

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for August 6, 2013 was called to order by Council President 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; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Gary Larson, Fire Chief; Karl Lindquist, Interim City Administrator; Megan Nelson, Executive Assistant; and Jim Richter, EDHA Director.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

“An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring Council action maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate.” If you would like to address the City Council, please come up to the podium to do so.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of July 16, 2013.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of July 23, 2013.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of July 23, 2013.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE ITEM ONE (1) THROUGH THREE (3).

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

Voting Nay: None.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items under the "Consent Agenda" will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.

4. Consider approving the application for an Exempt Gambling Permit for a raffle for the Red River Valley Pheasants Forever organization to be held April 12, 2014 at the American Legion, 1009 Central Ave, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
5. Consider approving renewal application for Optional Liquor 2AM Closing for the Eagles Club at 227 10th St NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.
6. Consider approving the Special Event application for Northland Community and Technical College for Northland on the Boardwalk which includes music and alcohol.
7. Consider approving temporary liquor application and special event application for Sacred Heart Church for a class reunion event on August 16th in LaFave Park.
8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-08-74 finalizing the addition of the City Planner position to the AFCSME bargaining group and approving the memorandum of agreement with AFSCME Council 65.
9. Consider approving the Cities Area Transit route changes and designated stops.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VONASEK, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH NINE (9).

Council Member Olstad commented about how things were listed differently on the application for item number six and was wondering if all of the businesses were given a chance to participate in the event. Ms. Nelson stated that all of the businesses were approached to participate in this event but that she would double check with Northland to see if they all were going to participate.

Council member Tweten asked why there is a request for 2 AM closing when there had always been 1 AM closing in the City. Council member Vonasek stated this was something the City has allowed for some time.

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

Voting Nay: None.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:

10. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for July 3, 2013.
11. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for July 18, 2013.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**OLD BUSINESS: NONE****NEW BUSINESS:**

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-08-75 approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for 2013 City Project No. 1 – Sidewalk Improvements (TE).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 13-08-75 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 2013 CITY PROJECT NO. 1 – SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS (TE).

Mr. Bail stated this base bid also includes the funding for improvements to the stoplight on the intersection of 14th Street and Highway 220. He asked the council to approve this contingent upon MNDOT approval. He also added that he handed out a new RCA that shows the breakdown of the budget for the project and for the alternate added into the project. Council President Buckalew asked that voting for this does not commit the City to the project. Mr. Bail stated all this would do is approve the plans and specs and set a bid date. Council President Buckalew asked if this project is approved would the completion date be in 2013 or 2014. Mr. Bail stated it could be either just as long as the funds from the DOT were committed for the project to be done. Mr. Lindquist said there was a question about if there City funds available for this project and told the council he had asked Ms. Anderson to look into it. Ms. Anderson said the council would be able to budget this project for next year. Council Vice-President Leigh asked if there was anything in the budget for this project this year and Ms. Anderson said there was not.

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

Voting Nay: None.

13. Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-08-76 authorizing Widseth Smith Nolting to conduct a feasibility study for repairs to 2nd Avenue NE for the City of East Grand Forks.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 13-08-76 AUTHORIZING WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR REPAIRS TO 2ND AVENUE NE FOR THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS.

Mr. Bail asked the council for direction to see what kinds of project they would like to do with this 2nd Avenue NE. He asked if the City would like to put in an 18 foot wide street paid for by the City or redo

the entire street and assess part of the cost to the property owners. Council member Tweten gave his opinion on both of those options. Council member Vonasek asked if a 3rd option of vacating the road could be added to the list. Council member Tweten stated that drainage is an issue that needs to be addressed and how this might reduce the value of the businesses so the City should be cautious if they are thinking of vacating this road. More discussion followed about how much the road is used, possible curb cuts for exiting the parking lot, and keeping an easement for utilities if necessary. Mayor Stauss stated how the Civic Center parking lot and roads are bad. Council member Buckalew agreed with Mayor Stauss and said they need to take another look at the Civic Center Parking lot. He said there were cracks that are only going to get worse with moisture infiltration. He added that the council will be discussing parking lot repairs at the next work session. Council President Buckalew said this study wouldn't commit the City to anything but give the council a direction to move forward in.

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

Voting Nay: None.

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-08-77 authorizing Brad Bail from Widseth Smith Nolting to design a park to be located at the north end of East Grand Forks at a cost not to exceed \$2500.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 13-08-77 AUTHORIZING BRAD BAIL FROM WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING TO DESIGN A PARK TO BE LOCATED AT THE NORTH END OF EAST GRAND FORKS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$2500.

Council member Olstad said he went through the 2040 Land Use Plan and found that it was recommended to have 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 in population. He stated that East Grand Forks has 53 acres of park land with a population that is less than 1,000 which does include the greenway. He added that the cost of maintaining the City parks are going up and this would be a good thing to consider down the road and see if legacy funds would be available to help pay for a park up on the north end. Council member Olstad said there are other projects like the swimming pool that need to be addressed before adding another major project. Council member Tweten said he disagrees with Council member Olstad and asked the council how they would facilitate in selling lots. He added how families, the college, and public school system are very interested in this park. Council member Olstad asked if the schools are going to step up and help pay for this park. Mayor Stauss stated at this time the development is not ready for a park like this. Council member Tweten said he disagrees and added how this park would help make the area more attractive. Mayor Stauss added how if the City will be looking for Legacy funds Representative Kiel will need to be contacted since she is on that committee and our representative. Council Vice-President Leigh added that the park would be nice but there are too many major projects to take care of right now. Council President Buckalew stated how the budget was cut to a minimum for the taxpayers and how the council could consider this once there has been more development in the area. Council member Vonasek added that the timing for this was off for this project and maybe the council should table this issue for six months.

Voting Aye: Grassel, and Tweten.

Voting Nay: Vetter, Vonasek, Buckalew, Olstad, and Leigh.

CLAIMS:

15. Consider adopting Resolution No. 13-08-78 authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 16450 for a total of \$1020.02 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 13-08-78 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 16450 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1020.02 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: Buckalew.

16. Consider authorizing the Interim City Administrator to issue payment of recommended bills and payroll.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, TO AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Stauss reported that the campground was full again this past weekend and commented how well the campground is doing again this year. He also mentioned that in the middle of September he will be going to discuss the campground utility expansion and waste water project to the Capital Investment Committee in Crookston for the bonding bill.

Council Member Olstad thanked the firefighter for hosting Catfish Days. He said he heard it was a great turnout and is glad to know they are going to keep it going. Mayor Stauss added the he and the other council members feel the same. Council member Olstad added that on Thursday, August 8th there was going to be a Water Carnival put on by the Save Our Pool group that will be taking place at the pool. He also said that more volunteers are needed for shifts from 6-7 and 7-8.

Council Member Leigh said he was already signed up to help with hotdogs.

Mr. Lindquist said he sent out a tentative schedule for the interviews. He reminded them the council will be what the City will be responsible for when the candidates come. He asked if the council would like to have the candidates stay one more day in case they would like to speak with one of them the following day. The council members said the candidates can go home after the interviews since they will need to discuss and decide who they would like to hire.

Mr. Bail stated how the City never really replaced Sherlock Park after the flood and encouraged the council to keep this project in mind for the future and offered to put something together for the council to review in six months. Mr. Bail also informed the council that MNDOT came in and inspected the bridges and received 100% on almost everything other than having to fix a culvert.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OSLTAD, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 6, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:30 P.M.

Karl Lindquist, Interim City Administrator