

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for October 1, 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 (5:01pm), 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; 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; 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 September 17, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “COUNCIL MEETING” FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

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

Voting Nay: None.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. Public Hearing to consider an amendment to the business subsidy agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and Walski Properties LLP dba Northern Valley Machine.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Mr. Gorte stated when this agreement came forward a few years back the City was going to provide a five-year benefit. He explained the understanding was the Border Cities Tax Credit program worked a certain way but was informed by the Minnesota Department of Revenue a business could use disparity credits or Border City Tax credits, not both at the same time. He said the number of tax credits needed to be increased and become available to Northern Valley Machine. He asked for questions. There was none.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Voting Nay: 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 Sacred Heart Church & School to hold a raffle on April 25, 2020 at the Sacred Heart Church & School located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
4. Consider approving the service agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for the Safety Management Program split 50/50 between the City and the Water and Light Department for October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.
5. Consider declaring the list of seized vehicles and list of bicycles as surplus property and sell these items on the next city auction.
6. Consider declaring the 1988 Ford Van as surplus property and sell this item on the next city auction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH SIX (6).

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

Voting Nay: None.

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

7. Regular meeting minutes and closed minute summary of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for September 4, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

8. Consider adopting Ordinance No. 27 4th Series amending City Code Chapter 117 Section 117.07 Subdivision E regarding persons ineligible for licenses by adding importer to subpart 4 and changing subpart 5 to allow a person to have an ownership interest in more than one on-sale liquor establishment but keeping the restriction for off-sale liquor establishments (2nd Reading).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 27 4TH SERIES AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 117 SECTION 117.07 SUBDIVISION E REGARDING PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR LICENSES BY ADDING IMPORTER TO SUBPART 4 AND CHANGING SUBPART 5 TO ALLOW A PERSON TO HAVE AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN MORE THAN ONE ON-SALE LIQUOR ESTABLISHMENT BUT KEEPING THE RESTRICTION FOR OFF-SALE LIQUOR ESTABLISHMENTS (2ND READING).

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

Voting Nay: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-10-63 authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to submit a pre-application form committing 25% with \$10,000 in funds and \$5,625 of in-kind services for a total grant amount of \$62,500 for an Emerald Ash Borer Community Forest Grant.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-10-63 AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION FORM COMMITTING 25% WITH \$10,000 IN FUNDS AND \$5,625 OF IN-KIND SERVICES FOR A TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT OF \$62,500 FOR AN EMERALD ASH BORER COMMUNITY FOREST GRANT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-10-64 approving the first amendment to the business subsidy agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and Walski Properties for tax incentives for a period of five years or a total of \$145,000, whichever occurs earlier.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-10-64 APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE BUSINESS SUBSIDY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST

GRAND FORKS AND WALSKI PROPERTIES FOR TAX INCENTIVES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS OR A TOTAL OF \$145,000, WHICHEVER OCCURS EARLIER.

Council member Vetter said the original agreement stated \$100,000 or five years so he will be voting no.

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

Voting Nay: Vetter.

11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-10-65 changing the special assessment percentage for reconstruction from 100% down to 60% of project costs to residents.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-10-65 CHANGING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PERCENTAGE FOR RECONSTRUCTION FROM 100% DOWN TO 60% OF PROJECT COSTS TO RESIDENTS.

Voting Aye: DeMers.

Voting Nay: Vetter, Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, and Grassel.

12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-10-66 filing the assessment roll and setting the final hearing date for the 2019 Assessment Job No. 1 for Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-10-66 FILING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND SETTING THE FINAL HEARING DATE FOR THE 2019 ASSESSMENT JOB NO. 1 FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019.

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

Voting Nay: None.

13. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-10-67 supporting the proposed project by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for improvements to the traffic signals and pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Highway 220 and 14th Street NW/NE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-10-67 SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED PROJECT BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 220 AND 14TH STREET NW/NE.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander thanked everyone for keeping him informed during the rain event that took place over the weekend. He stated people stepped up to take care of things, he thanked the Public Works crew for getting things picked up so quickly, and he feels for those that had seepage in their basements. He said the response was great and appreciated being kept in the loop.

Council Member Helms thanked whomever for putting up the red tape on the stop signs by the school because it is very noticeable and is making a difference.

Council Member Riopelle reminded everyone that the Mayor will be having lunch at the Senior Center and welcomed anyone would like to have lunch with him at that time.

Council Member Johnson said he had attended the League of Minnesota Cities meeting in Thief River Falls where they handed out drug deactivation bags for opioid disposal. He asked where they should be located. After a brief discussion, Chief Hedlund suggested having them available at the Water & Light Department because of all of their foot traffic.

Mr. Murphy reminded the Council he was going to be out of the office Wednesday afternoon and Thursday for a training.

Mr. Stordahl stated the City is experiencing very high flows in the sanitary sewer system and asked residents to make sure their sump pumps were not connected to the sanitary sewer.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 1, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:12 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer