

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for January 15, 2013 was called to order by Council President Craig Buckalew 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 Greg Leigh, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel.*

**STAFF PRESENT: DO NOT READ**

*Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Steve Emery, 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, Fire Chief; Megan Nelson, Executive Assistant; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.*

*Other Staff:* \_\_\_\_\_

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

*The Council President Determined a Quorum was present*

**1. Rollin on the River Friday Night Event – Melaine Parvey**

Ms. Parvey told the council about an event her organization would like to have in August. There is an inline skating marathon held in Grand Forks. They would like to bring this event back to the river, give the people in the race a place to warm up the night before on the greenway, and make this a Grand Cities event so both communities are involved. The idea is to try and partner up with either one or more of the restaurants down by the boardwalk area and have a place for racers to come and pick up their materials as well as with other activities for everyone to participate in the night before the race begins. Ms. Parvey will be filling out a special event application and possibly informing the council what the next step is once they have a partner to help with the event.

**2. 2013 City Project No. 2 – Steve Emery**

Mr. Emery informed the council about issues with some of the water and sewer lines that were originally going to be replaced in 2014 but since these issues are getting worse it has been proposed to complete work that was scheduled for 2014 this year. With combining these projects the overall costs could be less. This

project could also help with the odor issues the city was experiencing this last fall.

### **3. Gatewell L-16 Repair – Jason Stordahl**

Mr. Stordahl told the council about a repair that is needed on gatewell L-16. He informed the council on how the gatewells work and minimal maintenance required by the Army Corps of Engineers since this is part of the levee system. Mr. Stordahl also informed the council of the new maintenance schedule that will be put in place to try and prevent more repairs in the future.

### **4. Waste Water Inspection Response – Jason Stordahl**

Mr. Stordahl gave an update to the council about the issues the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) had found and that these issues had been corrected or will be corrected once the weather starts to warm up. He explained how the MPCA had asked for an update and progress reports about the city's plans for its future treatment of waste water which are needed in short order. After much discussion and debate the council felt they need to be proactive with this issue and possibly even sent up a night separate from council meetings to discuss this topic since this is a major issue. The mayor also suggested creating a committee made up of residents of the city which then would report back to the council.

### **5. 2013 Legislative Priorities – Scott Huizenga**

Mr. Huizenga reminded the board that representatives from the council will be going down to the state capital for Legislative Day. This is when the city can present its priorities to the state legislature. The mayor reminded the council that they need to show up united with the same priorities. After some discussion the council decided the list of priorities that should be presented down at the capital. The list consists of the expansion of the campground, waste water improvements, and a wellness center.

### **6. Drinking Fountains in Civic Center – Henry Tweten**

Council member Tweten had been asked to see if there could be a drinking fountain installed in the boy's locker room at the Civic Center for the convenience of the players. Council member Grassel explained how he had spoken to the boy's hockey coach and the need of a sink with hot and cold water was more of a priority. The water bottles could also be filled in the sink. Mr. Tweten suggested Mr. Grassel and Mr. Aker speak with the coach and get what would be needed and what would cost less.

### **7. Special Assessment Interest Rates – Henry Tweten**

Council member Tweten made a suggestion to the council to lower the interest rates on special assessments. He felt this could help encourage more growth and development in the city. After some discussion council this item was tabled until a future meeting.

### **8. Safer Grant Award – Chief Larson**

Chief Larson informed the council the city has been awarded the SAFER Grant he had applied for to help pay the wages for a fire fighter for two years. He recommended they accept the grant.

## **9. Radar Speed Signs – Chief Hedlund**

Chief Hedlund told the council about the information he had received from Polk County about a new radar speed sign. The county proposed this new sign to be installed on County Road 19. After speaking with Nancy Ellis, both Nancy and the Chief thought this would be better to be placed on the south end of town by the middle school. The proposal from the county also said the city would have to pay for half. After answering some of the questions from the council, Chief Hedlund will be contacting the county for more information about placement and to see if the county would pay the total cost since they proposed this and it is not a budgeted item.

## **10. In-Car Video Systems – Chief Hedlund**

Chief Hedlund showed the proposed plans for moving ahead with the upgrade and installation of new in-car video systems since it was a budget for 2013. The department likes the current system they are on but are in need of an upgrade due to the many issues taking place, especially with microphones not working properly. His recommendation was for purchasing the less expensive unit since it is smaller and would fit better in the cars.

## **11. Retiree Health Insurance – Scott Huizenga**

Mr. Huizenga informed the council that for many years once someone retires from the city they have an option to purchase two single policies, one for them self and one for their spouse, instead of purchasing a family policy. He stated that this practice doesn't make sense, especially since active employees are not able to have this same benefit. He proposed to end this and suggested July as a termination of this practice to give time to those who are affected by this to make the necessary changes.

## **12. Civic Center Private Event – Dave Aker**

This item was postponed until another meeting.

### **ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 15, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:20 P.M.**

*Voting Aye: Vonasek, Buckalew, Tweten, Olstad, Leigh, Grassel, and Vetter.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

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Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer