

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: January 3, 2014

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss. Council President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice-President Greg Leigh, Council members Clarence Vetter, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel.

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

*January 7, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Regular Meeting Setting Annual Business – Council Chambers
Meeting days and times will be determined after the 1st meeting of the year.*

Weekly Update from the City Administrator:

Passing of Ron Vonasek

With the passing of Council Member Vonasek, a vacancy exists in Ward 2. The East Grand Forks City Charter provides that Council appoint a replacement to serve until the next regularly scheduled election. This item will be on the January 14th Work Session for discussion.

Meeting East Grand Forks Business Owners

I have gotten settled into the position and should start meeting the business owners and East Grand Forks Residents on a personal level. I would like to invite any Council Members to think of who they would like to introduce me to and set up meetings if possible.

Public Works Union

There is one issue remaining in the negotiations with the Public Works Union. I expect it to be resolved very shortly and have a contract before you for approval before the end of the month.

Hangsleben Sewer Connection

I have been in contact with Mr. Hangsleben regarding his property at 31 Garden Court. Mr. Hangsleben has been having issues with tree roots at the connection from his sanitary service line to the main which runs through the back yard. Mr. Hangsleben has replaced the entire service line and connection and is still experiencing problems. Public Works Superintendent Stordahl and I are working on this issue.

Department Reports:

Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker

Senior Center Floor

Repairs to the floor in the Senior Center will be starting the week of January 20th. The area that is going to be repaired will be closed off during this process which will take around three weeks for the floor to cure. Once the floor has cured it will take a day or two for the new flooring to be installed.

Fire Department, Chief Larson

We had a busy year with 1023 emergency calls for the year. We had a new V snow plow installed on our 86 Chevrolet pickup and it has been very busy. We clean the library and help the Police when street crews are not running, or are busy with other snow removal. We responded to 3 accidents on Saturday the 28 of December during the blizzard. It took crew over an hour to get 10 miles into the country. We brought in 4 people that were stuck or could not see well enough to drive.

We are excited to start a new year, and have lined up many training opportunities for our people. We are sponsoring a National Fire Academy class at Station 1 on January 11 and 12. We have opened it up to neighboring fire departments. It is funded by the National Fire Academy.

We are switching over to different software for reporting call to the State of Minnesota. The costs are paid for by the State.

Police and Fire did a Code 3 Toy Drive for children who are less fortunate. It was a huge success with toys left over. The left over toys were taken up to Altru to the Pediatrics ward on Christmas Day and distributed to kids who spent Christmas in the hospital.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

Agenda Items

The first meeting of the year is primarily devoted to the mandatory organizational activities that are required by state law and the City Charter. According to Section 3.03 of the City Charter the Council President and Vice President are elected for two years following a city election which was done at last year's meeting and will not have to be done at this year's meeting. There are some organizational activities that will need to happen such as setting the time and hour of the council meetings and work sessions, designating the official newspaper, and designating the financial depositories which cover items 1 through 4.

The consent agenda consists of considering approving the application for an exempt gambling permit and adopting resolutions considering designating the insurance agency that will handle the City's Policy, approve the administrative service agreement, approve the appointments and reappoints to the boards and commissions, and enable worker's compensation for elected and appointed officials of the City.

Item 11 will consider a policy that is required to be passed by the Affordable Care Act explaining medical eligibility.

Item 12 will consider approving an amended joint powers agreement which would allow an additional member to the Drug Task Force from the U.S Border Patrol Agency.