

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for October 7, 2014 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, Dale Helms, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel.

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Gary Larson, Fire Chief; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Megan Nelson, Executive Assistant; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PRESENTATION ON SORLIE BRIDGE PROJECT:

Mr. Les Noehre introduced himself to the Council and said that he was with the North Dakota Department of Transportation. He gave a brief overview of the Sorlie Bridge project, explained how KLJ had been hired for this project. He explained how they were responsible for inspecting the bridge, reporting their findings, and completing an environmental impact statement. Mr. Noehre told the council that the impact statement was an in-depth analysis of the project and the outcome was a different conclusion than was anticipated. He then introduced Mr. Kris Bakkegard from KLJ who was going to present more information to the Council.

Mr. Bakkegard thanked Mr. Noehre for the introduction and for the overview he had given of the project. He continued by showing the study area that was included in the environmental impact statement which included both downtown areas of East Grand Forks and Grand Forks. He explained how initially it was thought the bridge would have to be replaced based on past evaluations. Mr. Bakkegard said how the guidelines have now changed regarding the replacement of gussets and using these new guidelines they have found there is no need to replace the bridge. He stated the bridge is in fair condition but does need some repairs. He said how they will be scaling back the project which means a shorter construction time with minimal closures. He added how they are still considering if the approach roadways will be included in the project or not.

Mayor Stauss stated that this project will be impacting our downtown area and that it is very important for them to allow traffic to cross the bridge as much as possible while the project is going on. Mr. Bakkegard said that was duly noted. Council member Tweten asked what the timeline was going to be. Mr. Bakkegard said the original timeline had a starting date in 2018 after the work on the Kennedy Bridge was completed. He added that once this project starts they should be able to fit this into one construction season. Council member Tweten asked if they will be starting on a new bypass bridge with all of the money they are saving on this project. Mr. Bakkegard stated he was not able to make that decision. Council member Helms asked if the approaches would be included. Mr. Bakkegard said that was still being considered but at this time he was not sure if that was going to be included in the project. Mr. Bakkegard ended the presentation stating this was to inform the council how the project had been scaled down and they will be holding public meetings for input.

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.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of September 16, 2014.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of September 23, 2014.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of September 29, 2014.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) THROUGH THREE (3).

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh

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 request declare the list of equipment, vehicles, and miscellaneous items as surplus and to be sold at auction.
5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-10-92 authorizing preliminary approval to the proposed functional classification revisions to the road system in East Grand Forks.

6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-10-93 requesting the Metropolitan Planning Organization to include specific studies in their work program for 2015-2016.
7. Consider approving a temporary liquor license application for St. Michael's Church holding an event at Sacred Heart Church on November 1, 2014 and contract with East Grand Lanes, LLC for liquor services.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH SEVEN (7).

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.
Voting Nay: None.
Absent: Leigh

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

8. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission from September 4, 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Consider accepting the proposed terms in the letter from EAPC and request an agreement to be drafted for repair work at the Campbell Library.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED TERMS IN THE LETTER FROM EAPC AND REQUEST AN AGREEMENT TO BE DRAFTED FOR REPAIR WORK AT THE CAMPBELL LIBRARY.

Council member Helms commented that there had been lots of money spent on this issue already and asked if the City would have to pay more if this did not fix the problem. Ms. Helgeson stated that a construction lawyer was involved in the process this time to make sure everything was in order in the case that this does not fix the issue. Council President Buckalew asked when this was going to be done. Ms. Helgeson said the plan was have the project completed this fall.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.
Voting Nay: None.
Absent: Leigh

10. Consider approving an agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and Northland Community and Technical College for use of a public parking lot for the truck driving program.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND NORTHLAND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR USE OF A PUBLIC PARKING LOT FOR THE TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM.

Mayor Stauss said that the trucks had been left in the parking lot overnight and how that isn't right. A short discussion followed about how the agreement stated they would be gone by certain times each day. Mr. Murphy stated that he would be contacting the college about this. Mr. Galstad added that he had witnessed them backing up and getting close to the Veteran's Monument. He suggested they are asked to practice backing up in a different area of the parking lot.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: Vetter.

Absent: Leigh

11. Consider approving the Addendum to the Joint Exercise of Peace Officer Duties Agreement between the East Grand Forks Police Department including the Pine to Prairie Task Force and regional law enforcement departments in both North Dakota and Minnesota.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE THE ADDENDUM TO THE JOINT EXERCISE OF PEACE OFFICER DUTIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EAST GRAND FORKS POLICE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE PINE TO PRAIRIE TASK FORCE AND REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS IN BOTH NORTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA.

Council member Tweten commented after seeing recent events how important it was for staff to have the proper body protection and how all of the departments should be provided with the proper equipment.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh

CLAIMS:

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-10-94 a Resolution authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 19837 for a total of \$891.91 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-10-94 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 19837 FOR A TOTAL OF \$891.91 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

13. Consider authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to issue payment of recommended bills and payroll.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Stauss informed the Council that there was a governor's debate in Moorhead on Wednesday evening and that he had a question submitted for the debate about the pond system. He added how the Council will need to work hard the next two years on this project to try and obtain additional funds for this project.

Council President Buckalew stated how the beet harvest campaign had started and with that extra truck traffic he reminded everyone to be safe.

Council Member Tweten informed the Council about how Ms. Helgeson helped out residents who were going to be taking a trip find information about where they were going and how happy they were with the help that was provided. He said how the Fire Department held an open house. He added how this event was done in an excellent manor showing our exemplary staff and good leadership.

Mr. Murphy informed the Council that he will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of next week.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 7, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:28 P.M.

Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Buckalew.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer