

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for August 6, 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, and Marc DeMers.

Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; 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; 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 who would like to address the City Council would 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 July 16, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of July 23, 2019.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of July 23, 2019.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson

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.

Council President Olstad asked if any council member like to have any item pulled. Council member Vetter asked to have item four pulled. Council President Olstad asked if there were any other items to be pulled and there were none so he asked for a motion to approve items five through eight.

4. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-08-51 approving the appointment of Brian S. Larson to the vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission.
5. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for Sacred Heart Church & School to hold a raffle on January 15, 2020 at Sacred Heart School located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
6. Consider approving the Special Event Application for Sacred Heart to conduct a 5K Color Run on Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 10am to 12pm contingent upon Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approval.
7. Consider approving the Special Event Application for the Blue Moose Bar & Grill to hold the Oktoberfest Event in the Greenway and allowing for a portion of the parking lot to be blocked off for this event on Saturday, September 21st from 7am to 12am.
8. Consider approving the Temporary Liquor License for the VFW Post 3817 for the Chamber After Hours Event on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at the Sanford Clinic located at 621 Demers Ave NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS FIVE (5) THROUGH EIGHT (8).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

4. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-08-51 approving the appointment of Brian S. Larson to the vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-08-51 APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN S. LARSON TO THE VACANCY ON THE PARK AND

RECREATION COMMISSION.

Council member Vetter stated years ago the Council got rid of committees and commissions and one of the reasons why was because there were things done without the Council knowing and then the Council was expected to rubber stamp items when it came to the Council without asking questions. He commented how there are minutes from the Park and Recreation Commission and the commission is taking actions instead of making recommendations to the Council. He added they were tasked to bring recommendations to the Council and since they are acting on something he is recommending the commission be abolished and to bring these items back under the Council's purview, which is why he will be voting no on this item.

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

Voting Nay: Vetter.

Absent: Johnson.

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

9. Regular meeting minutes and minute summary of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for July 3, 2019.
10. Regular meeting minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission for April 17, 2019, May 15, 2019 and June 19, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-08-52 approving the issuance of the solid waste disposal revenue bonds for the American Crystal Sugar Company Project Series 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-08-52 APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL REVENUE BONDS FOR THE AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY PROJECT SERIES 2019.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-08-53 approving the hiring of Parker Knaack as Police Officer at a salary of \$25.84 per hour.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-08-53 APPROVING THE HIRING OF PARKER KNAACK AS POLICE OFFICER AT A SALARY OF \$25.84 PER HOUR.

Chief Hedlund informed the Council Officer Knaack was from the Red Lake Falls area; he was coming

from the Tri-County Correctional Center, and would be starting at base pay.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

13. Consider approving the purchase of a 2020 Ford Police Interceptor SUV for the K9 Unit from Tenvoorde Ford for a total amount of \$31,462.56 and equip the vehicle by Guardian Fleet Safety for a total of \$17,075.29 to be paid for by donations and sponsorship funds.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2020 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR SUV FOR THE K9 UNIT FROM TENVOORDE FORD FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$31,462.56 AND EQUIP THE VEHICLE BY GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY FOR A TOTAL OF \$17,075.29 TO BE PAID FOR BY DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP FUNDS.

Chief Hedlund stated since the last meeting they have receive donations from residents and been contacted by three businesses regarding donations and sponsorships. He explained Up North Pizza and Reds Attic will be donating a percentage of sales and Rydell's will be giving a \$10,000 sponsorship for a demonstration that will be held on August 21st at Rydell's.

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

Voting Nay: DeMers.

Absent: Johnson.

14. Consider awarding the street crack sealing job to Northwest Asphalt & Maintenance for sealing 100,000 linear feet for \$65,000.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO AWARD THE STREET CRACK SEALING JOB TO NORTHWEST ASPHALT & MAINTENANCE FOR SEALING 100,000 LINEAR FEET FOR \$65,000.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

15. Consider awarding the street repair project for 8th St SE to Opp Construction for \$31,094.40.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO AWARD THE STREET REPAIR PROJECT FOR 8TH ST SE TO OPP CONSTRUCTION FOR \$31,094.40.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

16. Consider declaring the 1987 Chevrolet Bus Unit 314 as surplus and approve the transfer of ownership to Detroit Lakes Towing.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO DECLARE THE 1987 CHEVROLET BUS UNIT 314 AS SURPLUS AND APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP TO DETROIT LAKES TOWING.

Council member Helms asked if this would take care of the towing bill. Mr. Huttunen said it would and explained he had reached out to others to see if they would be interested in the bus but was told it is only worth the cost of scrap metal.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

CLAIMS:

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander stated Mayor Brown has been quoted saying he would veto any spending for a 32nd Ave bridge and Council President Dana Sande has led the opposition to a bridge in this location. He explained city officials from both sides of the reiver had met to discuss this issue, it was mentioned how bridges should have been built as the City has grown over the years, the current situation is a greater challenge than it should be, and it had been suggested looking into adding a round-a-bout to distribute traffic to the different corridors in Grand Forks. He added how both cities are in a solid agreement about a bridge at Merrifield for a high-dry, truck, farm, and commercial bridge as well as a location for a neighborhood bridge which still needs to be determined.

He continued talking about the local sales tax. He explained the current local sales tax is paying for the swimming pool; it is scheduled to sunset once the pool has been paid for, and it would be a year before another sales tax could be initiated. He stated the Council is considering another sales tax to pay for projects, he has heard from residents and business owners, and they are currently in the early stages of this so it is a good time to let the Council know their preferences. He added how Ms. Whicker and the Good Samaritan have almost reach their goal for the construction and installation of the new patio area. He thanked all of those who have supported this effort and how there is still time to donate.

He reminded the Council about the grinder awards he had started giving out to those who do things to make the community better. He read an email he had received from Ms. Katie Boespflug about how the American Crystal Minors team played an extra inning allowing a child with developmental challenges to pitch. He explained how the team swung at the pitches, cheered on the pitcher, and at the end of the game they presented him with the game ball. He said how proud she was of the coaches and players and how

they showed great sportsmanship and compassion. He read off the names of the coaches and players, commented how this is a good reminder of what is learned in the athletic and other recreational programs, and things like this makes this a great community to live in. He asked Mr. Huttunen to make sure all of them received a grinder award.

Council Member Helms invited everyone to attend Heritage Days with the parade starting at 6pm on Thursday followed by a car show and the Down Town Horns were going to be play. He stated Friday was going to be a kids day camp with Saturday and Sunday being the actual show. He said they would appreciate any help with from the Council or Department Heads to work the burger stand as they did in previous years. He added he would appreciate knowing tonight if possible.

Council Member Riopelle stated he had talked with Ms. Nelson about applications that are submitted late and how staff has to scramble to get things taken care of. He said he was going to meet with Ms. Nelson, review the applications, and make some recommendations to the Council while trying to be fair and equitable.

Mr. Murphy reminded the Council he would be out of the office the following week on a scheduled vacation.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 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, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Johnson.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer