

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for July 12, 2011 was called to order by Craig Buckalew, Council President at 5:00 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members of the East Grand Forks City Council were present: Mayor Lynn Stauss, Council President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice-President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc DeMers, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Mike Pokrzywinski, and Greg Leigh.

STAFF PRESENT

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Nancy Ellis, Planning & Zoning; Michelle French, Executive Assistant; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Randy Gust, Fire Chief; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Erin Johnson, Accounting Technician; and Jim Richter, EDHA Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. Transportation Enhancement (TE) Sidewalk Project – Brad Bail

Mr. Bail announced that the City received TE funds to construct a sidewalk along DeMers Avenue and Central Avenue. MnDot approved the go ahead to advertise for bids prior to the shutdown. Council Member Leigh asked about the owner of the apartment complex if the City could force the sidewalk project to tie all sidewalks together. Mr. Bail stated that the property owner has not agreed to the construction easement and if the City waits too long on the project, we could lose the MnDot funding. Discussion occurred regarding penalties with contractors. This item will be referred to Council for action.

2. 13th St. SE & Greenway Blvd – Brad Bail

Mr. Bail announced that FS Engineering had a request for a report of feasibility to construct street paving on 13th Street SE and Greenway Boulevard. Mr. Bail provided to proposals for the work, estimated cost to pave 13th St. SE is \$297,725 and Greenway Boulevard is \$366,850. Greenway Boulevard is a State Aid street and the City does not special assess State Aid streets. FS Engineering provided another proposal to combine the State Aid amount with the 13th St. SE project to decrease assessments.

Council Member Leigh would like to know who requests projects in the future to avoid confusion. He stated that the developer will suffer if we approve this project. Council Member Tweten stated that he will vote “no” for this project because it is hard on the developer and we have plenty of buildable lots within the City. Council Member DeMers stated that he requested a report of feasibility study to be completed to give property owners a heads up on the potential costs. He announced that this area has been unpaved for seven years. Council Vice-President Gregoire stated that we never received a petition for this project. Mayor Stauss is concerned about the developer going bankrupt. Council President Buckalew stated that the Council needs to let the project run its normal course and wait for a petition if they would like the paving. Ms Ellis discussed developers agreements for future development. Mr. Galstad announced that some cities require infrastructure up front.

3. 2nd St. NW & 3rd St. NW Street Repair – Brad Bail/John Wachter

Mr. Bail stated that this is a street repair on the corner of 2nd St. NW and 3rd St. NW. He announced that Mr. Wachter provided two options. Total replacement for \$209,000 or asphalt overlay for \$60,000. Mr. Wachter recommended the asphalt overlay option. Council Member Leigh stated that there are other areas that need repair that are in worse condition. This item was tabled.

4. Cul-de-Sacs – Club Acres Addition – Brad Bail

Mr. Bail provided a copy of the report of feasibility to reconstruct the cul-de-sacs in Club Acres Addition that included Eagle Court, Par Place and Birdie Court. Estimated construction costs is \$245,495. Council Vice-President Gregoire stated that a resident has been complaining of a storm sewer cover and would like to see the panel fixed which it recently was. Council suggested a public hearing.

5. 14th Ave. SE – Paving – Brad Bail

Mr. Bail provided the plans and specifications to pave the entire 14th Ave. SE. Council Member Leigh stated that he is not against the project but the City needs participation from the homeowners and township. Council Vice-President Gregoire spoke to Zavoral’s and the township will not allow trucks and heavy equipment to go on other roads. Council Member DeMers does not want to include 11th Ave. SE and he also stated that he would like the township to participate but he doesn’t think they will. The township would not stand in the way for annexation. Mayor Stauss stated that the taxpayers should not pay for this project. Mr. Galstad and Mr. Bail suggested attending a township meeting. Council President Buckalew appointed Council Member DeMers and Mr. Galstad to contact the township.

6. 2010 Comprehensive Annual and Financial Report (CAFR) & W&L CAFR– Joe Martin

Mr. Martin gave a brief presentation on the CAFR and the Management Recommendation Letter.

7. Other

Council Member DeMers suggested the City approve an ordinance to adopt the state electrical code to be able to sign off on electrical inspections during the State shutdown. Residents or businesses that need an electrical inspection cannot get one. By adopting the ordinance, it would allow the City to contract with another city or electrical company to provide the inspections. Discussion occurred regarding the wording

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of the ordinance and approving a policy on who pays. This item will be placed on next week's agenda for the first reading.

Council Member DeMers inquired about the missing pedestrian crossing sign on Greenway and Bygland. He also asked Chief Gust about where the 10:00 p.m. chimes went. Chief Gust stated that he will look into it, they were eliminated after the remodel.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 12, 2011 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:30 P.M.

Voting Aye: DeMers, Vonasek, Buckalew, Tweten, Gregoire, Leigh, and Pokrzywinski.

Voting Nay: None.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer