

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for December 17, 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; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Mike Hedlund, Police Chief; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; Terry Knudson, HR Generalist; 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 December 3, 2019.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of December 10, 2019.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks Minnesota City Council of December 10, 2019.

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

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

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 approving the Premises Permit Application for the East Grand Forks Blue Line Club to conduct gambling at The Spud Jr. located at 302 Demers Ave, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.
5. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Whitetails Unlimited Red River Valley Deer Camp organization to hold a raffle on January 25, 2020 at the Eagles Club 350 located at 227 10th St NW East Grand Forks and waive the 30-day waiting period.
6. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Red River Valley Pheasants Forever organization to hold a raffle on April 25, 2020 at the American Legion located at 1009 Central Ave NW East Grand Forks and waive the 30-day waiting period.
7. Consider declaring the 2008 Chevrolet Impala as surplus property and approve the sale of the vehicle.
8. Consider approving the lease agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the lease of office and storage space in City Hall for one year.
9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-12-87 approving the designation of city parks within city limits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE ITEMS FOUR (4) THROUGH NINE (9).

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

Voting Nay: None.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

11. Consider approving the proposal for Pre-Design Services for Recreation Facility improvements between the City of East Grand Forks and JLG Architects.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR PRE-DESIGN SERVICES FOR RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND JLG ARCHITECTS.

Council member Vetter stated he is in favor of the project but has a hard time spending \$60,000 for a firm to do work that staff could do so he will be voting no. He continued saying if this goes through he recommended that JLG works directly with the Council, not the Parks Commission, because of the cost of the potential projects that would be brought before the voters.

Mayor Gander asked about a provision that stated if the City did not move forward with JLG they would get all of their work back and if that would mean the City would have to start over. Mr. Galstad explained no other architect would use someone else's work because the new architect would require they completed their own because there is too much liability on another person. Mayor Gander commented this then would not be an issue. Mr. Galstad said this would be the same for whomever they would move forward with to continue with the project.

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

Voting Nay: Vetter and Helms.

12. Consider approving the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD from Rydell Chevrolet for a total cost of \$32,599.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD FROM RYDELL CHEVROLET FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$32,599.

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

Voting Nay: None.

13. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-12-88 approving the employer health insurance contribution increase of 6.93% for 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-88 APPROVING THE EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION INCREASE OF 6.93% FOR 2020.

Council member Helms asked if this percentage was standard percentage given every year. Mr. Murphy said this was the cost of the insurance increase from 2019, it varies from year to year, and there have been times when there has been no increase.

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

Voting Nay: None.

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-12-89 approving the 2.5% cost of living increase for non-union employees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL

MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-89 APPROVING THE 2.5% COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES.

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

Voting Nay: None.

15. Consider adopting Resolution No. 19-12-90 approving the Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the position of Finance Director to be included in the AFSCME Council 65 Union which represents the Department Heads.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-90 APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING THE POSITION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AFSCME COUNCIL 65 UNION WHICH REPRESENTS THE DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Council member DeMers stated he was not in favor of management being in unions, this could create a conflict of interest, it changes the chain of command, and these reasons would be why he will be voting no. Mayor Gander explained the department heads unionized when there was less trust and it would be great if there came a time when they decided they no longer needed to be in a union. He added the Council appreciates city staff and if there was a way to increase trust to let them know. Council member Johnson asked if this was going to cost anything. Mr. Murphy said no.

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

Voting Nay: DeMers.

16. Consider approving the purchase of six Stalker DSR 2X radar units for the East Grand Forks Police Department for a total price of \$15,400.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SIX STALKER DSR 2X RADAR UNITS FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A TOTAL PRICE OF \$15,400.

Council member Vetter asked if there was need for any additional units because of the special pricing of the buy three get one free. Chief Hedlund said it was something they considered, the special ended the day before, he could see if it was something they could still get, but it was not something that was currently needed.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander stated the Governor's Fishing proposal had been submitted, he thanked Julie Rygg and Stephanie Bernstrom from the CVB and staff for their work on this, and this will not be announced until May of 2020. He reminded everyone the charter commission was meeting following the council meeting, he thanked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Galstad for the work they had done, and voters can see the proposed changes that will need to be voted on included on the ballot in the fall. He added the Council would have time to consider the proposed changes as well.

Council Member Vetter wished Happy Holidays to staff and everyone listening.

Council Member Helms asked Mayor Gander if there was something could be done to help the process of being picked to host the fishing opener. Mayor Gander said the decision should be made by the fishing opener in 2020 and there is not much that can be done other than to wait.

Council Member Riopelle reminded everyone of the Mayor's small catch during last year's fishing opener and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member DeMers asked if the Council could receive a copy of the work that has been done up to this point on the charter. Mayor Gander stated the plan is to give the Council about six to eight weeks to review the proposed changes to the charter and he would also see if there is a copy of what has been done that can be shared with the Council. Council member DeMers said it was a great 2019 and he will see everyone in 2020.

Council Vice-President Grassel wished everyone Happy Holidays. He continued saying there will be elections in 2020 and his name will not be on the ballot so he will be done after serving eight years. He encouraged those would like to run for this position to do so.

Council President Olstad wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. He added he hopes people get to spend time with their families and thanked staff for all of their work over the past year.

Mr. Murphy thanked everyone for the outpouring of support for his wife. He added that he would try to be in the office about four hours a day for the remainder of this week, the following week he will try to be in four to six hours a day, and after that depending on how things go, he should be back to full time after that.

Mr. Galstad wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Mr. Emery wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and hoped everyone was able to enjoy the holiday.

Chief Hedlund informed and invited everyone to attend the awards ceremony that will be held on Thursday, December 19th starting at 4:30pm in the training room.

Council President Olstad reminded everyone about the Chamber After Hours event that will be held at Northland Community and Technical College on Thursday, December 19th.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:18 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer