

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 5, 2016 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.

Bonnie Abel, Customer & Energy Service Manager; Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Dan Boyce, Water & Light Manager; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; 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 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.”

Mr. Gorte informed the Council that he, Ms. Abel, and representatives from the Economic Development Authority Board manned a booth at the Home Show that was at the Alerus Center over the past weekend. He stated that they had lots of traffic, handed out packets of information to builders and realtors, and how they had a sign made for the event which can be used at future events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of March 8, 2016.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of March 14, 2016.

3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of March 22, 2016.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

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.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

4. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for March 3, 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 16-04-36 authorizing a reduction in the sewage portion of a utility bill for Mr. Scott Richter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-04-36 AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN THE SEWAGE PORTION OF A UTILITY BILL FOR MR. SCOTT RICHTER.

COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO INCLUDE A REDUCTION OF \$78.00 FROM MS. NANCY ELLIS’S SEWAGE PORTION OF THE UTILITY BILL.

Discussion followed about how many more residents may come in for this and how this action could set policy before the Council is able to discuss and set a policy. Council member Tweten called for a vote on the amendment to the motion.

Voting Aye: Tweten.

Voting Nay: Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, Pokrzywinski, Buckalew, and Olstad.

Council President Olstad called for a vote on the original motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-04-36 AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION IN THE SEWAGE PORTION OF A UTILITY BILL FOR MR. SCOTT RICHTER.

Voting Aye: Tweten.

Voting Nay: Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, Pokrzywinski, Buckalew, and Olstad.

6. Consider approving and reaffirming the joint powers agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the other participants of the Red Lake River Corridor to support the efforts to make the area a regional park or receive a trail designation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO APPROVE AND REAFFIRM THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS OF THE RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO MAKE THE AREA A REGIONAL PARK OR RECEIVE A TRAIL DESIGNATION.

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

Voting Nay: None.

7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 16-04-37 formally supporting and authorizing the submission of an application requesting a designation as a regional park or trail for the Red Lake River Corridor.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-04-37 FORMALLY SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION REQUESTING A DESIGNATION AS A REGIONAL PARK OR TRAIL FOR THE RED LAKE RIVER CORRIDOR.

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

Voting Nay: None.

8. Consider approving the request to include the installation of a driveway to the K-8 Storm Lift Station to the bidding process of 2016 Assessment Job No. 1 – Street Improvements.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF A DRIVEWAY TO THE K-8 STORM LIFT STATION TO THE BIDDING PROCESS OF 2016 ASSESSMENT JOB NO. 1 – STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Council member Vetter commented that since this is such a small job it may be get a better bid from a contractor who does smaller jobs. Mr. Stordahl stated that this would be added as an option and that it would be removed from the project if the price is not favorable. Discussion followed about the location of the driveway and how the process had been started to obtain an easement for this driveway.

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

Voting Nay: None.

9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 16-04-38 authorizing a partial re-advancing of a loan in the amount of \$15,000 to Valley Golf.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-04-38 AUTHORIZING A PARTIAL REFUND OF A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 TO VALLEY GOLF.

Council member DeMers asked if the sole purpose of this was to pay back taxes. Mr. Gorte explained that these funds were only to be used for operating costs, not past taxes, and how there was a meeting set up to discuss the issues and items with the golf course representatives. Mr. Galstad informed the Council that in the agreement it was going to state these funds could only be used on operating expenses. Council member Vetter asked if the City was in second position. Mr. Gorte stated the City had always been in second position. Council member Vetter asked what the bank in first position had done anything to restructure any of their debt. Mr. Gorte stated not to his knowledge.

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

Voting Nay: DeMers and Vetter.

CLAIMS:

10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 16-04-39 authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Hardware Hank the goods referenced in check numbers 23797 for a total of \$922.75 whereas Council Member Buckalew is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-04-39 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM HARDWARE HANK THE GOODS REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBERS 23797 FOR A TOTAL OF \$922.75 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

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 BUCKALEW, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

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

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Stauss informed the Council representatives from the Bush Foundation will be in town next week on April 14th and that they would like to meet with the City. He stated that he couldn't make it and asked if someone from the Council would like to go instead. He told them to speak with Ms. Nelson if interested for details.

Council Member Buckalew commented that it was good to be back in Minnesota.

Council President Olstad informed the Council that he was going to be out of town the next week and would be conferencing in to the work session.

Mr. Murphy reminded that Council that both he and Council member Buckalew testified the previous week at the State Legislature in regards to the local sales tax and that it was a worthwhile trip.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 5, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:17 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer