

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: February 4, 2011

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

From: Scott Huizenga

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 9, 2011 – CGMC – Greater Minnesota Day at the Capitol

February 12, 2011 – Winter Fest

February 15, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

February 18, 2011 – 11:45 am – Intergovernmental Retreat – Mahnomon

March 24, 2011 - Legislative Conference for Cities, Counties, Schools, and Townships

WEEKLY UPDATE:

The Weekly Memo is brief this in light of next week's activities. Next week's work session is cancelled so that a small delegation from the City can attend Greater Minnesota Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 9.

Intergovernmental Retreat

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Intergovernmental Retreat with officials from the City, Polk County, and the East Grand Forks School District on Friday, February 18 in Mahnomon. This is the primary opportunity for officials from the respective local government units to discuss current issues and potential cooperative ventures. Typically, our state representatives attend the retreat. Our national delegation has been invited as well. They will send staff persons if they are unable to attend personally.

Legislative News

The Senate passed HF 130, which was the first budget cutting bill, on a party line vote. The bill proposes cuts totaling \$1 billion primarily to local aids and credits, higher education, and subsidized health care. A conference committee has been appointed to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions. One of the primary differences is the level of unspecified cuts that the bill would obligate to the Governor. The House version includes \$200 million of unspecified cuts. The Senate version contains \$125 million.

Governor Dayton unveiled his bonding proposal this week that totals approximately \$1 billion. The proposal includes specifies approximately half of the total spending; and it leaves the rest for the Legislature to allocate, should the proposal move forward. Locally, one specific project would fund roof repair at Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks via the MnSCU allocation.