

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for February 26, 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.

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; 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.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

1. Bid Results 2013 City Project No. 2 – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre informed the council that there were three bids submitted for this project and what each bid was. He then turned it over to Mr. Emery who gave a summary of what each proposal consisted of, the estimated costs of each proposal, and the proposed costs which came in higher than expected. Discussion followed on why there weren't more bidders, how costs have gone up, and how long the project will take.

2. Pool Study and Options – Scott Huizenga & Dave Aker

Mr. Huizenga explained to the council he had prepared cost estimates for each of the different options that Ballard King and Associates had proposed and how each could potentially affect taxes. Mr. Jeff King was included in this discussion by way of a conference call. Council member Leigh asked how much it would cost just to change the liner of the pool and how long a new liner would last. He told the council that before he could make a choice on what option to go with he would need to know that cost. Mr. Ballard said he would ask his team since he wasn't sure himself. Mr. Huizenga asked if the proposed costs included the soft costs or just construction costs. Mr. Ballard said he would check on that also. Discussion followed among the council considering if they should have the community vote on an option. Council members remarked that many residents have expressed the need a pool for our community. It was suggested by Council member Vetter to see what the cost would be to include a wellness center on the same site as the pool. That way there would be more to offer for the high cost of fixing the pool with the facility being used all year compared to only the pool being used a couple months out of the year. More discussion followed.

3. Park and Recreation Rentals – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker explained to the council the current rental price list for the arenas and what the arenas could be rented out for. Council member Leigh suggested the rates be more uniformed than they currently are. It was also suggested that wedding receptions and dances should be kept in the private sector. Council member Grassel asked what the costs are for the city to have the Civic Center operating and if the rent would cover the operating costs. After more discussion it was decided that the rates will be reviewed and brought back for the council to approve.

4. Amendment to Snow Emergency Ordinance – Jason Stordahl

Mr. Stordahl informed the council he had a meeting with Ms. Ellis and Mr. Hedlund about the city's current snow ordinance. It was suggested to change the amount of snow for a snow emergency from two to four inches. Another suggestion to amend this ordinance is to include that if conditions warrant, a snow emergency may be declared by the Public Works Director or Chief of Police with the condition that violators may be ticketed and towed if their vehicle is not moved. Some council members asked to see if there was a way to notify the public when vehicles need to be moved off of the streets. This might help prevent residents from getting tickets.

5. EDHA Board Update – Mark Olstad & Chad Grassel

Council member Olstad informed the council that the EDHA board is currently working on renewing leases at the Riverwalk Centre. He also commented how educational the tour was at Northern Valley Machine the EDHA board was invited to take. Mr. Olstad also told the council the city has been approved for SBDC assistance to help keep affordable senior housing, Domino's is moving into the Movie Gallery building, the MPO will be conducting a rail study for the area, and around 30% of the units have been leased in the Minnesota New Heights Building. It was asked that if anyone had ideas for the commercial spaces please let EDHA or the developer know what they might be.

6. Library Board Update – Henry Tweten

Council member Tweten told the council what a good job Charlotte, the library director, and her board are doing with the library. Both Charlotte and Council member Tweten informed the council of activities happening at the library, how the circulation of materials continues to remain high, how usage from the children's age group has risen, how North Dakotans come over to utilize the Campbell Library, and how the best way to find out about the library is to make a visit.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 26, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:55 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None