

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for March 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; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Megan Nelson, Executive Assistant; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

1. Swimming Pool Update – Craig Buckalew & Greg Leigh

Council member Olstad handed out a proposal asking the city to commit \$1.5 million towards a pool project that is projected to be completed in 2016. He continued to tell the council the Save Our Pool Organization would then be fundraising to collect the remaining funds needed to complete one of the three proposed projects. Melody Olstad, head of the Save Our Pool organization, told the council she had been working with Kristi Mishler and finding ways to successfully raise the funds needed. Discussion followed about how an option should be chosen, how the costs will be going up for the project, and the tentative timeline of the project.

2. Battery Backup on Traffic Signal on Highways 2 & 220 – Scott Gravseth

Mr. Gravseth informed the council he had been contacted by Minnesota Department of Transportation. They would like to install batteries for battery backup in the case the power goes out on the stoplights at the intersection of Highways 2 and 220. MNDOT would be responsible for replacing the batteries when needed but the city would have to cover the cost. Mr. Gravseth told the council the batteries would need to be replaced no sooner than every five years and would cost around \$800.00 to \$1000.00 to replace the batteries.

3. Police Department Update – Mold Study – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre told the council the mold inspection had been completed. He informed the council how the inspection was completed and where the mold was found. With approval from the city administrator they asked for a quote to see what the cost would be to remove the mold from the inside of the building so the council would have an idea of what it would cost. Mr. Boppre

informed the council some reconstruction will have to take place due to where the mold was found. He also included an estimate for the reconstruction as well. Council members discussed what should be done with the Police Building and how or if they should proceed. The council decided they should move forward with improvements on the Police Department so they can ensure a healthy, safe working environment for the officers.

4. Workers for Parks & Recreation Dept – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker gave the council his proposal on how he would like to reorganize the workers in the Parks and Recreation Department. Council member Greg Leigh told Mr. Aker he did make some of the changes council asked him to but more changes are needed to be made. Council member Vetter added this proposal puts the Parks and Recreation Department over budget. He agreed more changes needed to be made. Discussion followed with what other changes could be made and how reorganizing and possibly changing job duties would be beneficial. The council asked Mr. Aker to bring this back to the next work session to discuss the what other changes could be done.

5. Speed Limit Bygland Road – Greg Leigh

Council member Leigh informed the council this topic was tabled until the sidewalks had been completed on Bygland Road. With that project complete he proposed an increase in the speed limit on Bygland Road. He felt that at least part of Bygland Road could be posted at 35 miles per hour. Discussion followed about how it might be difficult in the mornings and afternoons for motorists the side streets to turn onto Bygland Road but not other times of the day. Council will be asking for this to be looked into to see if there is a warrant for increasing the speed limit.

6. Metropolitan Planning Organization Update – Clarence Vetter & Greg Leigh

Council member Leigh informed the council that Stephanie Erickson is the new planner for MPO. MNDOT is looking into replacing current infrastructure; they are not currently dispersing funds for new infrastructure. He continued saying that in the long range plan more bridges are going to be built. The Kennedy and Sorlie bridge projects are moving forward. There is an issue with one of the piers on the Kennedy. If it is not able to be repaired it will have to be replaced. The Sorlie bridge will be replaced eventually. Discussion followed about the traffic on the bridges and placement of the bridges. Council member Leigh finished by telling everyone the next meeting will be on April 4th if they would like to attend.

7. Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force – Mark Olstad

Council member Olstad informed the council that the task force has been busy, especially when it comes to prescription drugs. Secured boxes, the “Take Back” boxes, are going to be installed and be drop off sites for people who need to dispose of prescription drugs. These drugs will then be brought to the incinerator for disposal. He told the council the task force is looking into getting new radios and that the state audited the task force. They only had one issue that needed to be addressed. Overall the task force has done well. Lastly Council member Olstad informed the council that Minnesota and North Dakota are working on an agreement so the different forces, like the drug task force will work more closely together.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 26, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:08 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.