

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for April 16, 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, Dale Helms, Tim Riopelle, Tim Johnson, and Marc DeMers.*

*Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; 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; 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 may be 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.

Mr. Wayne Skalicky, 1407 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, told the Council he was tired of watching the Fargo/Moorhead news and asked why Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, and the Devils Lake area didn't have their own channel for local news and sports. He stated how there was a local channel in Minot and asked if there was anything the City could do. He commented it may not be profitable and asked how they could have a station in Minot if it wasn't profitable. He added they could promote what was happening in the cities and how again he would like to see what they could do.

Mayor Gander stated they would check with Mr. Gorte and the Economic Development Director for Grand Forks to see if there is something can be done. He added how they might even check with the Chamber to help with this. Council member DeMers said in 2017 the FCC voted to eliminate the need for local presence. He suggested that Mr. Skalicky also speak with his US Representatives on how this action made a difference at the local level. He added the City is trying to become a primary source of information for people with streaming meetings and not having some of the information filtered through a reporter. Mr. Skalicky said a community of this size is entitled to having its own news and sports coverage and how he

will look forward to see what the economic development office can do. Council President Olstad stated staff would take the ideas brought forward and contact Mr. Skalicky if there is any more information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of April 2, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minute summary of the “Joint Closed Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of April 2, 2019.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of April 9, 2019.

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

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

*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. 19-04-22 appointing Nick Bowen to fill the vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission.
5. Consider approving the Special Event Application for the Law Enforcement 10-78 5K fun run and community event to be held in the parking lot area by restaurant row on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 7am until 1pm.
6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-04-23 declaring the City of East Grand Forks act as the legal sponsor for an application for the FY 2019/2020 funding to the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the trail maintenance of snowmobile trails managed by the Red River Snowmobile Club.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH SIX (6).**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

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

7. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for March 20, 2019.

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

8. Consider approving Change Order No. 4 for the 2015 City Project No.1 - Wastewater Interconnect for a total of \$63,317.29.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 FOR THE 2015 CITY PROJECT NO.1 - WASTEWATER INTERCONNECT FOR A TOTAL OF \$63,317.29.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

*Abstain: DeMers.*

9. Consider approving the request to start a new hiring process for the Police Department for a Patrol Officer.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO START A NEW HIRING PROCESS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A PATROL OFFICER.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

**SUSPENSION OF RULES:**

Council President Olstad stated there was a request for motion to suspend rules to vote on resolution 19-04-24 authorizing purchases from Border States Trophy which Council Member Riopelle is personally interested financially in the contract.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO VOTE ON RESOLUTION 19-04-24.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-04-24 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM BORDER STATES TROPHY THE GOOD REFERENCED IN CHECK NUMBER 31431 FOR A TOTAL OF \$136.00 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER TIM RIOPELLE IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.**

*Voting Aye: Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, Helms, Johnson, and Olstad.*

*Voting Nay: None.*

*Abstain: Riopelle.*

**CLAIMS:**

10. 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 HELMS, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:**

Mayor Gander stated he represented the City at the monster truck show that took place over the weekend and he was able to give a mayoral proclamation. He continued saying he appreciated having the joint meeting with Grand Forks, there were many people that came to participate, and most wanted to see no bridge at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave location. He said this conversation will continue along with the discussion of a bypass bridge, everyone was able to speak their peace in a constructive manner, and they will need community input on these decisions. He added if the meeting had been held in East Grand Forks the group present more than likely would have had a different view. He said again this conversation would continue between the cities along with the MPO, this bridge has been in the plan for 25 years, and there needs to be action so it moves forward. He thanked everyone that supplied information for his State of the City address and reminded everyone that it would be taking place on April 24<sup>th</sup> over the noon hour.

Council Member Vetter asked Mr. Huttunen to include the minutes from the Park and Recreation Board because it is something the Council has not seen in a while.

Council Member Riopelle said he appreciated the City of Grand Forks inviting them over for a meeting, they need to get the counties engaged to spear head the effort for a bypass bridge since it would be located outside of both cities, and a bypass bridge will do nothing to help with congestion for the local commuters. He stated 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave was the spot where they have done the research and where the bridge should be located. He said the 900 kids on the south end of East Grand Forks are just as important as the 1,000 kids in Grand Forks and are also just as important as the 300 kids that go to Phoenix Elementary School which is what he got from the conversation. He added that there are going to be some that are not going to like them because of the placement of the bridge but he thinks 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave is the best spot for it.

Council Member Johnson thanked the floodwall builders for the good work they did, he was happy it was not fully needed, and said what a good job they had done.

Council President Olstad thanked Mr. Stordahl, all of the Public Works employees, all of the Water and Light Employees, and all staff that worked on putting up the floodwalls. He thanked them for all of the long hours and getting the walls certified.

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 16, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:18 P.M.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

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David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer