

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 - 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 21, 2015 was called to order by Council President Mark Olstad at 5:01 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; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, EDA Director; 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.”

Dale Carlson, 1033 10th Ave SE, asked the Council what it cost the citizens of East Grand Forks to hire an outside attorney in regard to the Boardwalk issue. Mr. Murphy stated that he didn't know it the amount but could get that information to him and would get his contact information after the meeting. Mr. Carlson said he didn't need the exact amount and added that had never been published in the paper. Mr. Murphy stated it was over \$10,000.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of April 7, 2015.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of April 14, 2015.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) THROUGH TWO (2).

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.

3. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-41 approving the increase in rent for the Blue Line Club for the months of April and September to \$6000 per month.
4. Consider approving the purchase of the TORO Groundsmaster 3280-D 2WD from MTI Distributing for the amount of \$16,690.68 for the Cemetery.
5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-43 approving the plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for 2015 City Project No. 3 – Sidewalk Improvements.
6. Consider approving the Greenway Special Event Application to be used by the City for special events that would take place in the Greenway System.
7. Consider approving the promotion of Officer Greg Gahlon to the rank and position of Sergeant.
8. Consider approving the promotion of Officer AeiSSo Schrage to the rank of Sergeant.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH EIGHT (8).

Mr. Chip Shea stated he was President of the Blue Line Club and asked the Council for the reasoning for the increase in rent. He explained the Blue Line Club rents the arena to allow kids who are still participating in events to have a place to skate. He added the club originally asked the City to help with the costs but have since had made an agreement with the City for renting the arena. He said the Blue Line Club was just looking for a reasonable explanation. Mr. Aker came forward and explained the increase was to cover salaries, utilities, and supplies. Discussion followed about how much the costs for the arena have increased, that the increase would be affective for this month if approved, and that the Blue Line Club was not able to make changes to the rents for ice time. Council Vice-President Grassel asked to keep the rent at \$5000 for the month of April, review an itemized list of costs for running the arena for April, and then see if an increase is needed for September.

COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN AMENDED THE MOTION TO ONLY APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH EIGHT (8) WHICH WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW.

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 Planning Commission from February 12, 2015.
- 10. Regular Meeting Minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission from March 19, 2015 and from April 2, 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

- 11. Reconsider the adoption of Resolution No. 15-04-40 accepting donations for the East Grand Forks Flower Project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-40 ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS FLOWER PROJECT.

Council member Pokrzywinski stated he asked to bring this back after a discussion with the Mayor. He stated there was considerable support for the flower project so as a goodwill gesture and a way to move forward he would be changing his vote to allow the City to accept donations for the flower project. He added the Council will hopefully be able to avoid budget issues this year, have the Mayor engage in budget discussions, and have a budget resolution reached that can be supported by the entire Council. Council member Vetter stated his concern was if expenses exceeded donations collected and how that difference was going to be covered. Mayor Stauss said the donations would cover the costs. He added that they are looking into hiring the employees to care for the flowers that would be able to take care of flower beds as well as the planters and pots this summer.

Council member Pokrzywinski commented how the City was only going to collect donations, not be responsible for any overages, and asked if it was proper or legal to pay employees using donated funds. Mayor Stauss stated that he would personally take care of any expenses that the donated funds do not cover so the Council and City would not be held responsible. Discussion followed regarding if staff was hired they would be taking care of all of the flower beds along with the planters and pots, that the resolution did not need to be amended because it did not indicate who would be caring for the flowers, and who will be taking care for the flowers will be discussed at the next work session.

Dale Helms, 613 2nd Ave NE, commented how the flowers could have been paid for with the funds spent in attorney's fees for this issue. He continued by saying the Council will miss the Mayor when he is done. He added how the Mayor collected about 95% of the donations because he knows how to do it. Mr. Helms said if the City didn't want to take this on the Heritage Foundation has agreed to, that they were already going to care for a flower bed, there are other groups interested in helping out, and that this would be a community project. He added how they will try to make the City as beautiful as possible.

Council member Vetter stated he was glad there were other organizations to take over the flowers if the City was not able to. He added that it was his hope when the flowers were taken out of the budget that other organizations and businesses would step up. He said this shows that they are taking pride in their community which is great and that is why he was going to be voting no.

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

Voting Nay: Vetter, DeMers.

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-44 accepting and awarding the bid for the Civic Center Improvements to Schmitz Builders Inc for the amount of \$634,500.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-44 ACCEPTING AND AWARDING THE BID FOR THE CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHMITZ BUILDERS INC FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$634,500.

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

Voting Nay: None.

13. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-45 authorizing Little Bangkok to install a sign indicating their designated parking space for their delivery service.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-45 AUTHORIZING LITTLE BANGKOK TO INSTALL A SIGN INDICATING THEIR DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE FOR THEIR DELIVERY SERVICE.

Council member DeMers commented that the sign that will be put up will not mean anything and people are still able to park there. Mr. Galstad stated this issue has been brought up a few times and he has not been able to find anything that would allow for private parking on public streets but that it could be done in a parking lot. He added the only time it could be allowed would be for a government official so that is why he is able to have signs up for his office since he is the City Attorney. He explained how the police officers use these parking spaces. He continued by stating he has expressed his opinion before about this issue and how they would be able to designate a parking space on the other side since it is considered a parking lot.

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

Voting Nay: Pokrzywinski and DeMers.

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-46 declaring that the City of East Grand Forks acts as the legal sponsor for an application for the FY 2015/2016 funding to the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the trail maintenance of snowmobile trails managed by the Red River Snowmobile Club.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-46 DECLARING THAT THE

CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS ACTS AS THE LEGAL SPONSOR FOR AN APPLICATION FOR THE FY 2015/2016 FUNDING TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS MANAGED BY THE RED RIVER SNOWMOBILE CLUB.

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

Voting Nay: None.

15. Consider awarding the job of the annual sewer cleaning.

Mr. Stordahl stated he had received more information and different quotes that answered some of the questions the Council had after reviewing the first set of estimates. He gave a breakdown of the quotes and how he recommended awarding this job to Veit for the amount of \$54,290.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO AWARD THE JOB OF THE ANNUAL SEWER CLEANING TO VEIT FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$54,290.

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

Voting Nay: None.

16. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-47 authorizing the hiring of the 2015 temporary summer employees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-47 AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF THE 2015 TEMPORARY SUMMER EMPLOYEES.

Council member DeMers asked if these positions had been budgeted for. Mr. Murphy stated they were.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

17. Consider adopting Resolution No. 15-04-48 authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 21345 for a total of \$281.80 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-04-48 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 21345 FOR A TOTAL OF \$281.80 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.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, 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:

Mr. Murphy reminded the Council that he was going to Wolf Ridge and be out of the office for the week.

Mr. Aker invited the Council to the Senior Center annual meeting. He asked that if they are going to attend to call and let the Senior Center know by 10:00am. He added the meeting would be starting at 12:00pm.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 21, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:32 P.M.

Voting Aye: Vetter, Pokrzywinski, Buckalew, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, and DeMers.
Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer