

**AGENDA  
OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014 - 5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**CALL OF ROLL:**

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

- 1. Residential Refuse & Recycling Contract – Jason Stordahl**
- 2. League of MN Cities Legislative Items – David Murphy**
- 3. City of East Grand Forks Legislative Priorities – David Murphy**
- 4. Mowing Assessment – David Murphy**

**ADJOURN:**

**Upcoming Meetings**

Regular Council Meeting – March 4, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Council Chambers  
Work Session – March 11, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Training Room  
Regular Council Meeting – March 18, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Council Chambers  
Work Session – March 25, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Training Room

# Request for Council Action

Date: 2/19/2014

To: East Grand Forks City Council Mayor Lynn Stauss, President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice President Greg Leigh, Council Members: Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel

Cc: File

From: Jason Stordahl

RE: Residential Refuse/Recycling

---

The City's contract for residential refuse and recycling pickup with Waste Management will end June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We have two options:

-Renegotiate a new contract with Waste Management

Or

-Ask for proposals from various venders.

Staff is looking for direction on how council would like to proceed.

# Request for Council Action

Date:

To: East Grand Forks City Council Mayor Lynn Stauss, President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice President Greg Leigh, Council Members: Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel

Cc: File

From: David Murphy

RE: 2014 Legislative Items

---

Recently the City was contacted by the League of Minnesota Cities regarding items that will be brought up during the upcoming legislative session. The League is asking for support on two separate issues. The first is Street Improvement Districts and the second is Alternative Publication of Public Notices.

Street Improvement Districts -

The City Council passed a resolution (09-04-25) on April 7, 2009 asking the state government to pass legislation which would give cities the authority to create street improvement districts. The City also included street improvement districts as a legislative priority in January 18, 2011 when adopting resolution 11-01-12 and again on February 7, 2012 with resolution 12-02-17. The League already has a resolution from East Grand Forks in support of street improvement districts.

Staff is looking for direction – is there any action that the council would like to take? Ex – send a letter of support to legislators and to the League since a resolution was already passed.

Alternative Publication of Public Notices –

This bill (SF 1152/HF 1286) is expected to be heard in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. If passed this bill would eliminate outdated publication requirements, shorten wait times, and improve service by allowing for local control.

Staff is looking for direction – would the council like to pass a resolution supporting this bill and send it to legislators.

Included with this RCA is the resolution passed by council in 2009, the sample resolution for a street improvement district, the proposed letter of support for street improvement districts, and the sample resolution for the publication of notices.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-04-25**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORITY  
TO ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Councilmember Leigh, Seconded by Councilmember DeMers, introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, residents and businesses benefit from a sound, efficient and adequately funded transportation system that offers diverse modes of travel; and

**WHEREAS**, under-investment in transportation infrastructure diminishes quality of life for Minnesota residents and hinders Minnesota's progress as a national business, economic and civic leader; and

**WHEREAS**, the integrity of the City of East Grand Forks's transportation infrastructure is dependent upon long-term planning and ongoing maintenance, both of which require dedicated and sustainable revenue sources; and

**WHEREAS**, existing funding mechanisms for local roads, such as special assessments, bonding and municipal state aid, have limited applications; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of East Grand Forks does not have a stable funding stream for roads to keep pace with growing costs and changing needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of maintaining and repairing city streets increases by as much as six times when maintenance is deferred; and

**WHEREAS**, local cost participation requirements for trunk highway and county projects are onerous and are contributing to strains on city budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, levy limits and cuts in aids to local government have contributed significantly to destabilization of local budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement costs significantly contribute to rising property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of East Grand Fork's transportation system is failing to meet the needs necessary to promote economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the City of East Grand Fork's roads are not built to modern safety standards and are not meeting the needs of industries that depend on the ability to transport heavy loads; and

**WHEREAS**, authority to establish a street improvement district would provide the City of East Grand Forks with an additional tool for funding transportation infrastructure maintenance and reconstruction.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS** that this council believes creation of a street improvement district would allow for preservation of the city's transportation infrastructure assets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS that this council requests that the Minnesota Legislature provide authority for the City of East Grand Forks to create a street improvement district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS that this Council requests that Governor Tim Pawlenty allow legislation providing authority for the City of East Grand Forks to create a street improvement district to become law.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Gregoire, Leigh, Pokrzywinski, DeMers, Grassel, and Buckalew.  
Voting Nay: None.  
Absent: None.

The President declared the resolution passed.

Passed: April 7, 2009

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

I hereby approve the foregoing resolution this 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**RESOLUTION No: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota contains over 135,000 miles of roadway, and over 19,000 miles—or 14 percent—are owned and maintained by Minnesota’s 853 cities; and

**WHEREAS**, 84 percent of municipal streets are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and

**WHEREAS**, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and

**WHEREAS**, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city—large or small—is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and

**WHEREAS**, for every one dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority saves seven dollars in repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ finds it is difficult to develop adequate funding systems to support the City's needed street improvement and maintenance programs while complying with existing State statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, cities need flexible policies and greater resources in order to meet growing demands for municipal street improvements and maintenance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_** supports enabling legislation that would authorize cities to establish street improvement districts to fund municipal street maintenance, construction and reconstruction.

**ADOPTED** by the \_\_\_\_\_ City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

Date

Senator  
Address

Representative  
Address

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ and Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to request your support for [HF 745 \(Erhardt, DFL-Edina\)](#) and [SF 607 \(Carlson, DFL-Eagan\)](#), legislation that would allow cities to create street improvement districts. This authority would allow cities to collect fees from property owners within a district to fund municipal street maintenance, construction, reconstruction, and facility upgrades. If enacted, this legislation would provide cities with an additional tool to build and maintain city streets.

In NAME OF CITY, HF745/SF607 would specifically assist us with \_\_\_\_\_.

Here are some answers to questions that have been raised about the legislation:

- This is enabling legislation. No city would be required to create a municipal street improvement district.
- The street improvement district authority legislation is modeled after Minn. Stat. 435.44, which allows cities to establish sidewalk improvement districts.
- This authority would provide a funding mechanism that is fair. It establishes a clear relationship between who pays fees and where projects occur, but stops short of the benefit test that sometimes makes special assessments vulnerable to legal challenges. It also does not prohibit cities from collecting fees from tax exempt properties within a district.
- This tool allows cities to perform maintenance and reconstruction on schedule. Timely maintenance is essential to preserving streets and thereby protecting taxpayer investments.
- This tool would allow property owners to fund expensive projects by paying relatively small fees over time. The tool could be used to mitigate or eliminate the need for special assessments.

If you have further questions on this bill, please contact me. You may also contact Anne Finn at the League of Minnesota Cities at (651) 281-1263 or [afinn@lmc.org](mailto:afinn@lmc.org). Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Name of Mayor  
Mayor, City of

**RESOLUTION No: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ALLOWING CITIES TO  
DESIGNATE THEIR CITY WEBSITE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICES**

- **WHEREAS**, cities are currently required by law to publish public notices in a designated official newspaper for the city (Minn. Stat. § 331A); and
- **WHEREAS**, cities are committed to providing information to citizens and increasing access to information about city operations and business; and
- **WHEREAS**, citizens expect and demand information in an immediate format; and
- **WHEREAS**, cities have limited resources and must utilize tax dollars in the most efficient way possible; and
- **WHEREAS**, cities should have the authority to determine the best and most efficient method of communicating information to citizens based on citizen expectations; and
- **WHEREAS**, cities are continuously improving and investing in technology to reach more citizens in a timely manner; and
- **WHEREAS**, utilizing city websites to publish public notices would eliminate the time and costly burden of publishing in newspapers; and
- **WHEREAS**, city websites are increasingly the first place citizens look for information about their cities; and
- **WHEREAS**, the ability of city websites to provide citizens with up-to-date, detailed information exceeds that of print media

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ supports HF 1286 and SF 1152, legislation now before the 2014 legislature that would allow cities to publish certain public notices on their websites instead of, or in addition to, in an official newspaper.

**ADOPTED** by the City of \_\_\_\_\_ on this, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

# Request for Council Action

Date:

To: East Grand Forks City Council Mayor Lynn Stauss, President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice President Greg Leigh, Council Members: Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel

Cc: File

From: David Murphy

RE: East Grand Forks Legislative Priorities

---

On March 5<sup>th</sup> representatives from East Grand Forks will be visiting with state legislators at the State Capitol. The Council will need to set the legislative priorities. Staff has taken items from last year as a starting point. Council will need to discuss and decide what should be included on this list.



# City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · P.O. Box 373 · East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
218-773-2483 · 218-773-9728 fax      [www.eastgrandforks.net](http://www.eastgrandforks.net)

---

## **City of East Grand Forks Legislative Priorities:**

### **I. Expand Red River State Recreational Area (RRSRA) Campground**

- a. Use of the campground continues to grow – 2013 generated \$ (waiting for amount from DNR)
- b. There was at least 5 times in 2013 the campground was completely full
- c. Many times the sites with utilities are full with requests for sites with utilities
- d. Great return for City and State; Lot expansion payback period is 4-5 years

### **II. Fund Waste Water Treatment Improvements**

- a. The current Pond System was constructed in the 1950s
- b. The City is moving forward with an upgrade to the pond system
- c. Construction of the Project is proposed to start in 2016
- d. The City has started raising funds for this project by raising fees
- e. We are asking for assistance so taxes and sewage rates stay manageable for residents

# Request for Council Action

Date: 2/20/2014

To: East Grand Forks City Council Mayor Lynn Stauss, President Craig Buckalew, Council Vice President Greg Leigh, Council Members: Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel

Cc: File

From: David Murphy

RE: Mowing Assessment

---

At this time the Administration Office has exhausted its resources trying to collect the mowing assessment on parcel 83.01939.00 and consider this amount to be uncollectable. Staff is asking Council if they would consider writing off this amount.