

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
OF THE
EAST GRAND FORKS
CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 26, 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, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Mike Pokrzywinski, and Greg Leigh.

STAFF PRESENT

Dave Aker, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Greg Boppre, City Engineer; Nancy Ellis, Planning & Zoning; Michelle French, Executive Assistant; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Randy Gust, Fire Chief; Earl Haugen, MPO; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Scott Huizenga, City Administrator; Erin Johnson, Accounting Technician; Jim Richter, EDHA Director; and John Wachter, Public Works Superintendent.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

1. American Crystal Sugar – Lloyd Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Talley from American Crystal Sugar gave a brief update on the beet production. They stated that they anticipate finishing next week.

2. Wastewater Interconnect – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre provided a summary from the MPCA meeting and announced that the City Council will hold a public hearing on May 3rd on the Wastewater Interconnect. The City Council has three options, either do nothing, upgrade stabilization ponds, or amend the Facility Plan to include the Interconnect. Mr. Wachter announced that a new permit will be issued once a decision is made.

Discussion occurred regarding controlling rates and unknowns of the future. Mayor Stauss asked for 5 reasons why the Council should move towards the Interconnect. Mr. Huizenga stated that the upfront costs are less; future proof – if/when EPA and MPCA requires further mandates, the GF plant is better equipped to handle increased regulations than a traditional lagoon system; economies of scale – future

capital improvements and operational costs can be spread among users in both cities rather than just in EGF; staff focus – EGF’s limited waste water staff can focus almost exclusively on collection; and land use – if the waste water lagoons are decommissioned, the City can reclaim the land and sell/lease prime agricultural property.

3. Civic Center – Greg Boppre

Mr. Boppre announced that there is no new news regarding the Civic Center improvements. Mayor Stauss suggested putting away funds until the project can be funded.

4. Downtown Parking Lot Study – Earl Haugen

Mr. Haugen gave a brief presentation on the downtown parking study. He stated that the downtown showed that there is enough parking available and enforcement is an issue as they found employees parking in two-hour parking spots. He provided the following recommendations – signage, marketing, enforcement, pedestrian walkways, and staff parking must be assigned.

Mr. Richter suggested to City Council adding parking downtown adjacent to the Boardwalk area. He stated that there is enough parking available, but not enough convenient parking. Mr. Wachter announced that the City needs Corp approval before putting anything on the wet side of the levee. Council Vice-President Gregoire stated that as a business owner, he takes care of his own parking lot. Council Member DeMers felt that maybe the downtown parking is the envy of any other downtown.

5. 1st Quarter Analysis – Erin Johnson

Mr. Huizenga announced that he is overall satisfied with both revenues and expenses. He stated that he is concerned on what LGA is going to do. Mr. Huizenga did announced that snow removal is higher. Council Member Pokrzywinski complimented everyone in the Finance office who provided this document along with the Department Heads who are staying within budget. Council Member DeMers stated that he would like to add expenses by category.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEIGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 26, 2011 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:10 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Scott Huizenga, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer