

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018 – 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, December 4, 2018 was called to order by Council President Olstad at 6:00 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 (6:48pm), and Marc DeMers.

Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Brad Bail, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; Gary Larson, Fire Chief; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Keith Mykleseth, Water & Light Manager; and Megan Nelson, City Clerk.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council President determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SWEARING IN OF OFFICER MUSHITZ:

Chief Hedlund introduced Officer Mushitz to the City Council and informed them he had started the previous week and this was his first week in uniform. He then sworn in Officer Mushitz followed by the Council applauding.

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 “Special Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of November 13, 2018.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of November 13, 2018.

3. Consider approving the minute summary of the “Closed Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of November 13, 2018.
4. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of November 20, 2018.
5. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of November 27, 2018.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) THROUGH FIVE (5).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Tweten.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

6. Public Hearing for the consideration of a 5%, 5.5%, or 6% increase to the tax levy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Tweten.

Mr. Murphy reminded everyone the preliminary levy was set at 10%, this hearing was for the public to make comments about the levy, and the Council will consider setting the final levy which then will be submitted to the County. He stated staff is looking at and recommending the adoption of a 5.5% increase to the levy which will be a reduction from the 10% preliminary levy. He added he would take any comments or questions after the public hearing. Council President Olstad asked those that wanted to address the Council to come forward to the podium and state their name and address for the record. No one came forward.

Mr. Murphy told the Council that there was a letter addressed to the City regarding the proposed property taxes from Melford and Elmeda Johnson. He read the letter into recording which asked for a reduction in taxes, a change in classification to reduce the land value, and how the City and Economic Development Authority has not helped try to promote development of their property. Mayor Gander said this letter was based on valuation which is something for another day, they were there to discuss the levy for the City, and any questions about valuation should have been addressed when the property owner had received the information about their valuation earlier in the year. Council member DeMers asked when the City receives these kinds of letters if staff would reach out to these individuals and inform them what this meeting is for. Mr. Murphy said that is what happens. Council President Olstad asked again if there was anyone who wanted to come up and address the Council.

Mr. Enrique Gutierrez, 706 12th St NW, said he wasn't sure what was going on, he had seen the notice about the meeting regarding the proposed levy increase, and he wasn't sure where to go to read up on the changes and the need to raise taxes. Mr. Murphy explained each year the City has to certify the property tax statement amount and if there is an increase a public hearing is required. He stated this year the preliminary levy was set at 10% more than last year, they are looking for public comment on this, and staff is asking the levy to be lowered from 10% down to a 5.5% increase. He said this will set what the amount of property tax will be collected from the properties in the City, but it also depends on a home's valuation and homestead credit. He added what they are discussing tonight was the City's portion of the taxes. Mr. Gutierrez asked what the increases were for. Mr. Murphy said the increases were for a couple things including to cover the cut in local government aid of about \$80,000 in 2019, the cost of doing business increased, and the major costs for the City each year are for labor and wages. Mr. Gutierrez asked if that meant city workers. Mr. Murphy said that was correct and asked him to meet with him after the meeting so he could get some information and talk further about property taxes.

Council President Olstad asked if there was anyone else that wanted to come up and address the Council. There were none.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Tweten.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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.

7. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Red River Valley Pheasants Forever Organization to hold a raffle on April 29, 2019 at the Eagles Club #350 located at 227 10th St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30 day waiting period.
8. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Sacred Heart Church and School to hold a raffle on May 4, 2018 at Sacred Heart located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30 day waiting period.
9. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Whitetails Unlimited Red River Valley Deer Camp Organization to hold a raffle on January 26, 2019 at the Eagles Club #350 located at 227 10th St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30 day waiting period.
10. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Knights of Columbus Council #5341 to hold a raffle on April 1, 2019 at the Sacred Heart Church located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30 day waiting period.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS SEVEN (7) THROUGH TEN (10).

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

Voting Nay: None.
Absent: Tweten.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:**NONE****COMMUNICATIONS: NONE****OLD BUSINESS: NONE****NEW BUSINESS:**

11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-77__ approving a ___ percent increase to the 2018 tax levy.

Mr. Murphy said he would take any questions from the Council. He stated that it appears labor costs will be coming down slightly which is a change from the last time they met which would result in a lowering of the levy so he recommended the Council approve the 5.5% increase over last year which will allow for the items discussed during the last meeting to be purchased, the inclusion of the Park and Recreation position, leave approximately \$100 over expenses, and maintain the fund balance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-77B APPROVING A 5.5 PERCENT INCREASE TO THE 2018 TAX LEVY.

Council President Olstad asked if there were any questions or discussion. Council member DeMers said Mr. Murphy was going to have a recommendation to reduce the levy by another half of percent. Mr. Murphy explained at this point if the Council wanted to reduce this from 5.5% to 5% they should decrease the funds for the library budget. Discussion followed about how there would be a reduction to the library but would keep the position for the Parks Department, the decrease of a half percent is approximately \$25,000, and how the direct impact to the library could be different possibilities that include eliminating a part time position, decreasing a full time position to 32 hours per week, and cutting back the number of hours they are open. Council member DeMers asked without cutting if this would keep things at status quo. Ms. Helgeson said there was already a decrease to get to the 5.5% which including cut backs on training, traveling for training, and cutting back on local matches for program dollars. Council member DeMers thanked Ms. Helgeson for the information because he was trying to see where things would end up at with the cuts.

Council member DeMers asked what had been budgeted for the additional staff person for the Parks Department. Ms. Anderson said \$62,092 had been budgeted for that position which was an estimate, the position still needed to be pointed, and this was the best guess at this time. Council member DeMers stated that if the library budget was kept where it is at without any additional cuts and the Parks position wasn't filled they could lower the levy to a 4.5% levy increase. Ms. Anderson said that would be correct and reminded the Council the revenue had been increased in the Parks Department to help pay for the position. Council member DeMers added part of the reason for the increase was because the City has been undercharging on fees. He stated he can't vote right now to add positions, he doesn't think that is what people want, or that this position has been thought out enough to provide maximum benefit. He commented this isn't the time staff should be added and adding positions drives the budget up.

Council member Vetter said he doesn't doubt the need for more staff in the Parks Department because he has come into City Hall a number of times and that office has been closed so there is no one available to help residents which concerns him. He added that when Ms. Hadden retired there was a plan to help the Parks office and it was never implemented. He stated that until that plan is implemented and tried he will not be voting to hire an additional person for the Parks office. Mayor Gander commented how there are many moving parts to this budget and he thanked the financial staff, Ms. Anderson, and Mr. Murphy for the work they had done on this. He stated he feels this has been extremely productive especially with the 2% loss of local government aid the remainder of the increase is 3% or 3.5% which is great. He added how things have been trimmed down, he likes the discussion, and he will wait to hear the rest of the conversation because this is not cut and dry. He thanked everyone again for getting this put together.

Mr. Huttunen told the Council they had discussed this at length at some of the work sessions but he wanted to state again the importance of filling the position in the Parks Department. He explained one big reason for the fee increases is they were trying to provide what they feel as a department and commission on what is needed to move forward. He stated how there had been many conversations about adding additional programming and the only way to accomplish that is for someone to help with administrative duties in the office and help put together programming. He said there was about two and a half hours that day the window was closed and that is something that happens on a regular basis because both he and Mr. Dragich were needed elsewhere. He commented how part of this position would help keep the office open, another would be to help with the administrative duties in the office, and the biggest one is additional programming. He said again how important this position would be for the Parks Department and he hoped the Council would support it.

Council member Pokrzywinski said he spoke at length regarding this item at the last work session, he hadn't changed his mind, and it is inexcusable to have a Parks Department where the window is closed because staff isn't available. He stated management shouldn't be doing some of the administrative duties, the Council hasn't fulfilled their obligation to find a way to give the additional help through creative efficiencies, but that doesn't mean that can't be done after this position is in place. He commented the two departments the Council is considering cutting are quality of life departments, the City has an excellent library, and to cut hours or staff from the library would be a huge mistake. He added the Park and Recreation Department is another department that adds to the quality of life, this department had made strides in the last few years, and with additional staff and revenue from fees they will surpass what is expected because of the elevation of the level of service, marketing, and smart management. He stated he will vote for 5.5% and not on anything less.

Mr. Murphy apologized to Council member Vetter about the lack of communication regarding this position. He explained when the study was done the position that was looked at for filling was for a clerical role and the position they are looking to fill at this time is would help elevate the service provided to include non-athletic activities. He said the needs for this position had changed. Council Vice-President Grassel commented about the history of what the levy had been set at in the last several years with a decrease, some small increases, and a couple very large increases, vetos, and overriding vetos. He stated he can't agree more with Council member Pokrzywinski and Mayor Gander, they have gotten to a good spot, the fund balance is good, and it's a slap in the face to the department heads who have gotten things to where they are now. He told the Council that he would not vote for anything less than the 5.5%.

Council President Olstad said he had talked with Mr. Murphy about the Senior Center helping out in the Park and Recreation Department and after reviewing what would be required it was determined it would not work. He added he appreciated staff looking at different options and what he doesn't want to see are

these programs or departments to be hurt any more than they already are. He thanked Mr. Dragich and Mr. Huttunen for what they have been able to do so far and getting things back on track to improve the quality of life for citizens. He added how Mr. Huttunen wants to be able to do more to help improve the wellness of the City and he applauds those efforts. He stated he would support the levy at 5.5%, he appreciates the work that was put into getting things to this point, and Mr. Murphy's recommendation is where things need to be.

Council member DeMers said he agrees that everyone has done a lot over the course of many years to get things where they are today and he hopes no one sees a suggestion as a slap in the face on where things need to be. He stated to clarify the Mayor had suggested to stay at or slightly above the rate of inflation, that is a goal, there are many factors that go into it, and the biggest portion of the budget every year is wages and benefits which compounds each year. He said if they were going to be honest about budgeting in the future the most detrimental thing to do is add to wages and benefits every year. He added they have been lucky that staff has been accepting of modest increases, health insurance increases have been very low, and those two variables among others can change very rapidly. He stated it's not about the money today but in future years with adding positions without doing anything there is already an increase to the next year's budget. He said he didn't like what was included with the 5.5% and if that position wasn't included without making any other changes the levy could be set at 4.5%. He added again they could add services with another person, asked who would be watching the window when they are out, and the administrative part of things should be addressed City wide without just having to add people.

Council Vice-President Grassel said at one meeting he made three motions to cut four positions, then three positions, and then two positions without getting a second. He added when they know what people want in this community, they don't want things to be subpar, he understands the point Council member DeMers was making, and if that was the case there would be more than five new faces in the crowd. Council member DeMers said 5%, 5.5%, or 6% isn't out of line but when it comes time to cut it won't be positions and will only be done through attrition. He added these are the type of expenditures that cost the most and least likely to be rolled back. Council member Pokrzywinski said the discussion has been about adding a position but this would be filling a vacancy that has been vacant for a few years. He stated the consequences for leaving it vacant are that when people come up to the window no one is there so service has suffered. Council member Riopelle said this position could be cost saving in other areas because the job description is much broader than before so this person can fill in positions that would usually be filled by a part time employee so there should be some savings.

Council member Vetter said he agreed with Council Vice-President Grassel and how citizens want there to be staff that provides ultimate service. He stated how he is approached many times asking how many breaks employees get, it's the Council's responsibility to make sure they are efficient with employees, and they need to try to combine positions that do not have enough duties to fill an eight hour day before hiring additional staff. He added if they combine positions and alleviate some of the administrative duties this could allow them time to work on new programming. He stated again he can't support adding another position without trying something else first. Mayor Gander told the Council there had been a discussion about sharing a person between Public Works and the Park and Recreation Department. He said Mr. Stordahl invited them to come out and see how busy the administrative assistant was at Public Works. He added they thought of other ways to pull staff from other departments to help with Park and Recreation and up to this point they have not been able to come up with something. He said they will keep looking and it might include outsourcing. He explained they are continuously working on streamlining processes and becoming more efficient so the City is able to give the best service to the residents for what they pay. Council President Olstad asked if there was anything else. There were no other questions or comments.

Voting Aye: Pokrzywinski, Riopelle, Olstad, and Grassel.

Voting Nay: Vetter and DeMers.

Absent: Tweten.

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-78 approving the 2019 budget and to authorize specific financial related activities.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-78 APPROVING THE 2019 BUDGET AND TO AUTHORIZE SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES.

Voting Aye: Pokrzywinski, Riopelle, Olstad, Grassel, and DeMers.

Voting Nay: Vetter.

Absent: Tweten.

13. Consider approving the agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the Anne Carlsen Center allowing the Anne Carlson Center for use of the VFW Arena for the iCanBike Camp event that will be taking place from July 15-19 with the City waiving the rental fee for this event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE ANNE CARLSEN CENTER ALLOWING THE ANNE CARLSON CENTER FOR USE OF THE VFW ARENA FOR THE ICANBIKE CAMP EVENT THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE FROM JULY 15-19 WITH THE CITY WAIVING THE RENTAL FEE FOR THIS EVENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Tweten.

14. Consider approving the purchase of a 2011 Polaris Ranger from Revolutions Power Sports for a total of \$5,134 for the Parks and Recreation Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2011 POLARIS RANGER FROM REVOLUTIONS POWER SPORTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$5,134 FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Tweten.

15. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-79 updating the fee schedule for the Parks and Recreation Department which will take effect in 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-79 UPDATING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL TAKE

EFFECT IN 2019.

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

Voting Nay: None.

16. Consider approving the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet Suburban from Rydell Chevrolet for a total of \$43,363 along with outfitting the vehicle and stripping the vehicle for \$9,635 for a total on this project not to exceed \$52,998 for the Fire Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN FROM RYDELL CHEVROLET FOR A TOTAL OF \$43,363 ALONG WITH OUTFITTING THE VEHICLE AND STRIPPING THE VEHICLE FOR \$9,635 FOR A TOTAL ON THIS PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$52,998 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

17. Consider approving the purchase of the Stalker MC 360 Message Trailer from Stalker Radar for a total of \$15,498.00 to be utilized by both the Police Department and the Public Works Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE STALKER MC 360 MESSAGE TRAILER FROM STALKER RADAR FOR A TOTAL OF \$15,498.00 TO BE UTILIZED BY BOTH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

18. Consider adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of East Grand Forks and the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local No. 152 establishing the position of Corporal and approve the promotional process for filling the Corporal positions.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES LOCAL NO. 152 ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF CORPORAL AND APPROVE THE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS FOR FILLING THE CORPORAL POSITIONS.

Council member Vetter asked if these costs were included in the budget that was just approved. Chief Hedlund said that was correct. Council member DeMers commented more could have been cut from the budget and asked if there was an urgency to approve this. Chief Hedlund said there was, there was a number of reasons he wanted this in place, one being that senior officers are not always the most qualified to serve as acting sergeant, and currently they are ones who take the place of the sergeant when the sergeant is out. He stated it was his opinion they would be better off having this corporal process and having an officer designated to be acting sergeant. Council member DeMers asked if there was specific contract language stating that position had to be appointed to the most senior officer. Chief Hedlund said that was the original contract language, the Council had approved an MOU this past summer that allowed him to

appoint a junior officer over a senior officer which is in place, it is his opinion it is an antiquated way to take care of this situation, and is not the best for the employees because it could be seen as degrading. He added with everyone going through the promotional process they all have a fair chance at the position. Council member DeMers said there was still the potential of a junior officer getting the position and asked if that would still be degrading. Chief Hedlund said not necessarily because it is going to the most qualified and it is the same when it comes to the sergeant promotional process. He added he feels this is the right thing to do for the employees.

Council member DeMers asked if the corporal position will have additional duties. Chief Hedlund explained they would be the acting sergeant, the corporals would be trained to use the alcohol breath testing device, and they would be responsible for entering data that requires special clearance in the system. Council member DeMers asked if that was something they did on a daily basis or just when they were working out of rank. Chief Hedlund stated the sergeant may ask them to handle some of these duties during a shift. Council member DeMers asked if this was pointed. Chief Hedlund said it wasn't. Council member DeMers asked if it could be the same grade. Chief Hedlund said that may be the case, with the new pay plan patrol officers will be placed at a grade 15, and they made the assumption the corporal position would be placed on a grade 16 with additional duties. Council member DeMers said it seems to him they are throwing money at this problem. Chief Hedlund said there was more to it than, he had been able to explain the situation to some of the Council, and there were things he does not want to share in a public forum. Council member DeMers asked where this will end, how management should make a decision, and stick to it.

Council member Tweten said the Chief has done a good job and asked to move this on. Mayor Gander said the Chief was before the Council as a show of good faith, how he and Chief Hedlund had spoken about this item, this had been discussed before, it was included in the budget, and how it needed to be brought forward again to make sure everyone is aware this was being asked for. He stated that right now the officers don't know when they show up what might be required of them during their shift and having this position everyone will know. He added that the second benefit is this is setting up the framework, possibly a grooming process for the next step into sergeant, and this might help with retention of younger officers. He stated the Chief convinced him this is a good use of funds and create framework so the officers know what is expected of them.

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

Voting Nay: DeMers.

CLAIMS:

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

Council member Vetter apologized he didn't ask for this sooner but there was a check for petty cash for over \$12,000 and said there shouldn't be a petty cash account for \$15,000. Ms. Nelson stated election judges were paid from petty cash, funds were transferred in which will be reimbursed from the election budget, and the fund will be put back down to \$2,500.

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander told the Council that on December 15th he and Mayor Brown will both be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at different locations and will have a bit of competition to see who can raise more. He added he will be at Cabela's from 11:30 to 1:30. He also informed the Council that on December 18th from 3-5 there will an open house to say thanks to Council members Pokrzywinski and Tweten who will be stepping down from the Council and how one of them may be back in a few years.

Council Member Pokrzywinski said he was delighted to hear that Council member Tweten would be considering coming back to the Council in a few years.

Council Member Riopelle informed the Council he had the opportunity to meet Governor-Elect Tim Walz in Crookston over the weekend. He thanked Mr. Mykleseth for attending as well. He stated that Mr. Walz is in favor of increasing local government aid funding and that Mayor Gander will need to testify so the formula can be corrected for the City. He continued saying Mr. Walz supports the funding to combat the drug epidemic but he doesn't have a set plan on how to address that, he spoke about immigration, and how there has been a great injustice done by certain organizations bringing over immigrants and setting the up to fail which is something he will try to address with the federal government. He stated the governor-elect has his work is cut out for him because Minnesota is the only State that has the House and Senate represented by two different parties. He added that when he shook hands with Mr. Walz he asked him not to forget East Grand Forks and Mr. Walz informed him he spent time in the City during the flood as a part of the National Guard. He said both Representative Kiel and Senator Johnson were present, he spoke with them, and they will be working for the City. He ended by saying good bye to Number 41, President George H.W. Bush who was going to be laid to rest the following day.

Council Member Tweten said the city delegation that goes down to the Legislature each year can do more to help change the direction for the City. He stated the new governor wants to make the State work which will benefit everyone, he hopes he is invited to travel with the delegation that goes down, and this is a time to get things in order. He commented how the new governor likes to build new highways and bridges, how he should be invited up to be shown the tech school, and show him possible bridge locations. He suggested that the North Dakota Governor be invited up so they can meet and make a deal. He added that when the delegation goes down to St. Paul they represent the city and it is non-partisan when talking to the legislators. He said he would like to see new members go down or have council members go down at least once during their term. He stated he had been involved with city government for many year and state government along many different things. He thanked the citizens of East Grand Forks for the opportunity to serve. He stated that he will continue to help the City as much as he can for as long as he can.

Council Vice-President Grassel thanked both Council members Pokrzywinski and Tweten for their service to the city, especially Mr. Tweten because he has been around a long time and he is still trying to find the first piece of gravel he put down when starting East Grand Forks. He added he appreciates everything Mr. Tweten has done for the City over the years.

Mr. Murphy informed the Council he will be out on vacation for a couple days in mid-January.

Mr. Galstad thanked Council member Tweten for everything he had done.

Mr. Bail said he was filling in for Mr. Emery and thanked Council members Pokrzywinski and Tweten for working with them over the years.

Mr. Galstad also thanked Council member Pokrzywinski for his time spent as a council member.

Ms. Anderson thanked the Council for their support and help with the levy and budget and how this is the earliest it had been done.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 4, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 7:11 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer