

**APPROVED  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
OF THE  
EAST GRAND FORKS  
CITY COUNCIL  
Tuesday, October 21, 2009 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*The Budget Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for October 21, 2009 was called to order by Council President Dick Grassel 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 Dick Grassel, Council Vice President Henry Tweten, Council Members Marc DeMers, Wayne Gregoire (5:03), Mike Pokrzywinski, and Greg Leigh.*

**STAFF PRESENT:**

*Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; Mark Dragich, Recreation Supervisor; and Jerry Lucke, Finance Director.*

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

**1. Budget Discussion**

Mr. Huizenga presented the highlights of the 2010 EDHA budget it relates to the General Fund. The transfer to the Riverwalk Center would remain at \$21,900. The residential property tax rebate program was estimated at \$87,000. Mr. Richter reported that the Riverwalk Centre declined in appraised value. He also said in response to questions that they are working to fill vacant spaces in the Riverwalk Centre. Council Member Buckalew added that the EDHA board is working to sell the Professional Building property due to an ongoing operating loss at the facility.

Ms. Helgeson presented the Proposed 2010 Library Budget. She reported a total of 80,271 visitors to the library, of which 21 percent use the public computers. Ms. Helgeson also discussed volunteer staff time and the Library's ongoing programs. Council Member DeMers asked if the Library needed additional computers. He also asked about the status of the Library's participation in the State of Minnesota's ELM service. Ms. Helgeson said that there has been no response from the state. Council Member Buckalew asked if the library's building maintenance challenges had been tackled. Ms. Helgeson responded that she would know more in the spring after the snow melt; but that she was confident the issues had been addressed.

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Mr. Huizenga presented the 2010 Proposed Budget for Parks and Recreation. Discussion ensued regarding the Blue Line Arena. Council Member Leigh stated he favored deferring repairs at the O'Leary Park tennis court to pay for one year of operations at the Blue Line Arena. Council Member Buckalew suggested that any Blue Line Arena rental income above the cost of a rink attendant could be redirected back to the Blue Line Club.

Mr. Huizenga recommended that recreation fees increase to partially offset the added costs of the Blue Line Arena. Council Member Pokrzywinski warned that raising fees too much could have offsetting effects in lower registrations. Council Member Leigh asked Mr. Huizenga and Mr. Dragich to compare recreation fees to fees in other cities.

Mr. Huizenga also suggested that the swimming pool could be closed at a cost savings of \$60,000. Council Member Gregoire expressed support for closing the pool. Council Members Tweten and Grassel stated their support for keeping the pool open.

**ADJOURN**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 21, 2009 BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:48 P.M.**

*Voting Aye: Tweten, Gregoire, Pokrzywinski, DeMers, Grassel, and Buckalew,.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

*Absent: Leigh.*

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Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer