

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** May 27, 2011

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

**From:** Scott Huizenga

**RE:** Weekly Update

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*June 7, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*June 14, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

*June 21, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*June 28, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **Sherlock Park Fire**

The Sherlock Park playground was reported on fire at approximately 7:30 Friday morning. The playground equipment will likely be a total loss. The suspicious fire is under investigation at the time of this memo. The playground is insured; and it will be rebuilt as soon as possible.

### **Legislative Update**

The state legislature adjourned on Monday without an adopted budget. Therefore, state and local agencies can do little but wait until the Governor calls a special session. A state shutdown can occur if there is no adopted budget by July 1, which is the start of the new state fiscal year. Most state experts agree that the Governor is not inclined to convene a special session until a budget agreement is reached with legislative leaders. Typically, the first of two Local Government Aid (LGA) payments is made in July. A state shutdown would likely affect the first payment.

The conference committee reports from the legislature included cuts to LGA and an extension of levy limits for two years. The conference committee removed a provision that would have eliminated the Disparity Reduction Credit (DRC) that helps border communities including East Grand Forks.

### **Lot Sales**

The EDHA board this week took up the issue of lot sales with specific attention to the Water's Edge (golf course) development. The EDHA Executive Director has proposed a plan to market the lots based on one complete lot price, including special assessments. Richter is also meeting with the Board of Realtors to discuss placing the lots again on the region's Multiple Listing Service (MLS).

### **Wellness Program**

The City's wellness committee, chaired by HR Generalist Terry Knudson has met several times to roll out a citywide wellness program. Already, the committee has purchase several wellness

guides and exercise equipment through a grant from the Statewide Health Insurance Program (SHIP), which is administered locally by Polk County Health. The wellness committee will also sponsor wellness activities such as group walk/runs, weight loss contests, and cessation programs.

### **Campground**

I expect a final draft late this week or early next week for a new agreement to operate the Red River State Recreational Area (RRSRA) campground. Mayor Stauss, Dave Aker, and I met with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Regional Parks Manager this week. We reached a tentative agreement on the final language subject to approval from state officials and the City Council.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **Library, Charlotte Helgeson**

Campbell's Corner began airing this week on 90.1 FM from Thief River Falls for its first regular broadcast about the events and programming at the library. Authors and presenters will be interviewed, schedules will be shared and patrons will be encouraged to get involved in the library.

### **Fire Department, Chief Randy Gust**

FEMA has added Polk County to the emergency flood declaration for the Red River Valley on 5/24/2011. We will have an informational meeting in Crookston on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. At this time they will tell us what we can expect from FEMA and the MN Emergency Management. As a side note Jerry Lucke stated that he is still waiting on payments from the State from 2009.

The Fire Department was to have live burn training on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, but has canceled this training due to labor and budgetary issues. We will reschedule this training for next summer.

We are in the process of having HAZ-MAT (Chlorine and Ammonia) training for our fulltime personnel along with members of Thief River Falls Water Treatment Plant and Firefighters in conjunction with MMUA.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**There will be no council meeting on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Council will meet in regular session on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.**