

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: May 9, 2014

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

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 13, 2014 – 4:30 PM – Closed Special Meeting – Training Room

May 13, 2014 – 5:30 PM – Work Session – Training Room

May 20, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Regular Meeting – Council Chambers

May 27, 2014 – 5:00 PM – Work Session – Training Room

Reminder:

Along with the packet you will have received a copy of the public notice stating there is a closed special meeting taking place on Tuesday, May 13th beginning at 4:30pm in the Training Room. With this meeting taking place at this time the work session will be starting later at 5:30pm instead of starting at 5:00pm.

Department Updates:

Police Department – Chief Hedlund

Police Memorial Ceremony

On Tuesday May 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM local, state and federal law enforcement agencies from throughout the region will take part in a Police Memorial Ceremony on the lawn of the Grand Forks County Courthouse. This ceremony is in remembrance of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and have lost their lives in the line of duty. This includes Officer Kenneth Olson of the East Grand Forks Police Department, who was shot and killed while responding to a call for service on July 19, 1978. The ceremony is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Fire Department – Chief Larson

We completed the ISO analysis for the City in December of last year, and the results are here. We maintained a 4 rating for the City. We are looking at all the ratings to see if there are areas in which we could improve. They rate the Fire Equipment, training, response times, amount of personnel responding for the fire department. They also rate the City water system, and the county 911 system. This number determines what business and residential pay for fire insurance.

We have been busy with rental inspections lately. The inspections have made a big difference on the rentals, as far as being cleaned up and meeting codes. We had auto extrication for training on Monday night. Lavern Schwan donated four cars to the department which helped us to deliver some good training.

I received a letter from BNSF stating they are looking at changing the routes for loaded crude oil trains. They are looking at putting 15 Million dollars into the rail from East Grand Forks to Duluth, and running the loaded crude trains on this route. I will try to follow up with BNSF to see when or if this is going to happen. There have been some bad incidents with crude trains that have derailed. The Federal Government is looking at new safety standards for transporting by rail. We received a notice from Union Pacific Railroad to send 4 firefighters to Pueblo, Colorado to a 3 day course for crude oil derailments. We have 4 firefighters that are ready to go in August 13 to 15. It is a scholarship that cost the railroad \$3500 per person to send.

We are at 305 emergency calls for the year.

Agenda Items

Item one will be an update from a representative from MNDOT on the Kennedy Bridge Project. Electronic and paper copies of the reports are available by contacting Ms. Nelson in the Administration Office.

Item two will consider a summer sprinkling rate that will be presented by Ms. Abel from the Water and Light Department.

Item three will review the Praxis Study which is a strategy and economic framework development proposal for the future of East Grand Forks. The proposal is included in the packet.

Item four staff will be asking for direction from council regarding a city lot located by the Minnesota Heights building.

Item five will consider the request for the purchase of a pool heater.

Item six staff is asking for direction from council on a possible amendment to the 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor License.

Item seven will be a discussion of a payment in question.

Item eight will be a quick update from the City Administrator on some items previously discussed by council that have not been brought back to work session yet.