

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 28, 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; 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; Megan Nelson, Executive Assistant; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.*

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

*The Council President Determined a Quorum was present*

**1. Request to File Plans & Specs for 15AJ3 Seal Coat & Mill & Overlay – Steve Emery**

Mr. Emery stated he would be asking for approval to file the plans and specifications for the street and bike path improvements. He reviewed the areas that would be including in the bidding process which included streets, parts of the bike path, and cemetery since the bids for that project because it came in very high last fall. He explained portions of the project were going to be assessed and other portions were going to be taken care of by City funds. Mr. Stordahl commented that staff may be contacting the DNR to see if they would help pay for the portion of the bike path that was located on DNR property.

Council Vice-President Grassel asked where things were at with the DNR. Mayor Stauss commented that the City had five options regarding how the campground would be run. He added that he had recently spoken with Senator Stumpf and how a solution was being worked on. Discussion followed about how the Council will proceed with the bike path improvements and that the DNR will be asked if they would help pay for the portion of the project that is located on their property. Council member DeMers asked how the bike path areas were picked as a priority. Mr. Emery stated they received direction from Mr. Aker. Council member DeMers asked that the bike paths are included along with the pavement management so repairs are done every year. Mr. Stordahl commented they had tried to identify areas and set priorities.

Council member Vetter asked why the proposed asphalt overlay in the Industrial Park was not going to be assessed. Mr. Emery explained that part of the project was recently brought forward and hadn't

gone through the assessment process which is required if something is going to be assessed. Discussion followed about who could have been assessed for the asphalt overlay in the Industrial Park, how this is a temporary fix to keep the road open, and that there is no guarantee on how long the asphalt overlay would last because of the wet conditions as well as truck traffic on the road.

Council member Pokrzywinski asked what percentage of the bike trail would be repaired with this proposed project. Mr. Emery stated he wasn't sure but that it was a small percentage. Council member Buckalew asked if legacy funds could be used to pay for the bike trails. Mr. Aker said he would be finding out on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Council member Buckalew then asked if the road in the Industrial Park should be replaced with gravel until it could be replaced. Mr. Stordahl explained he had looked into that but it wouldn't be a good idea due to the wet conditions and truck traffic. He added how it would be better to try and seal it with an overlay for right now. Council member Tweten asked what percentage the state aid streets were going to be assessed. Mr. Emery explained the current policy states properties are assessed 30% for a reconstruction of a road and that this is road maintenance so they are assessing 100% of the costs. Council member DeMers asked what funding was going to be used for the Industrial Park asphalt overlay. Mr. Stordahl stated that would be paid for out of the street maintenance funds.

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

## **2. Lee's Place Discussion – Jason Stordahl**

Mr. Stordahl informed the Council that 32 surveys had been sent out, 21 were sent back in, and 19 of the property owners would like to keep Lee's Place open. He stated Council would need to give direction on how to move forward. He reviewed they could contract out the work to remove the asphalt and replace it with crush concrete for approximately \$16,500 or Public Works staff could handle the removal of the asphalt and haul in the crush concrete for less than \$3000. Mr. Stordahl mentioned the other option that was looked at last year which included removing the asphalt and replacing it with concrete paving for \$62,000. He asked again which direction the Council would like to move forward with. Council member Tweten stated Lee's Place should have been repaired long ago, it was important to have a good surface, and not fixing this could depreciate property values. Council Vice-President Grassel asked if Public Works had the equipment to do this job. Mr. Stordahl stated they did. Council member DeMers commented he would support having staff complete this project. Council member Vetter asked that this project be taking out of the bidding process for 15AJ3. Mr. Emery stated it would. Mr. Stordahl stated he had the direction he needed.

## **3. Job Shadowing Pilot Program – Mark Olstad**

Council President Olstad told the Council that both he and Mr. Gorte had been working with Mr. Loer and Ms. Larson from the East Grand Forks Senior High on a job shadowing program. He explained there were discussions about how there had been a job shadowing program, that there is interest in bringing it back, and they were trying to determine if the students were interested. He said they are going to start a pilot program which may be expanded in the future. Council President Olstad added that there is a possibility in a couple years for the Chamber to expand the job shadowing program with the college to include the high school. He commented the benefits for doing this would be working with the high school and showing the students the opportunities they have for working right here in East Grand Forks in the future. Council member Tweten said this was a good idea and asked to include Sacred Heart. Council President Olstad said Sacred Heart already has a program in place.

Discussion followed about how this program would be for juniors and seniors and how this could help them make decisions about their future.

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

#### **4. Request to Amend Noise Ordinance – Megan Nelson**

Ms. Nelson explained the Heritage Foundation had asked the City about what they would need to do to hold a dance. She said how currently there is nothing in the ordinances that would allow for something like a conditional use permit extending the quiet hours for a public event. She added how the dance ordinance allows for dances to take place until 1:00am but nothing about being exempt from quiet hours. Mr. Galstad stated he did not agree with that. He said the dance ordinance allowing a dance until 1:00am would override the noise ordinance. He added this would be the same when the City has allowed construction work to begin before 7:00am and that the Council may want to review the noise ordinance. Ms. Nelson stated that the Block Party Permit does not exempt people from the noise ordinance and states that quiet hours start at 10:00pm. Discussion followed about supporting Heritage Day dance, that the dance will be taking place on their property, and how there can be an amendment to the noise ordinance stating a dance permit would be an exception and allow quiet hours to begin at 1:00am.

#### **5. Discussion on a Proposed Event – Megan Nelson**

Ms. Nelson explained that she had been contacted by Mr. Tim Sproul about a time trial cycling event. She stated the 10K event would start by the Frisbee golf course, go down Bygland Road, turn around close to Highway 220, and return back to the Frisbee golf course area. She informed the Council that during this event the roads would be open; the cyclists would be following traffic laws, they may be required to wear very bright colors or high visibility clothing, and how this event would need to be highly publicized so residents are aware of what was going on.

Mr. Sproul stated other routes were looked at but Bygland Road was chosen because the speed limit is close to how fast the cyclists would be going and the road is very wide. He said the turnaround would be approximately 300 feet from Highway 220, caution signs would be posted on Highway 220 notifying drivers about the time trials, and there would be a corner marshal located at the turnaround. He explained they were looking at conducting this event on four different dates, two being in June and two being in July. Ms. Nelson added they would be taking place on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30pm. Mr. Sproul also explained how there would be a separate 5K route for 12 and under on the greenway trail. Discussion followed about the application process, to consider some traffic control, and how the parking lot at the VFW could be used for overflow parking.

#### **6. Discussion on Flower Project – Mark Olstad**

Council President Olstad stated that the Heritage Foundation will be taking care of the funds for the flower project. He added that Northland Yard Service will be putting in a quote for caring for the flowers this summer. Mayor Stauss stated that \$25,345 had already been raised and that he expected more funds to be coming in. Mr. Galstad stated he had sent out the memo to the Council and that he was sorry for any confusion. Council member Buckalew asked that the flowers at the memorial are included on the list to be watered. Mayor Stauss said they would be.

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 28, 2015 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:57 P.M.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

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David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer