

**APPROVED
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 27, 2010 was called to order by Council President Dick Grassel at 5:02 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 Dick Grassel, Council Vice President Henry Tweten, Council Members Marc DeMers, Craig Buckalew, Wayne Gregoire, Mike Pokrzywinski, and Greg Leigh.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Randy Gust, Fire Chief; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Dave Aker, Parks Superintendent; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; Erin Johnson, Accounting Technician; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; and Ron Galstad, City Attorney.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. Plans & Specifications – 2010 Assessment Job No. 1 – Paving – Laurel Drive – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre presented the Plans and Specifications for 2010 Assessment Job No. 1. He explained bid opening will be on May 25, 2010; and that Council will be asked to hold a Special Meeting on the same day – concurrent with work session – to award the bid. The final assessment roll hearing will then be on June 15.

Council Member Leigh asked what can be done about the township cart path that leads past Laurel Drive out of city limits. Mr. Galstad said he would contact the township and/or Polk County about removing the obstacles in the township road.

2. Sidewalk Ordinance – Nancy Ellis

Ms. Ellis presented a summary of options for a new sidewalk ordinance including continuing the current policy, enacting a new sidewalk ordinance, or removing sidewalk ordinances entirely. Council Member Leigh said that the Planning and Zoning Commission has been in favor of a sidewalk ordinance in new developments for at least the last six years. He said that sidewalks should be required up front as part of a new development.

Council Member Buckalew asked what could be done about existing sidewalks. Ms. Ellis replied that there are several funding possibilities for repairing and/or installing sidewalks in developed neighborhoods. Council Member DeMers expressed his support for the Planning and Zoning Commission studying alternatives including Sidewalk Improvement Districts.

Ms. Ellis also stated that state and federal funding options are moving more toward “complete streets” with multiple transportation options, including sidewalks. Mayor Stauss said that street widths should be reduced from 41 feet if sidewalks are required to save costs.

Mr. Huizenga said that he would draft a resolution for City Council approval that would direct the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop a sidewalk ordinance.

3. Transportation Enhancement Projects – Nancy Ellis

Ms. Ellis explained that the currently programmed 2011 Transportation Enhancement Project coincides with the proposed 5th Avenue NW street project, which has been delayed to 2014. Therefore, Ms. Ellis recommended that the City Council swap the 2011 and 2012 Transportation Enhancement projects on State Transportation Improvements Plan (STIP).

4. Park Access Road – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga explained that the State has Park Road Access funds dedicated to East Grand Forks from 2002 in conjunction with the campground access road project. The City must pass a resolution that asks the state to amend its procurement rules in order to receive the funding.

5. Greenway Trails – Mike Pokrzywinski

Council Member Pokrzywinski discussed the condition of the greenway trail along the Red Lake River. He encouraged the City to reapply for grant funding in the future rather than abandoning the trail altogether. Representatives from the YMCA were also present to discuss their concerns about the trail. Council Member DeMers asked for a comprehensive plan for trails in the City. Council Member Buckalew asked if there were other surfaces, for example gravel, that could be used until the trail is repaired with hard surface.

6. 1st Quarter Budget Analysis – Erin Johnson

Ms. Johnson presented the 1st Quarter analysis to the City Council. Almost all expenditure items are at or below projections for the first quarter. Some anomalies may be seen in certain revenue accounts due to their seasonal nature, such as tax collections and program fees.

7. Budget Amendment – Scott Huizenga

Mr. Huizenga presented a plan for a potential 2010 Budget Amendment in order to compensate for an additional \$200,000 cut to the Local Government Aid (LGA) program. Mr. Huizenga said that most cuts can be made through reductions in capital purchases, fuel, utilities, and charging administration to fee-supported funds. Step increases and certain capital purchases must also be made up in the 2010 budget.

Council Member Tweten reminded the City Council that the Senior Citizen Annual Meeting would take place at noon on Wednesday, April 28.

Mr. Huizenga said that he would present a resolution to the City Council to raise the speed limit on River Road to 35 miles per hour.

Mr. Huizenga also informed the Council that State Representatives Marquart, Lanning, and Lenczewski are leading an effort to extend a local-option sales tax moratorium beyond May 31, 2010, which is the current sunset date.

Council President Grassel reminded the City Council that Citywide Cleanup would be next week, May 3-7, with hazardous waste drop-off on Saturday May 1 along with “The Big Event.”

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 27, 2010 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:22 P.M.

Voting Aye: Grassel, Buckalew, Tweten, Gregoire, Leigh, Pokrzywinski, and DeMers.

Voting Nay: None.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer