

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: September 16, 2010

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss. Council President Dick Grassel, Vice President Henry Tweten, Council Members Marc Demers, Craig Buckalew, Wayne Gregoire, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

From: Scott Huizenga

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September 21, 2010 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting

September 22, 2010 – 1 pm – League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meeting - Crookston

September 27, 2010 – Curbside Chat

September 28, 2010 – 5:00 pm – Work Session

WEEKLY UPDATE:

Sanitary Sewer Phase II

The City Engineer, the Public Works Director, and I met with Grand Forks city officials about two weeks ago to readdress a possible joint service agreement for wastewater treatment at the Grand Forks facility. The City Council last looked at this issue in the early spring. The joint venture could be a long-term alternative to the current proposal to undertake a major expansion and upgrade of the City's existing lagoon facility. Mechanical treatment could hold several advantages in the long run should future environmental regulations dictate treatment practices that are not attainable in a lagoon facility. However, any proposal also needs to be cost-effective to East Grand Forks. As such, I directed the City Engineer to continue discussions with Grand Forks officials to possibly reduce the potential costs of interconnection and long-term treatment. Grand Forks staff will discuss the progress with their City Council in upcoming committee sessions.

Health Insurance

We have begun working with our health insurance broker on renewal rates for 2011. There is much uncertainty regarding both the City's pool and the unknown long-term impacts of the federal health care overhaul. We remain hopeful that percentage increases will be in the single digits for 2011.

Lot Sales

The EDHA board held an active discussion on Tuesday regarding lot sales and the potential marketing city-owned lots. The discussion was facilitated by the pending plat of what will now be referred to as the "Coulee View Addition" (Stokes Property) along 17th Street SE. One of the initial conclusions of the discussion is that there is much stigma attached to the term "Specials," or Special Assessments. One potential marketing alternative, in addition to the [incentives](#) that the City already offers for new home development, is to offer an "all-in" price that includes Special Assessments. This strategy could be less confusing for buyers, and it could offer more

attractive financing options. We will continue to gather input from the board and from the development community to find creative ways to market and to reduce city-owned inventory.

Senior Center Pig Roast

The Annual Senior Center Pig Roast is this Sunday, September 19 from 11:00-1:00

Department Reports

I have asked the Department Heads to contribute to the *Weekly Memo* beginning with this edition. Here are their reports.

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Library fall activities have started with over 60 children from story time. Our Hora de Libros: Bilingual Spanish activities for 3-5th graders also started last week with Ms. Rhen volunteering her time. Building this project is her graduate project. The Autumn Colors Art Exhibit will open Monday, September 13 at 6:30 showing artists from the Crookston area.

The Library continues to have difficulty with a leaking roof. A thermo-imaging will be done to the roof and then an analysis of the heat loss will be done to direct the next actions of repair.

Fire Department, Chief Randy Gust

The fire department received a donation on Monday, Sept. 13th from Enbridge Corp. for \$750.00 to help with purchase of equipment for emergency response. The Tower Truck is temporarily out of service while crew repairs the down rigger cylinders.

Public Works Department, John Wachter

FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

Gowan Construction has been awarded the contract to increase pumping capacity at both the L8 (871 James Ave SE) and K1 (Valley Golf) storm lift stations. Additional pumps will be added to each lift station. Also, two gate shafts at the L8 storm lift station will be repaired. Construction on both projects is expected to start in October 2010 and be completed in November 2010.

The road repair to James Avenue is currently in the bidding process and should be awarded in October. James Avenue was damaged during the levee stabilization project.

Flood wall sill plate replacement and repair is in the bidding process. This should be awarded in October. Work on this project will begin this year. Be prepared for road construction delays throughout the city during the project.

Note: The US Army Corps of Engineers continues to manage the flood control projects, including procurement and inspection. The City's financial match is five percent.

GREEN SITE

A new gate has been ordered from Dakota Fence and should be installed next month. As you are aware of, the current gate is causing a significant amount of problems and was scheduled for replacement in the 2010 CIP.

LAFAVE PARK BOAT DOCK

The dock is inaccessible due to the rising river. As soon as the river level subsides and returns to normal the boat dock will be removed.

FLEET

The Fire Department received their new Ford 350 Quad Cab Pick-up. It is currently in the shop getting outfitted for service. The truck should be on the street next week.

The 1999 rear refuse truck #617 has been dismantled. The chassis is being prepared for the sander attachment, which should arrive in the next couple weeks.

Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker

- *September 29 is Winter Registration in the City Hall rotunda from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - they can register in the office the whole week of Sept. 27 - Oct. 1*
- *Farm Safety Day: Friday, September 24 at the VFW Arena from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm for the 4th grade of EGF, Sacred Heart and River Heights Lutheran school*
- *Bids for taking down some of the trees were awarded to Larry Skala Tree Service, he will start Monday, Sept 20*
- *Greenberg will start the VFW roof next week.*
- *The columbarium is set to be delivered next week, the concrete has been poured were it is to go.*

AGENDA ITEMS:

Consent Agenda Items include a block party permit, a new liquor license, City surplus items, and the revised employment agreement for the City Administrator. The agreement largely mirrors the previous agreement with the inclusions of the adopted Citywide Compensation Plan and the current City Health Insurance Plan.

8. The proposed resolution requests that the Legislature introduce and pass a law to ban the sale and distribution of “Spice” and other related synthetic drugs.

9. The ordinance adopting new size limitations for accessory buildings for garages and sheds is up for second reading. The ordinance will be adopted upon passage of 2nd reading and publication.

10. The other development ordinance relates to requiring sidewalks in new developments. This ordinance will also be adopted upon passage of 2nd reading and publication.