

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: January 13, 2012

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:

January 17, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

January 24, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

January 31, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room (If Needed)

February 7, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

February 14, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

WEEKLY UPDATE:

Swimming pool committee

As media outlets reported earlier this week, the swimming pool work group opted to recommend to the full Council a complete renovation of the existing pool. Additionally, the group plans to request a loan of approximately \$1.5 million from the Water and Light Commission at the Commission's next meeting on Thursday, January 19. A proposed transfer from the Water and Light Department has several advantages over a General Obligation bond issue. First, the city can save some cost through lower interest rates and the elimination of bond preparation costs. Also, loan saves the time that a bond issue would require to hold a required voter referendum on the issue. The time savings may allow construction to start in the fall of 2012 rather than 2013. The Council will hear the full proposal at the January 24 work session with a possible vote on February 7.

Campground revenue

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sent to the City the final revenue and expense report for the Red River State Recreational Area (RRSRA) for the year ending December 31. The campground grossed \$184,944 in revenue. The City earned in \$144,455 after state expenditures. Both figures are significantly below expectations due to the state shutdown in July. The shutdown occurred during arguably the campgrounds busiest time of the year. The cost the city directly approximately \$30,000-40,000.

Most City services will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Jack Frost Art Exhibit Opening Thursday, Jan. 12 6:30 p.m.

Children's artwork from Riverside Christian, Homeschooled children and Sacred Heart

Northern Exposure Juried Photography Contest/Exhibit Entry Deadline: Feb. 9
Guidelines at the Library or the website

Poetry Contest Submission Deadline: Feb. 18
Guidelines at the Library or the website

Emily Burkland from the ND Ballet Company was at Story Time to share a story and teach the children a dance to promote Alice in Wonderland coming to the Empire Theatre in January.

One of the 2 heat pumps at the Library will be refurbished along with replacing gauges and release valves on the boilers. These problems were discovered by our newly licensed Boiler Inspectors from the Public Works Department.

Police Department, Chief Hedlund

Scott Jordheim Selected for Promotion to Sergeant

Scott Jordheim, a thirteen year veteran of the East Grand Forks Police Department has been selected to be promoted to the rank of sergeant. Jordheim, currently an investigator with the Department, will be moving into the role left open by the recent retirement of Sgt. Bill Solem. Jordheim, who recently attended a leadership training course that was put on by the Minnesota Chief's of Police Association, has served as the commander of the Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force for the past four years.

Winter Warm-Up Blues

It seems that we may finally be in store for some true winter weather. With that cold weather more people will be tempted to leave their cars running when they run in to a store or let them warm up, unattended in the driveway. Unfortunately those practices lead to many stolen vehicles each year. In Grand Forks and East Grand Forks motor vehicle is a relatively minor problem – until it is your car that got stolen. The vast majority of vehicles that are stolen in this region had the keys left in them and many of them were running at the time of the theft. Help the EGFPD prevent crime by following these safety tips from the National Crime Prevention Council:

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when are away from it, even for “just a minute”.
- Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk. Purses, credit cards, and cell phones in plain view only help attract thieves.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- Never leave the registration or title in your car. If stolen, it makes it easier for the thief to dispose of your vehicle. It can also make you a target for identity theft.
- Be alert when approaching your car, have a plan of action, and have your keys in your hand. Check around, under and in your vehicle for suspicious individuals.
- Immediately leave the scene to get help if you have any concerns for your safety.
- Only park your car in busy, well-lighted areas.
- Install a mechanical locking device—commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars—that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, use it.

AGENDA ITEMS:

The consent agenda contains an item to declare surplus police vehicles and to approve a contract with Games Galore in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary in August.

Item 7: request approval to fill a pending vacancy for a Truck Driver from the current Truck Driver roster. The City is already short one Truck Driver with the promotion of Jason Stordahl to Interim Public Works Director. The pending retirement and anticipated leave use in February will leave the department two positions short during snow season without moving quickly to fill the position.

Item 8: is the ratification of the Mayor's recommendation of Chip Shea to fill the unexpired term of Marilyn Larson on the EDHA board.

Item 9: is the proposed agreement with Huntsville Township to improve 14th Avenue SE. The agreement as proposed requires a 10 participation match in the project from the township to construct paving, curb, and gutter.