

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, September 28, 2010 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for September 28, 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:

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; Michelle French, Executive Assistant; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Randy Gust, Fire Chief; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Jerry Lucke, Finance Director; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. Bid Results – 2010 Assessment Job No. 2 – Storm Sewer Improvements – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre announced that he received three bids and would recommend rejecting all bids. He stated that the bid price is approximately \$25,000 over FS Engineering's estimate.

2. Adventure Race Wrap Up – Andy Magness

Mr. Magness gave an overview of the Adventure Race. He thanked the City Council and staff for all the support.

3. State Aid Construction & Assessment Policy - State Aid Task Force

Council Member Buckalew announced that a Task Force was appointed last fall to study State Aid construction. He announced that discussion led right into the entire assessment policy. Council Member Buckalew stated that the Task Force came up with three different scenarios. Mr. Bail stated that if all 53 miles of roads would need to be replaced today it would cost approximately \$68,907,500. The recommendation of the Task Force would be to add a monthly fee to all City parcels, a typical resident would pay \$18.75 per month which would be added to the utility bill. The zoning classification would determine the fee. Each non-state-aid parcel would be assessed 30% of the total project cost for street reconstructions. Parcels on state aid routes would not be assessed for street reconstructions. An

exemption from the fee would apply to parcels that currently have special assessments for reconstructions, not new construction, for the duration of the special assessments. This would only affect two parcels.

Mr. Galstad stated that adding the fee is debatable, however, you can do a property tax levy for infrastructure/reconstruction maintenance fund. He announced that he would need to look into this further. Council Member Leigh stated that East Grand Forks is struggling to get people to move here so he is not in favor of another monthly fee. Council Member Buckalew announced that everyone has paid for their initial street. Council Vice President Tweten stated that many people are on a fixed income and the new homeowner populations would be affected, more study is needed. Council President Grassel informed Council that his ward is full of retirees who are on a fixed income and many young families on a fixed budget. Council Member Gregoire thanked the Task Force for all of the work that has been done. Discussion occurred regarding street and maintenance bonds and the possibility of a street fund.

4. Winter Equipment Lease – John Wachter

Mr. Wachter announced that in 2009 the City went with Ziegler and had some maintenance issues.. He recommended going with Butler this year and pay by the hour. Council Member Gregoire asked Mr. Wachter if he has considered contracting snow removal out. Mr. Wachter stated that it would cost the City significantly more, however, the City does send out RFP's for snow removal in an emergency situation. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

5. Hiring New Full-Time Fire Fighter – Randy Gust

Mr. Gust announced that Mr. Voigt retired in July and would like to replace a Fireman. Mr. Gust stated that he currently has someone serving as acting Assistant Fire Chief. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

6. LaFave Multi-Use Trail – Dave Aker

Mr. Aker stated that the City of East Grand Forks has received a grant for \$95,000 to move the trail up with a 50/50 match. The current trail is normally under water. Mr. Huizenga stated that the City would have approximately \$90,000 available next year in the Greenway fund. Discussion occurred regarding the current trail. Council Member Pokrzywinski stated that we cannot maintain the old trail and build a new one. Council Member DeMers suggested adding a reclaim to the old trail. This item will be referred to City Council for action.

7. Pedestrian Signs – Wayne Gregoire

Council Member Gregoire suggested putting up pedestrian signs in the middle of the road at certain crosswalk areas. He stated that he talked to Crookston and Fosston and they go up in the Spring and down in the Fall. He would like to see a sign between Cabela's and the Riverwalk Center Mall and one on River Road. The cost is approximately \$390 each. City Council decided to try two locations next Spring.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GREGOIRE, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:44 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Leigh.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer