

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014 – 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for December 2, 2014 was called to order by Council President Buckalew at 7:00 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 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; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; 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:

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 November 18, 2014.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of November 25, 2014.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) AND TWO (2).

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

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.

3. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Application from the Whitetails Unlimited Red River Valley Deer Camp for a raffle on January 31, 2015 at the Eagles Aerie 350 227 10th St NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.
4. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Application from the Knights of Columbus Council #5341 for a raffle on April 1, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church 200 3rd St NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.
5. Consider approving the hiring of an executive assistant for the Community Development and Economic Development Offices which will be placed on Grade 10 of the pay scale.
6. Consider approving the amended and updated Economic Development Bylaws for the Economic Development Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH SIX (6).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh

Mr. Galstad commented about the EDA bylaws and said that it should state four members of the Board make up a quorum, not three. Ms. Nelson stated that she will make sure that is corrected.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

7. Regular Meeting Minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission from October 16, 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-12-107 approving the 2014 Tax Levy, Collectable in 2015.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-12-107 APPROVING THE 2014 TAX LEVY, COLLECTABLE IN 2015.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-12-108 approving the 2015 Budget and to authorize specific financial related activities.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-12-108 APPROVING THE 2015 BUDGET AND TO AUTHORIZE SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES.

Mayor Stauss informed the Council that he will veto this budget and he will come back something with a smaller increase. He said they do have the ability to override it, that taxpayers are being taxed an awful lot now, and he is concerned about keeping up the City's population.

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

Voting Nay: Helms.

Absent: Leigh.

CLAIMS:

10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 14-12-109 a Resolution authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 20347 for a total of \$349.46 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-12-109 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 20347 FOR A TOTAL OF \$349.46 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

Abstain: Buckalew.

11. 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: Olstad, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, Buckalew, and Tweten.

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Council Member Tweten stated how the department heads submit budgets that would allow for a adequate service to the residents. He commented how things have been pushed off, it will take time for the City to catch up, and added how there will be growth in the City in both residential and commercial which will enlarge the tax base. He commented how the Council had gone through the budget extensively, had discussions, and that it is dangerous for the Council to cut parts of the budget when it comes to health and safety. He added how it would be bad to cut items at the library or athletic programs. He said he knows the Mayor means well but if the Council does not override the veto they will have to use last year's budget which would impair operations to an unacceptable level. He then asked the Mayor for a date of when he might veto. Mayor Stauss stated that he would not ask the Council to reduce the levy from 10% down to nothing but he would ask for a 5% increase instead. He stated that people are being taxed in many different directions, prices are going up, and it is hard for workers who are not getting an increase in wages. He said that his first obligation is to the residents and not to the department heads for what they want. He added that he is willing not to veto if the Council will be overriding the veto or if they would like to vote on a different percentage tonight.

Council Member Grassel stated that today there was an accident at the intersection of Highway 220 and 23rd Street. He asked when the City will be putting pressure to get lights put up at this intersection and asked what the Council should do to try to make this happen. Ms. Ellis said that the crash will increase the critical crash data and see where things could go with highway safety improvements. She added that this is something the MPO should look into since the installation of traffic lights were planned for this intersection and push the State to put them in. Council member Grassel asked where this intersection ranked on the list of priorities. Ms. Ellis said it was still lower that the intersection at Highways 2 and 220 but this is still worth calling the district office.

Mr. Murphy informed the Council the EDA Board will be holding interviews for the EDA Director position on Monday and that they would be interviewing three candidates.

Mr. Galstad stated he just wanted to make a comment regarding the veto. He said that if the Mayor would veto a resolution it would be brought back to the next Council Meeting for action. He added that if they were to override the veto they would need six out of seven votes. Council President Buckalew asked if the veto is successful there would need to be a motion using a different percentage. Mr. Galstad said that if the veto was successful the Council would then have to determine a different percentage which would be a policy decision. Council President Buckalew stated that if it was a possibility if the Council votes using a different percentage if that could also be vetoed. Mr. Galstad stated that there could be another veto but action could not be taken again until the next regular meeting. Mayor Stauss said that he would be willing not to veto if they have to votes for an override or if they were willing to lower the percentage of increase. Ms. Anderson informed the Council that if they choose to go with the 5% increase \$186,148 will need to be cut from the proposed budget and the levy information has to be sent to the State no later than December 29th.

Council member Tweten asked if anyone was going to be absent at the next meeting. Council President Buckalew stated that he wasn't aware of any that was going to be gone.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 2, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:16 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer