

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for November 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 Marc DeMers.

Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; and Megan Nelson, City Clerk.

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

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Public hearing to consider granting a property tax abatement under the New Home Construction Program.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

Council President Olstad asked if anyone had anything. Mr. Gorte stated this was voted on annually and works with the school and county on this each year.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

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.

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

4. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for October 16, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-77 authorizing a two-year tax abatement for homes that qualified under the New Home Construction Program.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-77 AUTHORIZING A TWO-YEAR TAX ABATEMENT FOR HOMES THAT QUALIFIED UNDER THE NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

Council member DeMers asked how much the abatement is and if they looked back at the amounts. Mr.

Gorte said this time the abatements are approximately \$70,000. Council member DeMers asked if that was average. Mr. Gorte said there were a couple more homes this time and there have been increases to property taxes but this is usually been between \$50,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Galstad asked how many homes there were. Mr. Gorte said between 20 to 25 homes.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

6. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-78 approving the denial of the jurisdictional transfer of Business Highway 2.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-78 APPROVING THE DENIAL OF THE JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER OF BUSINESS HIGHWAY 2.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-79 approving and authorizing the Metropolitan Planning Organization to amend the Transportation Improvement Plan by rolling over the Operating Assistance for Fixed Route from 2019 into 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-79 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN BY ROLLING OVER THE OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR FIXED ROUTE FROM 2019 INTO 2020.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-80 approving and authorizing approximately \$15,000 for a hydraulic study at the Elks Drive location in addition to the 32nd Avenue location.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-80 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 FOR A HYDRAULIC STUDY AT THE ELKS DRIVE LOCATION IN ADDITION TO THE 32ND AVENUE LOCATION.

Council member Riopelle asked if he was correct that this was a 50/50 split. Mr. Murphy said that was correct. Council member Riopelle asked if this will be valued out at a 75/25 split. Mr. Murphy said there was been some discussion about that but right now they are looking at a 50/50 split.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

9. Consider approving the wage for the Seasonal Parks Worker position up to \$17 per hour for the 2019-2020 winter season.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE WAGE FOR THE SEASONAL PARKS WORKER POSITION UP TO \$17 PER HOUR FOR THE 2019-2020 WINTER SEASON.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

10. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Knights of Columbus Council #5341 to hold a raffle on April 1, 2020 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30 day waiting period.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE THE EXEMPT GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #5341 TO HOLD A RAFFLE ON APRIL 1, 2020 AT THE SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH LOCATED AT 200 3RD ST NW EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721 AND WAIVE THE 30 DAY WAITING PERIOD.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Riopelle.

11. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-11-81 authorizing the City Engineer to prepare a report of feasibility for the reconstruction of 20th Street NW and 5th Avenue NW.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-81 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE A REPORT OF FEASIBILITY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF 20TH STREET NW AND 5TH AVENUE NW.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson

CLAIMS:

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, 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, Riopelle, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander informed everyone he has accepted the challenge to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 30th at Cabela's from 12pm until 2pm. He added it will be a contest again with Mayor Brown who will be ringing the bell at the same time in Grand Forks. He continued saying they will soon be finishing up and submitting the proposal for the Governor's fishing opener, he thanked everyone who has been involved, there will be about four or five other cities that will also be submitting proposals, and the announcement will be made at the 2020 fishing opener on who will be hosting the 2021 fishing opener. He stated if there are any questions or give a letter of support there still is some time to get that turned in.

Council Member Riopelle reminded everyone Thursday, November 21st the Senior Center will be holding their annual Thanksgiving dinner and tickets were available by contacting Judy at the Senior Center. Mayor Gander asked what the hours were. Council member Riopelle said the dinner went from 5pm to 7pm.

Mr. Gorte said November 30th was Shop Small Business day and asked that people shop at the stores in town that day.

Ms. Anderson stated Hollydazzle event was going to be taking place and asked Ms. Nelson to give some details. Ms. Nelson said the Hollydazzle event was taking place on Sunday, the parking lot by restaurant row would have the smore station and carriage rides, the parade was going to be starting at 6pm, and the fireworks were going to follow.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:10 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms and Johnson.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer