

**APPROVED
WORK SESSION
MINUTES
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for October 27, 2009 was called to order by Council President Dick Grassel at 5:01 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 Dick Grassel, Council Vice President Henry Tweten (5:04 pm), Council Members Marc DeMers, Craig Buckalew, Wayne Gregoire, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Michelle French, Executive Assistant; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Brad Bail, City Engineer; John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent; Jerry Lucke, Finance Director; Dave Aker, Parks & Rec Superintendent; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. Engineer Contract – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga announced that he is pleased with the current services from Floan-Sanders so he recommends approving the engineer contract for 2010 through 2012. He stated the only change is the hourly rate for special services which would be approximately \$1,000 per year. Council President Grassel informed City Council that most engineering fees are from special assessment projects or state aid projects. Mayor Stauss suggested that Floan-Sanders take a freeze on the fees. Council Member Pokrzywinski asked if these fees are similar with comparable cities. Mr. Huizenga stated that Floan-Sanders fees are on the low end. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

2. City Attorney Contract – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga stated that he is pleased with the current services from Galstad, Jensen, & McCann, P.A and would recommend approving the City Attorney Retainer Agreement. Mr. Huizenga informed City Council that there is no change with the civil rate; however, the criminal will be going to a flat rate of \$60,000 which will be easier for budgeting and billing. Council President Grassel asked if it is necessary to be at every meeting. Mr. Galstad announced that he feels it's beneficial to be at the meeting which helps with drafting

**EAST GRAND FORKS WORK SESSION & CLOSED MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2009**

ordinances, agreements, etc. He stated that it's nice to here the Council concerns and discussions. Council Member DeMers appreciates the City Attorney attending the Council Meetings to make sure rules are not broken.

3. Council Pay Ordinance – Marc DeMers

Council Member DeMers stated that the City of East Grand Forks is facing difficult budget decisions; therefore, he looks at what he could do personally. He is recommending that the City Council and Mayor decrease there salaries back to the 2007 rates.

Mayor Stauss stated that this is the only raise in 22 years and some put in a lot of hours. He suggested cutting two members of the Council; he feels that five Council Members and a Mayor could run the City. Mayor Stauss suggested that if you feel that you don't deserve your wage, you can donate it back to the City.

Council Member Pokrzywinski announced that he has struggled with this issue and believes that under extraordinary circumstances, the Council needs to set an example. He stated that he will support the issue with a sunset clause.

Council President Grassel announced that he agrees with Mayor Stauss because he gets hit up for donations all the time since he sits on boards and is a member of the City Council. Council Vice President Tweten stated that he has personally spent more time and money being on the council and we need to the leave the current ordinance as is.

Council Member Gregoire complimented Council President Grassel, Council Vice President Tweten, and Mayor Stauss for all the time they put in because he just can't. He supports the proposed ordinance but... Mayor Stauss suggested that the City Council go out in the community and raise money for projects. Council President Grassel stated that the Red River State Recreation Area needs playground equipment so this winter he will raise the money for the project. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

4. Other

Council Member Pokrzywinski announced that November 4th at 3 p.m. the Knight Foundation will present an award to the Campbell Library.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 27, 2009 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:39 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED
CLOSED MEETING
MINUTES
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Closed Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for October 27, 2009 was called to order by Council President Dick Grassel at 5:40 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 Dick Grassel, Council Vice President Henry Tweten, Council Members Marc DeMers, Craig Buckalew, Wayne Gregoire, and Mike Pokrzywinski..

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- 1. Consider strategy for labor negotiations pursuant to Minn.Stat. 13D.03, subd. 1 (b).**

The purpose of the closed meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council was to discuss labor negotiation strategies.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 27, 2009 CLOSED MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:06 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer