

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, December 18, 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; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Megan Nelson, City Clerk; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council President determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS MIKE POKRZYWINSKI AND HENRY TWETEN:

Mayor Gander stated he would like to make a few comments and said how in 1962 he celebrated his first birthday and it was the first year Mr. Tweten served on City Council. He continued saying Mr. Tweten was born in 1923, graduated from high school in 1941, and served in General George S. Patton's Third Army most of the time as an infantry platoon leader. He stated Mr. Tweten was wounded by being shot in the kneecap during battle and behind enemy lines. He added Mr. Tweten received a Purple Heart along with a Silver Star medal for gallantry. He stated Mr. Tweten finished law school in 1951, he completed many projects while serving for six years on the Council in the 1960s, he practiced law for 68 years, and became involved in the Minnesota Democratic party, which formed connections to St. Paul that still help serve our community. Mayor Gander stated during the last 18 years Mr. Tweten had been on Council the City went from flood recovery, to reconstruction, to planning for the future and he has been involved every step of the way. He added Mr. Tweten has promised to help the City as long as he is able. Mayor Gander ended by thanking Mr. Tweten for his many years of service and asked if he had anything he would like to say.

Council member Tweten told the group he has been involved since the summer of 1953 when he headed up a group of people to get a new grade school. He stated it was controversial at the time but people were determined to get it done. He explained they went further having a master plan completed for a coordinated school system, this situation created his interest in AVTIs, and this began his push for having an AVTI located in East Grand Forks. He explained the process they went through to get the AVTI, the City received help from Governor Wendie Anderson for the first part of the school, and the City received

help from Senator Roger Moe and Governor Rudy Perpich to secure bonding to double the size of the school. He commented how if the school wasn't made larger they wouldn't have enough space for all of the variety of classes, Ms. Judy Neppel started up many of the medical programs, and Mr. Dale Neppel started four more programs in the building trade. He stated the tech school is rated 5th in the nation but he thinks it is higher and the school is very fortunate to have President Dennis Bona because of what he has been able to accomplish at the college which includes increased enrollment. He added he hopes President Bona will be around a long time. Mayor Gander thanked Mr. Tweten for his service and presented him with a plaque.

Mayor Gander stated that Mr. Mike Pokrzywinski was born in 1958, graduated from Crookston in 1976, married his wife in 1980, and he met Mr. Pokrzywinski in the 1990s. He explained in 2000 they served on the Board of Directors for the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce. He said they worked well together, they disagreed on many things, but Mr. Pokrzywinski is in the top five Crookston transplants he has met and has have the privilege to work with. He stated how this connection to both cities is a huge asset when looking how many things affect this region. He commented that Mr. Pokrzywinski is a real estate investor and has been a part of many projects over the years, which include the Campbell Library and Sherlock Park. He continued saying how hard both he and Mr. Pokrzywinski worked to help get a paving project completed in Ward 2 and he appreciated all of the work that went into getting that accomplished. He continued saying Mr. Pokrzywinski will now have more time for his family and his business but has already offered to serve on a city committee. Mayor Gander continued on some of Mr. Pokrzywinski's favorite things, a quote from Thomas Jefferson, and how he is a true patriot who is willing to put the greater good ahead of himself when he is called upon do to so. He ended by saying it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Pokrzywinski on the Council and he is looking forward to the next time he will be able to the next time they are able to collaborate up on a project and thanked him for his time.

Mr. Pokrzywinski thanked Mayor Gander, said he had not prepared a speech, but will have a few things to say at the end of the meeting.

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 "Council Meeting" for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of December 4, 2018.
2. Consider approving the minute summary of the "Closed Session" for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of December 4, 2018.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the "Work Session" for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of December 11, 2018.

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

Ms. Nelson informed the Council she had made a correction to two of the votes in the December 4th minutes so they are accurate and the corrected minutes will be permanent record.

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

Voting Nay: None.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

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.

4. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-80 formally amending the 2019 Transportation Improvement Plan to show the purchase of a Class 300 Bus instead of 5 Vans for Dial-A-Ride service.
5. Consider approving the request to purchase a 2020 Freightliner 108SD Truck from I-State Truck Center for a total amount of \$96,794.00.
6. Consider approving their request to purchase of a swaploader, sander body, controls, and tarp from Bert's Truck Equipment for a total amount of \$92,803.25.
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-81 approving the internship program between the City and the University of North Dakota and authorizing the City Administrator to complete the agency requirements.
8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-82 designating the polling places for each respective ward for 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH EIGHT (8).

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

Voting Nay: None.

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

9. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for November 15, 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

10. Consider approving the non-exclusive agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and Northland

Community and Technical College for the use of the northeast corner of the city parking lot west of 4th Ave NW for the truck driving program from January 9, 2019 until January 7, 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE NON-EXCLUSIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND NORTHLAND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR THE USE OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE CITY PARKING LOT WEST OF 4TH AVE NW FOR THE TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM FROM JANUARY 9, 2019 UNTIL JANUARY 7, 2020.

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

Voting Nay: Riopelle and Vetter.

11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-83 approving and adopting the 2045 Plan update to the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Long Range Transportation Plan Street & Highway Element.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-83 APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2045 PLAN UPDATE TO THE GRAND FORKS-EAST GRAND FORKS LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN STREET & HIGHWAY ELEMENT.

Council member DeMers stated this has been a long process, both he and Council member Vetter represent the Council on the MPO, and Mr. Earl Haugen, the MPO Director, was present at the meeting. He explained they had done a lot of work on this but there were not any drastic changes. He commented how he had attend the Grand Forks City Council Meeting where this was discussed, he listened to the concerns, but this has been the plan for 15 years. He said this continues the plan to have more connected communities, he listened to the arguments, and none of the issues seem to be insurmountable. He continued saying if approved this should be set as one of the Council's highest legislative priorities and they should try to obtain funding for it to make it become a reality. He commented how he understands what it is like to be on Council and have people upset with something that others might think is a greater good and ask them to consider how it might affect them. He stated this was similar to circumstances with the interconnect project, there are real and perceived impacts, and the leaders in both communities have the ability to come together and make it a beneficial project speaking specifically to the 32nd part of this. He urged the Council to keep moving forward on this.

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

Voting Nay: None.

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-84 formally approving the request to apply for transit facility grant funds to help with the renovation of the Cities Area Transit facility.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-84 FORMALLY APPROVING THE REQUEST TO APPLY FOR TRANSIT FACILITY GRANT FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE RENOVATION OF THE CITIES AREA TRANSIT FACILITY.

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

Voting Nay: None.

13. Consider adopting Resolution No. 18-12-85 authorizing the implementation of the updated compensation plan and approve the 2% cost of living increase for 2019 for all employees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-85 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPDATED COMPENSATION PLAN AND APPROVE THE 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR 2019 FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.

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

Voting Nay: None.

14. Consider approving the request to start the hiring process for a Truck Driver for the Public Works Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO START THE HIRING PROCESS FOR A TRUCK DRIVER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, 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 thanked all that have given so much to those that do not have whether it be clothing, food, or donations to charitable donations to different organizations and how this is the time of year to be mindful of those less fortunate. He thanked people who give of their time and talents and for all they do. He also thanked everyone who put money in the red bucket on Saturday between 11:30am and 1:30pm at Cabela's. He explained that he and Mayor Brown were having a friendly competition to see who would collect more funds in that two-hour period and he was successful collecting \$940 compared to the \$206 collected by Mayor Brown. He stated that he and Mayor Brown have a great friendship, they do work on items than are substantive, but this was for a good cause. He thanked Mayor Brown for being good-natured in this endeavor.

Council Member Vetter stated that since they have now approved the transportation plan, he agrees with Council member DeMers, this is not the time to slack off but to set a plan on how to move forward on securing funding for a bridge. He wished Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all city staff for their service for the year and extended out well wishes to the citizens of East Grand Forks.

Council Member Pokrzywinski he thanked the Council, Mayor, Mr. Murphy, Department heads, and all city employees. He said it has been a huge pleasure doing this, he will never forget the memories of doing this or the satisfaction with getting this sort of work done, and it was an honor to work with everyone. He continued saying when he is done working on something he asks himself is it in better condition than when he arrived. He said believes the City is in better condition and the institution of City Council and City Hall is in better condition than from when he started. He explained the City is more accessible, people are able to view the meetings, which was a goal of his when he was first elected, and he thinks everyone would agree it was an important addition. He said one of the biggest accomplishments was dealing with the City's wastewater situation, one of his priorities was to work better with our neighbors, and this partnership brings good value to the utility users as well as an award-winning project that WSN can be proud of. He ended saying he made one promise the first time he campaigned which was he was not going to sit with his mouth shut and do what he was told and he kept that promise.

Council Member Riopelle thanked both Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten, he has been able to learn from them over the last two years, and thanked both of them for their service. He wished city staff and citizens a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Tweten said as Mr. Pokrzywinski and he leave the City is in excellent financial shape, the level of reserves is good which will affect future bonding and development, and it is very important for the future. He continued saying the City owns a substantial amount of property north of 23rd St NW, he believes the Council should lay out a master plan for development, and that will help assist in the sale of lots. He stated all of the parks should be updated and a new park should be developed on the north end, which could help sell lots on the north end. He commented this park could be used by senior citizens and allow for students from the college to play intramural sports. He suggested the Council as a whole should visit the parks in the Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo. He said they want to have good things to continue in the community and he hopes that future councils will continue getting along. He stated all of the councils he has served on have gotten along, they may not always agree, but they work together along with the department heads because when they all work as a team, things get done. He ended by saying the guy in the red suit likes hot chocolate so be sure to have some ready when he comes around.

Council Member DeMers said Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all of the staff, which he hopes is joyous and safe. He commented how Mr. Pokrzywinski said it was a pleasure to serve on city council and he agrees. He stated the Council works as a team, at times they push against each other, sometimes it is difficult, but he had the chance to be on the Council with Mr. Tweten who has served for countless years, served with other council members with different experiences and backgrounds, which has gotten the City to where it is today. He added that he had the opportunity to go to St. Paul with Mr. Tweten, Mr. Dick Grassel, and Mayor Lynn Stauss who between them had lots of experience and showed him the importance of making connections along with the good things that can happen when working with partners in St. Paul. He added one thing Mr. Tweten taught him was at times it is good to stop and have pie. He commented how both he and Mr. Pokrzywinski most of the time on Council had been in agreement, sometimes they differed, but he knew that Mr. Pokrzywinski as going to be straight, honest, and principled but that he also approaches things with some humor which is a lesson for everyone because some times they need to be able to laugh. He added they do have a great group, both Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten will be missed, but the Council will apply the lessons they have learned going forward.

Council Vice-President Grassel thanked both Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten for their years of service, how he had battled it out with Mr. Pokrzywinski, and he learned lots from that experience. He commented how he has appreciated the history lessons from Mr. Tweten, which have helped him learn the ropes. He

wished staff and everyone Happy Holidays. He added he appreciates what staff does throughout the year and thanked the community for being what they are as East Grand Forks.

Council President Olstad thanked Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten for working with him over the years. He stated he appreciated the conversations he has had with them especially for the ones that he did not want to hear but got to hear on ideas on how to do something or different viewpoints. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the department heads for the work they had done on the budget and for working with the Council. He also thanked Northland Community and Technical College for being a part of the community.

Mr. Murphy said he has worked with many different councils in many different cities in his career and he is not exaggerating when he says Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten are in his top five of being the most colorful and interesting council members he has ever worked with which is something he appreciates. He added how they have been very open with him during their time on the Council and they both served to try to make the City a better place.

Mr. Galstad thanked Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten for their service. He commented it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Pokrzywinski on both the Council and EDA Board. He continued thanking Mr. Tweten for all of his advice and direction over the years and more than likely in the years to come. He added he did not think there was a better cheerleader for NCTC than Mr. Tweten. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mr. Emery congratulated Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten, wished them well on all of their future endeavors, thanked staff and Council for their help over the year, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ms. Helgeson stated two of the strongest and most vocal advocates of the library are now leaving council, she asked other council members to step up to fill that void, and the library they have right now would not have happened without Mr. Pokrzywinski and Mr. Tweten. Mr. Pokrzywinski stated he will be watching.

President Bona commented he could not say anymore than what already has been said in honoring the two council members, especially his good friend Mr. Tweten. He stated Mr. Tweten isn't going anywhere and there had been discussion about putting in an office for him at Northland. Mr. Huschle said he would like to echo the thanks for both council members and how he appreciates Mr. Tweten for the time and energy he puts in advocating for the college.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TWETEN, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 18, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:44 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer