

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015 - 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for January 6, 2015 was called to order by Council President Olstad at 5:13 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 Olstad, Council Vice President Grassel, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Mike Pokrzywinski, Craig Buckalew, Henry Tweten, and Marc DeMers.

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; 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 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.” If you would like to address the City Council, please come up to the podium to do so.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of December 16, 2014.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of December 16, 2014.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of December 23, 2014 recessed and continued on December 29, 2015.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

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 adopting Resolution No. 15-01-05 designating "C&H Insurance" as the insurance agency to handle City Policy for 2015.
5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-01-06 approving the 2015 Administrative Services Agreement with Select Account.
6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-01-07 enabling elected and/or appointed officials of the City of East Grand Forks to be covered by the Minnesota Workers Compensation Law.
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-01-08 approving the following Boards & Commission appointments and reappointments as presented by the appropriate elected officials.
8. Consider approving the application for an Exempt Gambling Permit for a raffle for Sacred Heart Church & School to be held January 24, 2015 at Sacred Heart School, 200 3rd Street NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH EIGHT (8).

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

Voting Nay: None.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:

9. Regular meeting minutes of the Economic Development/Housing Authority Board for December 2, 2014.
10. Regular meeting minutes of the Cemetery Commission for November 24, 2014.
11. Regular meeting minutes of the Library Board for October 28, 2014.
12. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for November 20, 2014.

COMMUNICATIONS:

13. Acknowledge the notice received from GSS, Inc regarding a proposed monopole communications pole to be constructed within the railroad right-of-way.

Mr. Murphy explained the City had received a letter which stated this monopole tower for communications would be placed in the railroad's right-of-way which they have complete authority of and stated they do not have to comply with city ordinances within the right-of-way. Ms. Ellis added Mr. Boyce has been in contact with the construction company for this project to make sure that utilities would not be affected. Discussion followed about the possible location of the monopole and how it at this time the City does not have jurisdiction in the railroad's right-of-way.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

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

Mr. Galstad informed the Council the language had been added which would require the State's insurance to be listed and used first. Council Vice-President Grassel asked if there had been any complaints. Mr. Murphy stated there had only been a couple from the Council and the issues had been addressed.

Voting Aye: Pokrzywinski, Buckalew, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, and DeMers.

Voting Nay: Vetter.

NEW BUSINESS:

15. Consider approving the Joint Powers Agreement for Group Employee Benefits between the City of East Grand Forks and the Northwest Service Cooperative for health insurance benefits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO APPROVE THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR GROUP EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE NORTHWEST SERVICE COOPERATIVE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS.

Council member DeMers asked what had been done in regards to the health insurance. Mr. Murphy explained how the City had shopped around and was able to get a small decrease changing to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota instead of staying with Medica and having a larger increase. Council member Vetter asked when the City became a member of the Cooperative again instead of using an insurance broker. Discussion followed about how the City does use an insurance broker, this agreement needed to be passed in order for the City employees to have health insurance, and how they will continue to use the insurance broker in the future. Ms. Knudson informed the Council that Mr. Kroeger has done an excellent job for the City, he considers how the employees are affected, and that is has even reduced his fees. Council member Vetter stated the City does not want to lose his services.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

16. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-01-09 authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 20592 for a total of \$380.91 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-01-09 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 20592 FOR A TOTAL OF \$380.91 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

Voting Aye: Vetter, Pokrzywinski, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, and DeMers.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: Buckalew.

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

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Council Member Pokrzywinski thanked Mr. Buckalew for this time and service as President of the Council. He congratulated Council President Olstad and added that it was good to be back on the Council.

Council Member Buckalew thanked the Council for letting him service as President and added that he was looking forward to the next two years. He stated how there will be hurdles to overcome but the Council is more than ready. He also thanked Mr. Stordahl and his crew for getting the streets cleaned.

Council Member Tweten thanked Mr. Buckalew for serving as President, that he had done a very good job, and handled things very well.

Council Member Olstad commented Mr. Buckalew had been a good sounding board for him, thanked everyone for serving and said there were lots of things coming up. He also asked that the Council members send him which Board or Commission they would like to serve on so he can start making those appointments.

Council Member Grassel thanked both Mr. Buckalew and Mr. Leigh for serving. He also thanked the Council for voting him as Vice-President and added he was looking forward to the future.

Council Member DeMers thanked Mr. Buckalew for his service as Council President. He stated that he had been a great role model as well as done a great service for the community. He asked to address on

how to improve the audio and visual availability of the meetings and work sessions at a future work session.

Mr. Murphy informed the Council an offer had been made to one of the candidates for the EDA Director position and he would be receiving notification very soon if the candidate agreed to the terms and accepted the position.

Mr. Galstad stated he was looking forward to working with the new council. He congratulated Mr. Murphy for being named the Grand Forks Herald's Person of the Year. He added that there had been lots of negative press and it was nice to have something positive.

Mr. Boppre congratulated to Mr. Olstad and Mr. Grassel on their new positions.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 6, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:40 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer