

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for November 5, 2019 was called to order by Council Vice-President Grassel 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 (5:04), 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; Keith Mykleseth, Water & Light Manager; Megan Nelson, City Clerk; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council Vice-President Determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

Council Vice-President Grassel 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 October 15, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of October 22, 2019.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of October 22, 2019.
4. Consider approving the minute summary of the “Closed Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of October 22, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS ONE (1) THROUGH FOUR (4).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

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 Vice-President Grassel asked if any Council member like any items pulled. Council member Helms asked to have item nine pulled. Council Vice-President Grassel asked for a motion for items five through 8 and 10 through 12.

5. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the East Grand Forks Home Run Club to hold a raffle on December 16, 2019 at the East Grand Forks Senior High located at 1420 4th Ave NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
6. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Sacred Heart Church and School to hold a raffle on February 8, 2020 at the Sacred Heart School located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
7. Consider approving the Hollydazzle Parade Application for Sunday, November 24th from 6:00pm to 6:45pm including a closure of the Sorlie Bridge contingent upon MNDOT approval.
8. Consider approving the Special Event Application for the Hollydazzle Event taking place on Sunday, November 24th from 3pm to 7pm including the closure of the parking lot by restaurant row for a s'more station and carriage rides contingent upon MN DNR approval for using the campground property.
9. Consider approving the Fireworks/Pyrotechnic Special Effects Permit for RES Specialty Pyrotechnics Inc for the Hollydazzle event taking place on Sunday, November 24, 2019 starting around 7pm contingent upon approval of the launch site.
10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-71 authorizing the interest amount of \$908.11 from special assessments to be waived in 2020 for the property owned by the Department of Natural Resources.
11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-72 authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to certify the listed accounts for mowing to the County Auditor for collection with the 2020 real estate taxes.
12. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-73 authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to certify the listed accounts for delinquent utilities to the County Auditor for collection with the 2020 real estate taxes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE ITEMS FIVE (5) THROUGH EIGHT (8) AND TEN (10) THROUGH TWELVE (12).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

9. Consider approving the Fireworks/Pyrotechnic Special Effects Permit for RES Specialty Pyrotechnics Inc for the Hollydazzle event taking place on Sunday, November 24, 2019 starting around 7pm contingent upon approval of the launch site.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE FIREWORKS/PYROTECHNIC SPECIAL EFFECTS PERMIT FOR RES SPECIALTY PYROTECHNICS INC FOR THE HOLLYDAZZLE EVENT TAKING PLACE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 STARTING AROUND 7PM CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE LAUNCH SITE.

Council member Helms asked who decided on the launch site. Ms. Nelson explained she works with the Fire Department to make sure the person is certified by the State Fire Marshal's office and how the Fire Department had some concerns about the proposed launch site because fallout might go over the train bridge. She stated the Fire Department will be contacting the company to ensure they are in agreement on a launch site and if approved tonight staff will issue the permit once the launch site has been approved.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

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

13. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for October 2, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-74 ordering improvement and preparation of plans the specifications for the 2020 City Project No. 1 – Safe Routes to School Sidewalks to be added on 13th Street SE and 20th Avenue SE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-74 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE 2020 CITY PROJECT NO. 1 – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SIDEWALKS TO BE ADDED ON 13TH STREET SE AND 20TH AVENUE SE.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

15. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-75 repealing Resolution 16-05-49 which authorized the imposition of a \$3000 per lot surcharge for city lot sales initiated by a realtor.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-75 REPEALING RESOLUTION 16-05-49 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE IMPOSITION OF A \$3000 PER LOT SURCHARGE FOR CITY LOT SALES INITIATED BY A REALTOR.

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

Voting Nay: Vetter.

Absent: Olstad.

16. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-76 accepting and awarding the bid for the 2019 Assessment Job No. 1 – Curb, Gutter, and Paving for a total construction cost of \$412,147.45.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-76 ACCEPTING AND AWARDING THE BID FOR THE 2019 ASSESSMENT JOB NO. 1 – CURB, GUTTER, AND PAVING FOR A TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST OF \$412,147.45.

Mr. Emery stated he had been in contact with Mr. Randy Boushey from A&L Potato. He explained when no one attended the public hearing they waived their right to object to the project but Mr. Boushey has been in contact and has concerns about this project even though he was on the petition to start it. He said the current farming situation is causing concerns with this project and asked Mr. Boushey to address the Council. Mr. Randy Boushey introduced himself and explained how this year has had catastrophic weather and they have lost 95% of the crop in the ground they were supposed to receive. He said they can pick up some business but it is not a great time for them to commit to assessments for the street. He added they would love to have the concrete street but at this time, they would like to wait a couple years and revisit the possibility of this project then. He told the Council he appreciates their time, he did ask for this street, but he did not expect the devastation they are experiencing this year.

Council member DeMers asked what would happen if the road was done the assessment was not going to start until 2021 and if that year was enough to recover from the losses of this year. Mr. Boushey explained the seed potato was never harvested, they will be looking for potato seed on the open market, their operation costs will be doubling, and they will need to plan conservatively for the next few years. He added it would take them about five years to recover from this year. Mr. Galstad asked if he had talked with any other petitioners. Mr. Boushey said he talked with MGI Grain and they understand the situation because they also lost wheat crop this year. He commented it is a large region that was affected by weather events, the market is currently strong, but they need something to sell.

Mayor Gander said based upon timelines the City would have every legal right to move forward with this project because there were no objections. He continued saying the right thing to do is to work with the farmers and businesses and wait to do this project until they are ready to move forward. Mr. Boushey said it has been mention about stability for property owners to pay the tax roll and right now they do not need

any additional burdens. He added they still have two years of assessments from the other street project and circumstances have changed and asked Mr. Emery if he had anything to add. Mr. Emery said he was letting the Council know about the discussion they have had and how he appreciated Mr. Boushey showing up to the meeting. Mr. Boushey said he had tried to make the previous meeting but was in the field trying to harvest and then got into town too late. He asked if there were any other questions. There was none.

Voting Aye: None.
Voting Nay: Johnson, Grassel, Vetter, Helms, and Riopelle.
Abstain: DeMers.
Absent: Olstad.

17. Consider approving the Arena Agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the Independent School District 595 for the use of the Civic Center, VFW Memorial, and Blue Line Club Arenas for the school year of 2019-2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO APPROVE THE ARENA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 595 FOR THE USE OF THE CIVIC CENTER, VFW MEMORIAL, AND BLUE LINE CLUB ARENAS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR OF 2019-2020.

Voting Aye: Johnson, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, Helms, and Riopelle.
Voting Nay: None.
Absent: Olstad.

18. Consider approving a new On-sale Intoxicating Weekday & On-sale Sunday Liquor application for The Spud Jr. LLC located at 302 Demers Ave East Grand Forks, MN 56721 contingent upon the Administration Office receiving the permit fees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE A NEW ON-SALE INTOXICATING WEEKDAY & ON-SALE SUNDAY LIQUOR APPLICATION FOR THE SPUD JR. LLC LOCATED AT 302 DEMERS AVE EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721 CONTINGENT UPON THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE RECEIVING THE PERMIT FEES.

Council member Helms asked if they were okay moving forward with this and if it was similar to the movie theater. Ms. Nelson said this was a bar and restaurant so it did not count against the seven licenses that are allowed and that none of the owners have interest in another liquor license in town.

Voting Aye: Johnson, Grassel, DeMers, Vetter, Helms, and Riopelle.
Voting Nay: None.
Absent: Olstad.

CLAIMS:

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

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander said he had a good discussion with Governor Walz and others about the current conditions of farming, they are committed to seeing this through, and how the State and Federal levels of government will need to step up to help out the farmers which affects the entire region. He added the Governor understood the situation and would try for long-term solutions.

Council Member DeMers publically wanted to apologize for missing the public meeting the day before because he had put it in his schedule on the wrong day.

Council Vice-President Grassel said he learned some things at the meeting the previous evening, it was interesting to listen to the history, and he found the meeting very informative.

Mr. Murphy informed the Council that Chief Larson is dealing with a medical issue and may be out indefinitely.

Mr. Galstad told the Council he would not be in the office on Friday or on Monday.

ADJOURN:

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Olstad.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer