

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for March 10, 2015 was called to order by Council President Mark Olstad 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 Mark Olstad, Council Vice-President Chad 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; Lee Cariveau, City Engineer; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, EDA Director; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Gary Larson, Fire Chief; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.*

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

*The Council President Determined a Quorum was present*

**1. Request to File Plans & Specifications for 15AJ2 – Steve Emery**

Mr. Emery stated they were looking to file plans and specifications for this project. He reviewed the proposed budget for this project and that the funding sources were going to be from the collection of assessments as well as a portion to be paid for by the City. Council member Vetter asked what the City's portion was for. Mr. Emery explained the lots were assessed when the gravel was put in and in the past the City has never assessed the properties again when the gravel is removed for the paving project. Ms. Anderson asked if it was this project the gravel would be saved and used again. Mr. Emery stated that they would try to reutilize this gravel during the construction of the street in the Point of Woods 6<sup>th</sup> Addition. Ms. Anderson reminded the Council there was only \$34,000 in projects and the \$14,000 was not budgeted since it was thought this project was going to be 100% assessed.

This item will be referred to a City Council Meeting for action.

**2. 2015 Sidewalk Project – David Murphy**

Mr. Murphy gave an overview of the project and how the sidewalks had not continued through the driveways. Mr. Emery gave a report on how this happened. Council member DeMers asked how the driveways were not compliant. Council member Vetter asked about how the funds were used on 17<sup>th</sup>

Street. Discussion followed regarding questions that were being asked. Council President Olstad asked about the \$28,568 and where those funds would be coming from. Council member DeMers asked if there was an option not to move forward with this project. He also asked why the driveways weren't included in the original project. Mr. Emery stated it was an oversight. Council member DeMers asked if the costs should be split between the City and WSN. Council Vice-President Grassel asked to find out how much was in the state aid fund.

This item will be referred to a City Council Meeting for action.

### **3. Update on the Pool Project – David Murphy**

Mr. Murphy gave some information and introduced Mr. Dietrich. Mr. Dietrich went through and explained the report the Council had received. Mayor Stauss asked if they were going to abort the sun shelters and rock climbing. Mr. Dietrich stated the project was ready for bids. He added the project could start in May and go through October. He added they would be finalizing the project in the spring to make sure everything is working. Council member Tweten commented how there would be some danger with the rock wall. Mr. Dietrich stated if someone fell they would fall into the water. Discussion followed about the possible alternates that would be included in the bidding process and funding.

Council President Olstad stated the Save Our Pool group was going to apply for grants and raise donations for features. He added they would be looking at everything except for the slide. Mayor Stauss asked how much the Save Our Pool group has raised. Council President Olstad stated he didn't have the numbers at this time. More discussion followed about the utility and operation costs and that a pool cover is included in the alternates. Council member Tweten asked the Council members to look at the alternatives and write down what they object to. Mr. Aker added that he was working on a getting a grant from the DNR for \$100,000. Mr. Murphy reminded the Council that if they take out a loan from the Water and Light Department they will have an estimated \$120,000 for a loan payment as well as operational costs of the pool. Mayor Stauss stated they were not comfortable with it but it was needed. Council member Vetter stated if all of the funds for this project are borrowed and none were coming from grants or donations he would not support the project.

This item will be referred to a City Council Meeting for action.

### **4. COSA Update – Mark Olstad**

Council President Olstad explained the meeting with Grand Forks and what the COSA would accomplish. Council member Pokrzywinski gave his support for this and added it was more than fair. Council member DeMers wanted to specify that it would be 50% of the costs with the City paying up to \$2500. Council member Tweten commented how this is endangering matching funds from the State and that the City shouldn't waste time if they are going in another direction. Council member Vetter stated there were disagreements over the numbers. He suggested putting a committee together and have Brady Martz run the numbers. Council President Olstad stated the Council would be guessing at what the numbers are. Council member Vetter commented the COSA was just one part of the numbers. Council member Pokrzywinski asked if something similar had already been done and that he had looked at the numbers the last time he was on the Council. Council member DeMers said it would

be good to readdress the COSA because it will determine the cost of any updates to the Grand Forks system.

Mayor Stauss stated that the bonding request needs to be in earlier rather than later. He added the big problem is that the community is as confused on this issue as before. He then reviewed different situations where actions hurt East Grand Forks and is wondering if the agreement between the two cities would be honored. Council member DeMers commented that there was support from St. Paul for this project, the City might be able to get around \$5 million for the interconnect project, and if that is the case there wouldn't be much of an impact on rates. Discussion followed about if this should be brought forward at the next meeting and if a committee should be formed.

This item will be referred to a City Council Meeting for action.

#### **5. Summer Fees for 2015 – Dave Aker**

Mr. Aker explained a proposal for raising fees for summer programs. Ms. Anderson asked what the fee was for people from out of state or not from the public school district. Discussion followed about what the policy was set as, the practice that was being followed, and how the practice being followed needs to be the same as the policy that was passed by the Council.

This item will be reviewed and brought forward at a future Work Session.

#### **6. Background Screening Proposal – David Murphy**

Mr. Murphy gave an overview of the current process and what staff was proposing. Discussion followed about how the current process works and if changes are needed. Council member Pokrzywinski asked to find out who is the best. Council President Olstad asked if any other company had been contacted. Council member Vetter asked if Ms. Knudson could be certified to conduct the searches.

This item will be reviewed and brought forward at a future Work Session.

#### **7. Video Broadcasting – David Murphy**

Council member Pokrzywinski stated feedback he had gotten was that the sound was not good. He added that the sound quality should be something that is useful. Council President Olstad said he thought staff was going to be exploring different ways to move forward with this. Discussion followed about if the City should move forward with this or not and how the sound and capacity would need to be improved.

This item will be reviewed and brought forward at a future Work Session.

#### **8. Other**

Mr. Galstad brought up the flower situation. Council member Tweten stated it was fine the way it was before and to put the flowers back into the budget or to put it back in the budget for next year. Council

President Olstad asked if there were questions. Mr. Galstad brought up the Sherlock Park construction project. Council member Vetter stated that Mr. Helms needs to coordinate this project.

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 10, 2015 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:42 P.M.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

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David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer