

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 – Following the Work Session**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Special Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for September 27, 2016 was called to order by Council President Mark Olstad at 6:22 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.*

*Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Dan Boyce, Water and Light Manager; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; 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.*

1. Consider adopting Resolution No. 16-09-93 approving the 2016 tax levy collectable in 2017 for a total amount of \$4,527,998 and set the Public Budget Meeting for December 5, 2016 at 7:00pm with a continuance hearing December 20, 2016 at 7:00pm if necessary.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-09-93 APPROVING THE 2016 TAX LEVY COLLECTABLE IN 2017 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$4,527,998 AND SET THE PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING FOR DECEMBER 5, 2016 AT 7:00PM WITH A CONTINUANCE HEARING DECEMBER 20, 2016 AT 7:00PM IF NECESSARY.**

Council member Buckalew stated there had been conversations with the Valley Golf people and how they are concerned about their cash flow. He commented how the City has done a couple things to work with Valley Golf and added how both the school and county did not pass the tax abatement for the golf course. He asked what level of assistance can be given because the City does have interest in the properties around the golf course. He said he would like to open this up for discussion, if the City wanted to add a line item to the budget, or wait and see what happens.

Mr. Murphy explained that at this point the Council needs to set the preliminary levy, once set the final levy cannot be any higher but it can be lowered, and that there are some unallocated funds that could be allocated for something or it could be trimmed back before the final budget is passed in December. Discussion followed about how the Council would have the ability to create a line item for Valley Golf with a specific dollar amount and that anything done with this money would decrease the amount that was going to be added to the reserves. Council member DeMers asked if there was anything in the statutes that would allow the City to give a direct payment to an organization like Valley Golf. Mr. Galstad stated he would have to look into it.

Mr. Murphy stated that the City of New Prague was doing something like this. More discussion followed about how there already is a line item for \$30,000 for Valley Golf included in the preliminary budget and that the City of New Prague does provide assistance to its golf course as a subsidy since the golf course is on city owned property. Council member Pokrzywinski asked if that was legal. Mr. Murphy stated they had been told by their city attorney it was and that they haven't been challenged at this point. Mayor Stauss asked to check with how things are being run in Thief River Falls and Crookston. Council member Pokrzywinski asked to come up with a concrete plan which will determine the City's future relationship with the golf course.

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:32 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