

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for January 15, 2019 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 Members Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Tim Riopelle, Tim Johnson, and Marc DeMers.

Nancy Ellis, City Planner; 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; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SWEARING IN OF OFFICER KORYNTA:

Chief Hedlund introduced Officer Korynta to the Council and then swore him as a police officer. Chief Hedlund informed the Council Officer Hodny had almost completed his training and would be starting his first full shift on Friday making them one for step closer to being fully staffed.

OPEN FORUM:

Council President Olstad stated the open forum is 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. He asked if anyone would like to address the City Council, and if so to come up to the podium to do so. No one came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Organizational Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of January 8, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of January 8, 2019.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of January 8, 2019.

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

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

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 approving the Bingo Application for J and H Nunn Sports Foundation, Inc to hold bingo events on February 9th, March 9th, April 6th, and May 4th at the American Legion located at 1009 Central Ave NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721.
5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-01-10 approving the Council appointments to the boards and commissions for 2019-2020.
6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-01-11 waiving the monetary limits on tort liability without purchasing excess liability coverage for 2019.
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-01-13 approving and adopting the 2045 Plan update to the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Bicycle and Pedestrian Element.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH SEVEN (7).

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

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

8. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for December 20, 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Consider approving the purchase of an Aurora pump and strainer basket from WW Goetsch & Associates for a total of \$10,761.00 plus the cost of shipping and authorizing this equipment to be

installed by Lunseth Plumbing & Heating for a total of \$17,895.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF AN AURORA PUMP AND STRAINER BASKET FROM WW GOETSCH & ASSOCIATES FOR A TOTAL OF \$10,761.00 PLUS THE COST OF SHIPPING AND AUTHORIZING THIS EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED BY LUNSETH PLUMBING & HEATING FOR A TOTAL OF \$17,895.

Council member Johnson asked why the cost of shipping was not included with the prices. Mr. Huttunen said he didn't have a good answer other than it was not included in the prices. Council member Johnson asked if it will just be paid whatever the cost is. Mr. Huttunen said it would be within reason. Council member Johnson asked if they could send down a local trucker to pick up these items. Mr. Murphy said if the shipping is unreasonable, they would look at options at that time but there have not been issues with shipping costs for items ordered for other departments because it is the standard rate. He added that they would make sure the shipping is within reason.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

10. Consider approving the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-150 Police Responder from Christian Motors for a total of \$34,939.00 for the Police Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 FORD F-150 POLICE RESPONDER FROM CHRISTIAN MOTORS FOR A TOTAL OF \$34,939.00 FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

11. Consider approving additional options and vehicle changeover for the 2019 Ford F-150 Police Responder to be installed by Code 4 Services, LLC for a total of \$7,872.49.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL OPTIONS AND VEHICLE CHANGEOVER FOR THE 2019 FORD F-150 POLICE RESPONDER TO BE INSTALLED BY CODE 4 SERVICES, LLC FOR A TOTAL OF \$7,872.49.

Council member DeMers said last week there were comments that not all of the officers were willing to drive a pickup and if there is an issue if there is a change in the shifts. Chief Hedlund stated there were six officers willing to drive this, this vehicle would be used adequately, there are only five primary squad cars, and he is comfortable with the number of officers that would like to drive this vehicle. Mr. Galstad added it is a managerial right to assign a vehicle for staff to drive so this should not be an issue.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

12. Consider declaring the Tymco Street Sweeper as surplus and trade in on the purchase of a Tymco 500X Sweeper from Environmental Equipment and Services Inc for a total amount of \$225,565.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO DECLARE THE TYMPCO STREET SWEEPER AS SURPLUS AND TRADE IN ON THE PURCHASE OF A TYMCO 500X SWEEPER FROM ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES INC FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$225,565.00.

Council member Johnson asked about shipping. Mr. Stordahl said this purchase was through the State Contract pricing which included delivery of the new equipment and training.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

13. Consider approving the final plat of the Coulee View First Resubdivision with the conditions of a digital file being submitted to the Planning Office and the fee paid to Polk County for recording.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE FINAL PLAT OF THE COULEE VIEW FIRST RESUBDIVISION WITH THE CONDITIONS OF A DIGITAL FILE BEING SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING OFFICE AND THE FEE PAID TO POLK COUNTY FOR RECORDING.

Ms. Ellis stated she had met with Public Works regarding access to the box culvert located in this area, there can be issues maintaining this area, and they typically access the property from the north side. She explained a 10-foot access and utility easement was included on the plat to allow access to maintenance and repair. She added how there is also the ability to access the coulee or anything that is below the flood plain elevation to complete maintenance work which is included in the flood plain ordinance and this was noted on the plat. She said permission was not needed to add the easement and recommended this move forward as the final plat.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-01-12 authorizing WSN to request quotes for the 2018 City Project No. 3 – Parking Lot Improvements.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-01-12 AUTHORIZING WSN TO REQUEST QUOTES FOR THE 2018 CITY PROJECT NO. 3 – PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS.

Council member Riopelle said the cost was \$86,000, now it is up to \$106,000, he cannot see putting that kind of money into a parking lot, and he hoped the rest of the Council thought the same. He asked the Council to allow him along with Mr. Galstad to work out a lease agreement with the two businesses that

use this lot for parking. Mayor Gander explained how this lot is out of compliance with the city ordinance, no gravel lots are allowed, and he does not see this lot being developed in the near future. Council President Olstad said they could at least request quotes to see where they came in at, they can consider it, and possibly reduce the amount of work done on this project to cut costs. He said again that once they review the quotes they would be able to decide at that time if this project should move forward or not. Council member Helms said he was thinking the same thing, how the bids were too high before, and this was just to collect quotes without awarding the job, which is why he moved on this item. Mr. Galstad clarified they were receiving quotes for this job and not going through the bidding process, which would add some expense to the process. Mr. Murphy added it did not meet the dollar threshold requiring bids. Council member Johnson said he did not like the idea of bituminous paving because of all of the problems with potholes so it will only be good for a year or two. Mayor Gander reminded the Council that the base would be rebuilt and not just overlaying the gravel that is currently there.

Council member DeMers said his position on this is he does not think this is the best use regardless if it is temporary or not. He continued saying this is a signal that the City is not open for business, looking across the river there are four or five developments that are proposed, and some are doing away with parking and are finding other ways to handle parking. He added they should not make developing this lot more difficult or expensive and added he would not be voting for black top on this.

Voting Aye: Helms and Olstad.

Voting Nay: Riopelle, Johnson, DeMers, and Vetter.

Absent: Grassel.

CLAIMS:

15. 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 VETTER, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander said they were in the heart of the winter sports season and thanked all of the coaches, players, and parents that were involved with these programs. He stated their involvement is appreciated and it is good for kids active and learning about teamwork. He continued saying the charter commission was going to have their second meeting following the council meeting, their purpose was to review the city charter, which is the guiding document for the city, changes will come gradually, and most of what they are doing is a cleanup of the charter. He added if someone would like to have input in this process he is on the commission along with Council President Olstad, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Galstad and will be meeting every third Tuesday of each month. He stated any recommendations would come forward in draft form for the Council to consider.

Council Member Riopelle stated the competition for the Northern Lights Figure Skaters was this weekend, there were going to be many figure skaters in town, and there will be many hockey games as well.

Council Member DeMers asked if the charter commission would also do code review or was that outside their scope. Mr. Galstad said that is outside of the charter commission's purview, there was nothing saying they could not do that, and it would be a decision of the Council as policy makers.

Mr. Murphy reminded everyone he would be in the office on Wednesday but out of the office the remainder of the week.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 15, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:24 P.M.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer