

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for February 19, 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 Vice-President Chad Grassel, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Tim Riopelle, and Tim Johnson.

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; 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:

Council President Olstad stated the open forum was an opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current agenda and 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 to step up to the podium. No one came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of February 5, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of February 12, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEM ONE (1) AND TWO (2).

Voting Aye: Grassel, Vetter, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

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.

3. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Min-Dak Border Minnesota Deer Hunters Association to hold a raffle on May 15, 2019 at the American Legion located at 1009 Central Ave NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
4. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the East Side Ducks Unlimited MN #165 to hold a raffle on April 20, 2019 at the Eagles Club #350 located at 227 10th St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4).

Voting Aye: Grassel, Vetter, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-02-16 authorizing the City Engineer to request quotes for the 2018 City Project No. 3 – Parking Lot Improvements.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER OLSTAD, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-02-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO REQUEST QUOTES FOR THE 2018 CITY PROJECT NO. 3 – PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS.

Mayor Gander asked Mr. Emery if he had anything to add. Mr. Emery stated everything had been discussed last week, they reviewed the breakdown of the costs to repair the driveway and sidewalk, and how that work will need to be done at some point regardless if the parking lot is paved or not. Mayor Gander commented that this is a gravel lot in a commercial district and the idea would be to have it developed with commercial space on the first floor and residential up above. He continued saying there was currently commercial space available in the downtown so the Council may not sell this lot for some time, this prominent corner has been neglected for 20 years, and paving this could strengthen businesses around it. He added how they can still come up with a comprehensive parking lot maintenance plan with

the downtown businesses, which he would support, and the City can do better than a gravel lot.

Voting Aye: Grassel and Olstad.

Voting Nay: Vetter, Riopelle, and Johnson.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

6. Consider approving the purchase of trees from Wagner's Landscaping Inc for a total amount of \$68,600.00 for the tree project along the spillway by 23rd Street NW.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TREES FROM WAGNER'S LANDSCAPING INC FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$68,600.00 FOR THE TREE PROJECT ALONG THE SPILLWAY BY 23RD STREET NW.

Ms. Anderson explained Water and Light Department was not awarded a grant to pay for the trees for this project but they are still moving forward with the purchase of the trees and had gathered quotes. She said the City would pay for the trees, which would be reimbursed by the Water and Light Department, and Water and Light employees would be watering the trees after the first week. She added the trees would be moved from Wagner's property to the spillway area, the Water and Light Department approved this quote, and they are asking the City's approval.

Voting Aye: Grassel, Vetter, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

CLAIMS:

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

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

Voting Aye: Grassel, Vetter, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander commented he had a chance to say good-bye to Chief Master Sergeant Brian Thomas who is moving on to his next post and that Colonel Benjamin Spencer who is the current commander will be moving to his next post this summer. He stated how the City should make time to meet the new leaders to maintain the connection to the Air Force Base. He added he had also spoke with a group of Webelos on how the City works and what each department does. He said the parents were commenting they did not realize all of the services the City provided.

Council Member Riopelle thanked his neighbors, Jeff Kind and Ryan Bartz, who took the initiative to clean out around a fire hydrant and for doing a fantastic job.

Council President Olstad reminded everyone the Intergovernmental retreat was going to be on Friday, February 22nd, lunch will be starting at 11:45, and Collin Peterson was going to be in attendance. He added that he had emailed the Council a copy of Governor Walz's proposed budget that had been released, he asked the Council to review it, and commented that it did include a 30 million dollar increase to LGA. He stated the group of four will be traveling down to St. Paul on the following Wednesday to meet and talk to legislators about changing the LGA formula for the City of East Grand Forks. He said it was good to see the addition to LGA and he hoped the Governor will also approve the change in the formula for the city.

Mr. Murphy told the Council that due to a lack of quorum the Charter Commission Meeting that was scheduled for 6pm was canceled and the next meeting was scheduled for March 19th.

Ms. Anderson stated the City and Water and Light Department were working together on a street light project. She explained the City would pay for the supplies because the streetlights are the City's asset with the Water and Light Department completing the work. She said she wanted to make sure the Council was aware of this and the request for purchase will come forward later.

Mr. Gorte asked the Council to let him know after the meeting if they would be attending the retreat on Friday if they had not already, so they had the correct count for lunch.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:13 P.M.

Voting Aye: Grassel, Vetter, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers and Helms.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer