

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for March 22, 2011 was called to order by Craig Buckalew, Council President 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 Craig Buckalew, Council Vice-President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc DeMers, Henry Tweten, 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; Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Jerry Lucke, Finance Director; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. State Aid Route/Special Assessment Policy – State Aid Task Force

Mr. Huizenga gave a brief summary and recommendation from the State Aid Task Force. He stated that last Fall the Task Force recommended a flat fee of around \$18.50 per month. The new recommendation is that all state aid residents would pay a monthly fee, non-state aid residents would pay 40% of reconstruction costs along with a monthly fee. The monthly fee is calculated based on trips. A single family home would pay \$8.91 per month.

Council President Buckalew stated that the entire Special Assessment Policy needed to be looked at. Council Member Pokrzywinski announced that the state aid residents do not pay anything now, and there are no legal basis to assess a property owner for reconstruction. Council Member Tweten stated that he would like to see this worked into the budget rather than a fee. He also felt that the trip calculation was not accurate and we cannot charge a monthly fee for the new areas with new assessments. Mayor Stauss also expressed his concern of residents living on concrete roads who either paid or is paying for the more expensive street versus those who live on asphalt who requires mill/overlay on a regular basis. He stated that residents on concrete streets will not see a benefit for 20 to 30 years or more. Discussion occurred regarding 20th St. NW, 5th Ave. NW, and 15th St. NE. Mr. Galstad recommended an Attorney General's

opinion on the fee system. Council President Buckalew stated that in order to get the renters to pay, it must go on an utility bill. Mr. Boppre announced that the Task Force also recommends holding a public hearing before making a decision. City Council will revisit this item around September 1st.

2. Civic Center Locker Rooms – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre announced that he received a quote of \$450,000 based on construction costs that include architectural, mechanical, and electrical fees. This quote does not include engineering fees or any other soft costs. Mr. Boppre suggested approving the plans and specifications on April 5th, then go out for bids. He thought the total price would be approximately \$562,000. Mr. Huizenga announced that the School Board approved \$410,000 which they would only pay \$205,000. Mayor Stauss asked if it would be better to just add on to the NE addition. Mr. Huizenga suggested a small committee to meet with the School Board. Discussion continued regarding other options.

3. 3rd Ave. SE Lot Sale – Jim Richter

Mr. Richter suggested selling a buildable lot on 3rd Ave. SE in the cul-de-sac for \$25,000. Mayor Stauss suggested looking at a plan to sell the golf course lots as well.

4. Wastewater Interconnect Study – John Wachter

Mr. Wachter stated that in the event that MPCA issues further treatment mandates such as phosphorus levels, it could cost \$216,000 to \$424,000 per year to treat the 95-98 acre facility. This does not include set up costs.

5. Budget Transfers – Jerry Lucke

Mr. Lucke stated that they are similar to last years budget transfers. He stated that the cemetery fund needs a transfer this year to cover the capital outlay and higher receivables.

6. Other

Mr. Huizenga asked City Council how they would like to proceed with the interview process of the ward two vacancy. City Council would like to hold interviews for all applicants on March 29th at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 22, 2011 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 6:52 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.