

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: August 5, 2011

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss, Council President Craig Buckalew, Vice President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc Demers, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

From: Scott Huizenga

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 9, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

August 16, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

August 23, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

WEEKLY UPDATE:

I am drafting this abbreviated memo from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference in Grand Rapids. The local highlight will be the presentation of the Jack Murray award to the family of Dick Grassel for Dick's continuous dedicated service to the organization and to East Grand Forks. The Jack Murray award is the Coalition's highest honor.

Finance Director

The City will hold Finance Director interviews on Monday, August 8. The Civil Service Commission will conduct interviews in the morning. I will review the Commission's recommendations and potentially hold a second round of interviews in the afternoon between the candidates and me.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Our weekly Marvels at the Library program has concluded with a grand success. Last year our attendance was 202 children, this year we registered over 400 children for the weekly program. We also ran 2 successful writers groups for middle school and high school kids and still have the Campbell Picnic on August 17th to conclude our summer activities. Our programming was sponsored in part by a NW MN Arts Council Grant.

Mike Spence from Kraus Anderson's Quality Control is on vacation for 2 weeks and will focus our roof after his return. Our water spots on the meeting room floor continue to expand without an explanation.

Despite the issues with our large meeting room, it is regularly scheduled. "Tame the Computer Monster!" class has started and will be held weekly through October. There is no fee for the class that is sponsored by a grant from the US Dept of Commerce to the Blandin Foundation in partnership with the MN Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) Project.

Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker

We had a real good end to the baseball season. There was Championship night at Stauss Park on Monday night, we fed all the kids and parents hotdogs, chips and a beverage. The place was packed and everyone had a good time. We held the 13 year old State Tournament last Thursday to Sunday, we were the host team and ended up winning the whole tournament. The 14 year olds went to Hi Tower for the State Tournament and won the first game and then got beat by a good Hi Tower team that won the tournament. This week our 15 year olds traveled to Richmond for the State Tournament and won their first game.

The campground is busy again with campers and people from all over. We are holding a dedication to Dick Grassel on Saturday, August 13, at 9:00 am, hope to see you there!

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Erin Johnson will present the 2nd Quarter Budget analysis. Overall, revenues and expenditures continue to track well despite cuts to the Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) programs.
2. The City will recommend the addition to the state aid system of 15th Street NE between 5th Ave NE and Central Avenue. The City has .33 miles available to add, which is almost exactly the length of the proposed road segment.
3. JD Burton from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities will present the 2011 Legislative Session review. And, he will present a Friend of the Coalition Award to the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce.
5. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will present the state transit applications for 2012. Teri Kouba will request authorization to continue transit operations and also to designate capital projects within the City with prior year dollars. The proposed use for the federal funds is a series of sidewalks that connect several transit points. The City Council can elect to amend the budget at a later date if circumstances dictate that the City use federal funds for operations rather than capital.
6. The Parks and Recreation Superintendent will request a reduction in skating fees for the 2011-2012 season. The City Council opted to raise fees in the 2011 budget so that the fee levels would be similar to fees in the hockey program.
7. The City Attorney will present a renewal of the Water and Light Department franchise ordinance. The City franchised its own department in the approximately 10-15 years ago to avoid a scenario in which potential competitors could operate in the City without a franchise. There are no proposed changes to the franchise.