

**APPROVED
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for May 11, 2010 was called to order by Council President Dick Grassel 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 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; John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent; Dave Aker, Parks Superintendent; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; Dan Boyce, Water and Light Manager; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; and Ron Galstad, City Attorney.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. Resolution from Resurrection Cemetery Commission – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker presented a resolution from the Cemetery Commission regarding the filling of a ditch on 23rd Street NW. Council Member Leigh mentioned that the Commission would like to see the project if money was available. Mr. Boppre mentioned that this project was discussed in the fall in conjunction with the 23rd Street project Phase I and II. Council Vice President Tweten said that his goal is to make the entire area attractive for development. Council President Grassel asked if the Cemetery Commission could contribute financially to the project. Council Member Gregoire responded that the Commission would rather not allocate funds for a ditch. Mr. Boppre suggested that the Council wait to see the bids on 23rd Street Phase II. Council President Grassel also asked Mr. Boppre to investigate other funding sources for the project.

2. New Columbarium at the Cemetery – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker presented the recommendation from the Cemetery Commission to purchase a new columbarium. The total cost would be approximately \$15,000. The new columbarium would be more marketable than the current columbarium due to the increased size of its niches. Council Member Gregoire said that cremations have increased to a total of 20 percent of burials. Mayor Stauss asked if the

Cemetery rates are inexpensive relative to the market. Council President Grassel suggested that the item be added to the City Council agenda for approval.

3. Proposals for Construction/Repair of 8th Ave NE & Gateway Dr – John Wachter

Mr. Wachter presented the low quote from Opp Construction for the repair of 8th Ave NE & Gateway Drive at \$10,400. Council President Grassel suggested that the item be added to the City Council agenda for approval.

4. Fire Department Pickup – Randy Gust

Mr. Huizenga presented quotes for a new pickup for the fire truck to replace a 1986 model that has had numerous mechanical issues. The quote is from the state cooperative venture; and the vehicle will likely be in service for 15-20 years. Council President Grassel suggested that the item be added to the City Council agenda for approval.

5. 3rd Ave SE Alley – Marc DeMers

Council Member DeMers asked the Council on behalf of a constituent to consider a request to connect an alley to the cul-de-sac on 3rd Avenue SE. Council President Grassel said that he opposed expanding the alley; and that EDHA could sell the lot for \$15,000-\$20,000 rather than spending \$15,000 for an alley on top of the lot. Council Vice President Tweten added that it is a good lot to consider selling, and the City could add a park. Council Member DeMers asked why there is no longer a house on the lot in question. Mr. Boppre responded that it was likely part of the Corps project buyouts that was not needed once the levee was constructed. Council Member Buckalew asked Mr. Wachter if the Public Works Department could expand the current turnaround in the alley rather than making a connection to the cul-de-sac. Council Member Leigh added that he favored expanding the turnaround and selling the lot. Mr. Huizenga said that Council would have a resolution within the next few council meetings to sell the lot.

Other Items

Mayor Stauss asked about the condition of James Avenue. Mr. Huizenga and Mr. Boppre said that they are awaiting action from the Army Corps of Engineers on the levee project loose ends, of which James Avenue is an identified project.

Mr. Huizenga informed the Council that an additional resolution would be required regarding the speed limit on River Road NW. The resolution must ask MnDOT to perform a speed study. He also said that the City is working on an energy grant to submit to the state. Mr. Huizenga then addressed the Council about a summer promotion by the Blue Moose restaurant that will require a Special Events permit. Finally, Mr. Huizenga explained that he is working on a cost share and use agreement with the school district to resurface four tennis courts at the middle school.

Council Member DeMers reminded other Council Members that the Planning Commission would be holding public hearings regarding the Comprehensive Plan update.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUCKALEW, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 11, 2010 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:57 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer