

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for July 10, 2012 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: 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 and Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Gary Larson, Interim Fire Chief; Megan Nelson, Administrative Assistant; Tom Spoor, Building Inspector; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Superintendent.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The Council President determined a quorum was present.

1. Dispatch Study – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga began with a short background of information that has already been presented to council with the future updates dispatch centers will be going through. He then introduced Becky Ault, Director of the Grand Forks Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), Bryon Sieber, Director of the Red River Regional Dispatch Center, and Shawn Larson who works for Morris Electronics and American Communications. Becky and Bryon informed the council how their facilities work and the benefits of consolidating dispatch centers. They also warned of some things so watch out for and be aware of. Shawn completed the presentation with more information on the equipment itself that is being used and what will be used in the future.

After all of the material had been presented it was followed by questions that the council had. After some discussion the council decided to form a committee to look more closely into what would be the best decision for East Grand Forks to make in deciding the future of the dispatch center.

2. 12CP6 – Swimming Pool – Bids – Wayne Gregoire/Brad Bail

Mr. Gregoire stated that the bids came back higher than anticipated. He then asked the council what the next step should be with the pool project. A discussion followed with many different scenarios on how the project could possibly be completed. Mr. Huizenga presented the board with a rough idea of what the 2013 budget will look like and with the information that he currently had. Currently the way it looks for 2013 the city would be at a breakeven point before considering taking on the pool project as well as other projects that need to be addressed.

Dave Aker addressed the council and explained all of the areas that they are having issues with at the pool and what needs to be fixed. Taking all of this under consideration the council decided to table the discussion until the issues with the budget are worked out.

3. Fire Chief Position – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga asked the council how they would like to proceed in the process of hiring the next fire chief. He made the suggestion to the council that conducting an external process will allow the city to get the best candidate regardless if it is from within or from elsewhere. He also expressed how validity is provided by this process. After a very short discussion the council decided to proceed with the external process in hiring the next Fire Chief.

4. Planning Commission Update – Council Member DeMers

Mr. DeMers stated how the commission has worked on the zoning ordinance to allow housing on the main floor up to 65% in the Downtown district; items still in progress include the design compliance of Minnesota Heights, and the Long Range Transportation Plan 2040. The meeting for the Long Range Transportation Plan will be held on July 26th with more details to follow. Lastly the Planning Commission will be approaching the City Council in the future with a Right of Way ordinance as well as looking into requiring permits for concrete work.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 10, 2012 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:30 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer