

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for November 22, 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; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Nancy Ellis, Planning & Zoning; Michelle French, Executive Assistant; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Randy Gust, Fire Chief; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Warren Strandell presented the new book “Everybody has a Story, Everybody is the Story” book to Mayor Stauss. Books will be on sale at City hall and the Library.

1. NW EGF Street Network Presentation – Nancy Ellis

Ms Ellis gave a brief overview of the study that was conducted on the construction of a full intersection of 5th Ave. NW and US Hwy 2. A consultant from Alliant Engineering gave a brief presentation on the options. Regarding 5th Ave NW, the City of East Grand Forks could a.) do nothing; b.) focus on signal timing improvements \$100,000; c.) provide a left turn \$700,000; d.) open 5th Ave. NW without crossing providing a ¾ access \$1.5 Million; d.) signal with full access \$1.8 Million.

Discussion occurred regarding funding. Ms Ellis stated that currently there is \$737,000 sub target funds. She stated that MnDot would participate in 2018-2019. Discussion also occurred regarding the ramp. The short term recommendation is to focus on the signal coordination. Long term recommendation is to leave the option for full access in 15-30 years.

The consultant discussed 17th St. NW and River Road. Option a.) is to have a roundabout intersection for \$430,000; b.) is to realign the intersection \$105,000. Council Member Gregoire suggested using temporary curbing to realign the intersection before spending the \$105,000.

2. 2014-2015 TE Project – Nancy Ellis

Ms Ellis discussed the possible 2014-2015 transportation enhancement project to construct a multipurpose trail on the west side of 5th Ave. NE from 23rd St. NE to 15th St. NE. Council Member Leigh suggested continuing the trail that is in the 220 right-of-way to the Northland Community and Technical College. Ms Ellis will look at that route.

3. Swimming Pool Report – Greg Boppre

Tabled for the December 13th Work Session.

4. Assessment & State Aid Policy – Council President Buckalew

Council Member Buckalew gave a brief summary of the past discussions based on special assessments. Residents do not want another fee on the utility bill. He suggested that residents on the State Aid Route need to pay something for reconstruction. Mr. Wachter suggested basing the amount on traffic counts. Consensus was to charge 30% of reconstruction costs to those living on State Aid Routes.

5. Wastewater Rates – Council Member Pokrzywinski & Council Member DeMers

Council Member Pokrzywinski stated that we need to do something to start building a fund. Council Member Leigh stated that he would rather raise taxes than to put the fee on the utility bill. Discussion occurred whether it should be based on usage. Council President Buckalew stated that we need to look at the overall financing options. Council Member Pokrzywinski will have a proposal by April 2012.

6. Wastewater Operator – John Wachter

Mr. Wachter announced that Public Works will have multiple retirements in the near future. He suggested hiring a new truck driver and post internally for the Wastewater Operator position. Council Member Vonasek asked Mr. Wachter if the City has started to advertise for the Public Works Superintendent position. Mr. Huizenga stated that he is currently working with a consultant and should be filled the middle of February. We will appoint an interim for about 4-6 weeks.

7. Rubber tile for VFW & Civic Center – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker stated that he received two bids for the rubber tile for both arenas. He recommended Becker Arena Products, Inc. in the amount of \$20,124.35. This item will be referred to Council for action.

8. Investment & Fund Balance Policies – Karla Anderson

Ms Anderson suggested adopting the Investment and Fund Balance Policies. She stated that the Investment Policy came from the League of Minnesota Cities.

9. 2012 Budget – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga stated that this is the final proposal with holding the levy flat. This budget would include \$50,000 for the fire truck. He proposed two resolutions – one to increase the storm water fee and street light fee.

10. MMPA Wind Energy Easement Agreement – Ron Galstad/Dan Boyce

Mr. Galstad provided a copy of the purchase and sale agreement and the wind energy easement agreement. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 22, 2011 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:57 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Gregoire.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer