

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, September 4, 2018 was called to order by Council President Olstad 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 Steve Gander, Council President Mark Olstad, Council Vice President Chad Grassel, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Mike Pokrzywinski, Tim Riopelle, Henry Tweten, and Marc DeMers.*

*Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Gary Larson, Fire Chief; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Keith Mykleseth, Water & Light Manager; Megan Nelson, City Clerk; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.*

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

*The Council President determined a quorum was present.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**OPEN FORUM:**

*“An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring Council action maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate.” If you would like to address the City Council, please come up to the podium to do so.”*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of August 14, 2018.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of August 21, 2018.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of August 21, 2018.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) THROUGH THREE (3).**

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

**SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE**

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**

**CONSENT AGENDA: NONE**

*Items under the "Consent Agenda" will be adopted with one motion; however, council members may request individual items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and action if they choose.*

**ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:**

**NONE**

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

4. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-09-53 approving a reimbursement to Elliot Knutson for \$1,500 for the additional cost for an installation of a driveway required by City Code.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-09-53 APPROVING A REIMBURSEMENT TO ELLIOT KNUTSON FOR \$1,500 FOR THE ADDITIONAL COST FOR AN INSTALLATION OF A DRIVEWAY REQUIRED BY CITY CODE.**

*Voting Aye: Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: Riopelle.*

5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-09-54 appointing Dennis Bona to the Library Board.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-09-54 APPOINTING DENNIS BONA TO THE LIBRARY BOARD.**

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-09-55 adopting the revised assessment roll 339 for 2015 Assessment Job No. 2 – Paving in Point of Woods 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Additions for a total assessment of \$304,850.19.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-09-55 ADOPTING THE REVISED ASSESSMENT ROLL 339 FOR 2015 ASSESSMENT JOB NO. 2 – PAVING IN POINT OF**

**WOODS 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> ADDITIONS FOR A TOTAL ASSESSMENT OF \$304,850.19.**

Council member Pokrzywinski stated he had given this item a lot of thought over the weekend, he was initially going to support it, but after thinking back over the phone calls he received from people who were paying their own specials that opposed this subsidy and think it is an injustice to also have to help pay for a subsidy for another development he changed his mind. He said again he supported this subsidy in the beginning but this is an opportunity to give a small consolation to those who thought this was an injustice and allow the Council to do the right thing to do so he will be voting no. Council Vice-President Grassel reminded the Council he had gone on record saying he was not going to support this, thought about it, and how the Council had voted on paying the \$25,000 so therefore he will be supporting this. He added he is not happy about it but it is how he currently feels about this item.

Mayor Gander commented all of the residents that are affected by the development went into this agreement in good faith with the City. He said the funds were for the portion of road that connects to Laurel Drive that should have been an end benefit to those living on Laurel Drive. He stated everyone did what they did with the City adding in \$25,000 and people along Laurel Drive voluntarily accepting an assessment on their properties. He added he didn't feel right for the City to take the full discount to reduce the \$25,000 with some of these properties having over \$50,000 in special assessments as well as the fact they all acted in good faith. He said he didn't think the City would be acting in good faith in reducing the City's portion for this project. Council member DeMers disagreed because the City never set a specific amount to pay for this project. He stated the special assessments on these properties are high but would be defensible in court because of the costs are well within the market for the size of lots in this development. He commented how it was said the City owes the property owners out here, there was no real clarification on why, and how this doesn't do anything for anyone else in the City outside of this development. He added if they take this money back everyone is affected. He stated he was not going to vote for this and the City had paid too much already.

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, and Grassel.*

*Voting Nay: DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-09-56 approving the proposal from Widseth Smith Nolting for replatting city properties for a total of \$80,000 over an eight year period.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-09-56 APPROVING THE PROPOSAL FROM WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING FOR REPLATTING CITY PROPERTIES FOR A TOTAL OF \$80,000 OVER AN EIGHT YEAR PERIOD.**

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

**CLAIMS:**

8. Consider authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to issue payment of recommended bills and payroll.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER**

**TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.**

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:**

Mayor Gander said there has been a fair amount said about the relationship between the City and the Air Force Base which has developed over the years. He commented how both he and Mr. Galstad recently had attended an event where they were able to meet the Secretary of the Air Force along with others. He informed the Council that he had received a last minute invite for a Facebook Live event with Chief Master Sergeant Brian Thomas which he will be participating in which will be starting at 6pm on Wednesday evening from the Blue Moose. He added how people from the Base do like to live in East Grand Forks, how they will discuss what the City has to offer, and how the Base is developing a relationship with Northland Community and Technical College. He stated how Grand Forks has a great working relationship with the Air Base, the City should try to partner with them to improve the quality of life for the airmen, and how this event might help inform others that might be stationed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base an idea of what life is like here.

Council Member DeMers said he saw Chief Hedlund helping the kids crossing Bygland Road for school. He commented it was good to see the Police Department this way, how this portrays the department if a good way, this is something that has been done in the past, and how it maybe could be done more frequently than just the first day of school.

Council Vice-President Grassel thanked both Chief Hedlund and Chief Larson for having staff at all schools, out on the corners watching, and checking in with the school a few times which was much appreciated. He added how with over 400 kids going to the first day of school things went rather smoothly.

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:13 P.M.**

*Voting Aye: Riopelle, Tweten, Olstad, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, and Pokrzywinski.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

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David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer