

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** February 17, 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:**

*February 28, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

*March 6, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*March 13, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

*March 20, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **2012 Budget**

The Adopted 2012 Budget is now available online after unanticipated production delays. The online document can be found at the City's web site in the "Finance Documents" section of the Administration and Finance page, <http://www.egf.mn/index.aspx?nid=117>. Limited printed copies will be available within the next 1-2 weeks.

### **Legislative Update**

The state legislature heard testimony on a few bills that could impact cities. HF 1954 would mandate that cities report budget and expense data online by both object code and by program area. The League of Minnesota Cities opposes this bill. At first glance, it appears that the budget document for East Grand Forks more than fulfills the requirements of the bill. However, we generally oppose further unfunded mandates from the state to local governments. We will continue to monitor the legislation closely to ensure there are no other surprises in the reporting requirements.

The House Tax Committee heard testimony on a number of bills including one that would lower the commercial and industrial property tax rate that is imposed exclusively by the state. The bill would also freeze Local Government Aid (LGA) at 2012 levels and eliminate the LGA funding formula. Generally, cities do not oppose the business property tax reduction in principle. But, the League and the Coalition have testified that the sponsors should identify funding sources for the tax decrease. And, cities vehemently oppose eliminating LGA formulas as just another step to potentially phasing out Local Government Aid in its entirety.

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities testified on several bills related to its economic development platform. The proposals include funding for new infrastructure such as the Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) program and tax credits for new employment. East Grand Forks is a recent beneficiary of the BDPI program. The City Council will consider awarding contracts next week for its industrial park expansion that includes partial funding from the BDPI program.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund**

#### **Officers Complete Training Program**

Officer Jake Thompson and Officer Ben Deckert recently completed the Field Training Program with the EGFPD and are now working independently. Officer Alex Schilke, the most recent EGFPD officer hired, is scheduled to complete the program in April 2012. All three officers are doing very well and are valuable additions to the EGFPD.

#### **Chief Hedlund to Participate in Special Olympics Fund Raiser**

Chief Mike Hedlund will be representing the EGFPD in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Dancing for Special Stars" event on April 10, 2012 at the Empire Theatre in Grand Forks. The event, modeled after "Dancing with the Stars", is a fundraiser for Special Olympics of North Dakota.

#### **Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker**

1. The Energy Study was done by the EAPC last Thursday at the Civic Center, they were there roughly four hours.

2. The Districts are this weekend for hockey, here is where we rank going into Districts.

Bantam A VFW - first place  
Bantam B Eagles - first place  
Bantam B Legion - sixth place

Pee Wee A Blue Line - second place  
Pee Wee B AFB - third place

Girls 14U go on to Regions  
Girls 12U - fourth place  
Girls 10U - play March 3 & 4 at East Grand Forks

Squirt A - play in Roseau March 3 & 4  
Squirt B - play in RLF March 3 & 4

The top two in Bantams Pee Wees advance to Regions  
The top three in Girls 12U advance to Regions

Regions is on March 2, 3 & 4.

3. The bleachers and picnic tables are in and the picnic tables should be assembled by the end of the week.

4. Outdoor skating rinks are getting a lot of people to skate, our staff persons are busy every morning trying to get them ready. The outdoor rinks will CLOSE March 4 no matter how the ice is then.

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

Item 3 awards two contracts to complete the Industrial Park expansion project – 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The bids are under the engineering estimates. There are two different contracts that will occur in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The consent agenda includes the following:

- Accepting a grant award from the federal Aid to Firefighters grant program to purchase equipment. The City's match is five percent.
- Consider purchasing a new slope mower for the City's flood protection system.
- Consider final approval of the Northwest Corridor study.
- Consider approval to fill a vacant Administrative Assistant position in the Administration office.

Item 9 considers the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with Huntsville Township to construct and partially assess 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE (Huntsville Road). The proposed agreement is unchanged from the previous version. It requires 10-percent participation from the township; and it does not contain provisions for future maintenance.

Item 10 accepts the engineering feasibility study and sets a public hearing date for the proposed 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE assessment project. The proposed assessment does not include 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE per City Council direction at the most recent work session.

Item 11 supports a grant application from the Red River Snowmobile Club to purchase trail grooming equipment. The City acts as a sponsor and fiscal agent on behalf of the club. There is no direct financial commitment from the City.