

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
2020 PROPOSED BUDGET AND LEVY
AND
STREETS AND ALLEYS
COOK CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 22, 2019 – CITY HALL – 5:30 PM**

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

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 study session focuses on the budget for Streets and Alleys and to propose and adopt a Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for 2020 and set the Truth in Taxation hearing date.

Streets and Alleys

Administrator Martinson walked through the Streets & Alleys budget numbers, noting that there was nothing in the budget regarding the possible purchase of the St. Louis County building. That expenditure would come from reserve cash-designated funds. Deputy Clerk Beaudry had met with Maintenance Supervisor Don Flack to discuss budget numbers and large future purchases. Contract Services was bumped up a little due to the need to do crack filling in 2020. Looking towards the future, the maintenance department would like to purchase an attachment to the skid steer that would allow them to mow the roadsides. Councilor Brunner agreed that it would be really nice to have more of that done in town. Also for the future, the department would like to purchase a front-end loader for snow removal so the work would not have to be contracted out. The cost would be approx. \$100,000.

2020 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 2020 levy amount would be \$436,161.

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

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

The proposed Truth in Taxation meeting date is currently scheduled for December 26, 2019 at 6 PM at Cook City Hall. With uncertain winter weather, it may be a good idea to move the meeting back to December 19, 2019 instead. This can be voted on during the regular council meeting.

Miscellaneous

- The City is switching insurance companies with a savings of approx. \$10,000; we are switching from Travelers to League of MN Cities.
- Although it may be an unpopular topic, mail-in voting would save the City money. The idea is just being thrown out there at this time.
- City Hall now takes debit and credit card payments for utility bills. It has been rather popular and is working well.
- Library Director Crystal Phillips and Deputy Clerk Beaudry are working to get a new website for the City as our current website is very dated. More information will be presented at the September council meeting.
- The September budget study session will review the Library and Parks & Beautification budgets.

Motion by Hollanitsch, second by Brunner to adjourn the special council meeting at 5:50 PM.

CITY OF COOK – Cook, MN 55723



 Harold Johnston, Mayor



 Recorder: Stephanie Beaudry, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



 Attest: Theresa Martinson, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer