

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: March 11, 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:

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

March 22, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

March 29, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room - If Needed

April 5, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

WEEKLY UPDATE:

Downtown parking study

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is currently conducting a downtown parking study for Grand Forks. A small part of that study will be dedicated to East Grand Forks from remaining funds in the MPO's biennial work plan. The study may examine several possible parking solutions, including the proposed parking expansion project along River Street.

Campground legislation

Representative Deb Kiel has introduced HF 1030 in the state House of Representatives on behalf of the City of East Grand Forks. The bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fully reimburse the City for all expenditures related to the approximately 1200-acre expanse of the Red River State Recreational Area (RRSRA). Currently, the City is partially reimbursed for expenses related specifically to the campground portion of the RRSRA. The City remains open to amending to the current joint powers agreement with the DNR, but DNR has not been forthcoming on this option. The House could hold a hearing as early as next week; although it has not been scheduled as of the time of this memo. A copy of the legislation is attached.

GOP releases budget targets

Both the state House and Senate released their state budget targets on Thursday. Generally, the House version has somewhat deeper cuts than the Senate. Both plans cut Local Government Aid (LGA), whereas the Governor's proposal fully funds the program. The City has not received a detailed impact for East Grand Forks yet. However, one can believe with relative confidence that the proposed cuts in the House would be similar to those contained in HF 130, which the Governor vetoed early in the session. That bill would have cut \$550,000 per year for at least two years from the City of East Grand Forks.

Labor update

The Water and Light Commission reached a tentative agreement with the Teamsters Local 120 bargaining unit earlier this week. The bargaining unit voted to approve the agreement. The Commission will take action once a signed version of the agreement is returned from the Teamsters local.

New Development Ordinance

The Planning and Zoning Commission began reviewing the City's subdivision development ordinances and rules on Thursday. The commission will determine over the next several months how the City should address infrastructure improvements for new developments. The City Council often finds itself in the middle of a conflict between developers and residents regarding when full infrastructure, including street paving, should be installed in new subdivisions. The City often special assesses residents for improvements when the improvements are not installed as a condition of the final plat approval. Therefore, the City, rather than the developer, is blamed for higher lot costs and/or taxes. The charge of the Planning and Zoning Commission, through the MPO's work plan, is to craft a new subdivision policy for Council approval.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Art Energy Festival displays will be going up on Monday, March 14. The Festival Monday, March 21 from 5:30-7:30 will include a review of the popular arts—dance, food, clothing and hair styles, recreational arts (yo-yos, hula hoops, crosswords and more), literary arts (Readers Theatre, 5-word novel contests) and a live band playing music from the 20s to the current. The NW MN Arts Council and the Friends of the Campbell Library are helping to sponsor this event.

Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund

Dispatch Center Remodel Complete

The dispatch center remodeling project is complete and up and running. Our staff is fine tuning the set-up and getting used to the new systems. The redesigned center is set up to be more efficient for the dispatcher and they are better able to serve the officers working in the field and the public when they call or come in.

HVAC System

The PD Building will have its HVAC system replaced with a new high efficiency system later this Spring. The EGF City Council approved the replacement of the system at their meeting on Tuesday March 1, 2011. The new system will involve the replacement of the current outdated roof-top models with interior furnaces and heat exchangers that will save on heating and cooling costs and which should resolve some long standing heating and cooling problems in the PD Building.

EGFPD Assists Probation/Parole with Searches in EGF

EGFPD officers assisted Probation and Parole Officers with a number of probation searches in EGF on March 10, 2011. The searches, primarily related to DUI offenders, are designed to ensure that the probationers are following the requirements of their sentence and release conditions. There were no issues of note during the searches.

AGENDA ITEMS:

The first order of business on next week's Council meeting will be to appoint a new President and Vice President of the Council. Council Vice President Buckalew will open the meeting the chair.

The consent agenda includes the intergovernmental MnWARN mutual aid agreement for water and wastewater emergency services and the purchase of three mowers. Old and New Business includes the following items.

Item 6. The Council will consider the Off-Sale Liquor License of Valley Liquors, dba Hugo's Wine and Spirits. Currently, state statute and local ordinances do not limit the number of off-sale licenses issued in the City. The City Council may, at its discretion, approve or deny an application based on a legitimate governmental purpose relating to health, safety, or morals.

Item 7. The City Council may consider an appointment to the Economic Development and Housing Authority (EDHA) board to fill the unexpired term of Council President Dick Grassel.

Items 8 and 9. The Council will consider two emergency resolutions relating to spring flooding. The first declares of state of emergency for the purpose of obtaining reimbursements and procuring needed services and supplies with expediency. The second authorizes assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineers as needed. These resolutions are identical to resolutions passed in the last three years. They are advanced only as precautions.

Item 10. The Council will consider a quotation from Elk River Ford, the state purchasing bidder, for two new patrol cars. The purchase is included in the 2011 Adopted Budget.

Item 11. The Council will consider an architectural services agreement to study the persistent library roof leakage issue.

Item 12. The Council will consider the purchase of playground equipment included in the 2011 Adopted Budget.

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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **1030**

March 10, 2011

Authored by Kiel

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; requiring reimbursement for costs of the Red River
1.3 State Recreation Area.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **RED RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA.**

1.6 The commissioner of natural resources shall reimburse the city of East Grand Forks
1.7 for all the city's costs incurred in meeting the city's share of the operation and management
1.8 responsibilities of the Red River State Recreation Area, including the costs of operating,
1.9 maintaining, and otherwise meeting the city's responsibilities contained in any joint
1.10 management agreement for the recreation area.

1.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2011.