siding in Cook. Administrator Martinson said that the city hadn't been informed but perhaps we could ask Cook firefighter Sam Grahn who also happens to work for CN. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to approve the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED**

- A. Approval/correction of Regular Council Minutes of July 25, 2019
- B. Approval/correction of Special Council Minutes of July 25, 2019 – Planning & Zoning – Sign Ordinance
- C. Bill Presentation Paid since last presentation \$76,818.73
 Presented for payment \$54,787.30
- D. Reporting of the July 2019 Liquor Store Sales

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
2019	\$ 180,473.41	\$ 725,104.74
2018	<u>\$ 205,429.99</u>	<u>\$ 863,712.59</u>
	\$ - 24,956.58	\$ -138,607.85

- E. Resolution – July 2019 Donations Designated
- F. Ambulance Service Report
- G. CN letter dated May 20, 2019

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS:

Broadband

Nothing to report.

Cook Fire Department

The liquor store is working with our local fire department and partnering with the MMBA and MillerCoors to help raise funds for the Cook Fire Department. Please take the time to notice the display at our municipal liquor store. Donations can be dropped off at the checkout counter now through September 11, 2019. Funds collected will be designated for turnout gear. Firefighter Jon Rothleutner wrote a nice article in the paper about recruitment. If you haven't read it, please take some time to look it over. The Cook Fire Department has received a \$5,000 MN DNR grant. Lastly, the fire department is buying a truck from the DNR; it is a 2005 Ford F450 standard cab with a 265 gallon water tank. The cost of the truck is \$13,600. Motion by Bixby, second by Hollanitsch to approve receiving the \$5,000 grant and to approve the purchase of the truck from the DNR in the amount of \$13,600 and to utilize designated truck replacement fund account. **MOTION CARRIED**

Lake Vermilion Trail

Nothing new to report; any information regarding the Trail is in the council packet.

Library

Certification of Minimum Local Support Requirement for 2020 letter is in the council packet. This is a letter which the Cook Library receives annually.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ecklund Letter

Representative Rob Ecklund has been selected as a League of Minnesota Cities Legislator of Distinction for 2019. The letter from the League is in the council packet.

Artists on Main Street

Administrator Martinson, Councilor Storm, and Library Director Phillips met with Artists on Main Street which is a collaborative program between the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, Springboard for the Arts, and the Bush Foundation. There is a possibility of receiving a grant although it is not guaranteed. Motion by Brunner, second by Bixby to apply for the Artists on Main Street grant. **MOTION CARRIED**

Noxious Weed Report

Councilor Hollanitsch reported to the council that she has noticed a noxious weed, Purple Loosestrife, in town. It is the city’s responsibility to remove it. More information about this noxious weed and its removal can be found on the DNR website

Preliminary Budget & Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2020 and adoption & setting date and time for Truth in Taxation hearing

The preliminary levy increase for 2020 is 8% with a proposed levy of \$436,161.00.

- 2017 LEVY \$378,831 Final
- 2018 LEVY \$390,196 Final
- 2019 LEVY \$403,853 Final
- 2020 LEVY \$436,161 Preliminary

The 2020 preliminary General Fund budget is as follows:

PROPOSED REVENUES	\$573,780
PROPOSED EXPENSES	<u>\$584,650</u>
Deficit	\$(10,870)
AIRPORT DEFICIT	\$(11,480)
GENERAL FUND	\$(10,870)
LEVY 8%	<u>\$ 32,308</u>
	\$ 9,958

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to approve a preliminary levy increase of 8% (\$436,161) with the understanding that the City will work to decrease the percentage. **MOTION CARRIED.** Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Bixby to approve the 2020 General Fund Budget as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Truth in Taxation Public Hearing is held to discuss and approve the final budget and tax levy for 2020. The Council will discuss the amount of property taxes it is proposing to collect to pay for the costs of services the city will provide in 2020. It was suggested to change the date from December 26, 2019 to December 19, 2019 due to unpredictable winter weather.

Motion by Brunner, second by Hollanitsch to set the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing Date as December 19, 2019 at 6 PM at the Cook City Hall whereby the final adoption of the 2020 budget and levy will occur.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL FORUM:

There is only one more Music in the Park and soon the Farmer's Market will be coming to an end. Please attend those if you are able.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business brought before the Council, motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM was made by Councilor Brunner and second by Councilor Hollanitsch. **MOTION CARRIED**


CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



Harold Johnston, Mayor



Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer



Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer