

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for February 18, 2020 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, Tim Johnson, and Marc DeMers.

Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Jeff Boushee, Interim Fire Chief; 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; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; and Megan Nelson, City Clerk.

DETERMINATION OF A 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. No one came forward for the open forum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of February 4, 2020.
2. Consider approving the minute summary of the “Closed Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of February 4, 2020.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of February 10, 2020.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

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 January 15, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Consider adopting Ordinance No. 28 4th Series amending City Code Chapter 116 entitled “Tobacco Products” to comply with new federal age requirements, to include administrative penalty provisions for failing compliance checks, and by adopting by reference City Code Chapter 1 and Section 10.99 which among other things contain penalty provisions.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 28 4TH SERIES AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 116 ENTITLED “TOBACCO PRODUCTS” TO COMPLY WITH NEW FEDERAL AGE REQUIREMENTS, TO INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY PROVISIONS FOR FAILING COMPLIANCE CHECKS, AND BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE CITY CODE CHAPTER 1 AND SECTION 10.99 WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Consider approving the Ordinance Summary for Ordinance No. 28 4th Series which will be published in the official newspaper.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE SUMMARY FOR ORDINANCE NO. 28 4TH SERIES WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-02-14 approving the appointment of Mike Powers to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for a two year term.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-02-14 APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MIKE POWERS TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR A TWO YEAR TERM.

Mayor Gander thanked Mr. Powers for serving on the city planning commission, the county planning commission, and for continuing to serve on the MPO Board. He commented that he is affective at what he does. Council member DeMers asked since this position also serves on the planning commission if they should be the group that appoints this position. Discussion followed about how it is the Mayor that appoints this position, the person usually volunteers, but moving forward it could be good practice for the planning commission to recommend a person to the Mayor.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-02-15 supporting the pedestrian improvements to the intersection of Highway 220 and 17th Street, committing to paying for 50% of the beacon system, and committing the City to maintaining the beacon system once it has been installed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-02-15 SUPPORTING THE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 220 AND 17TH STREET, COMMITTING TO PAYING FOR 50% OF THE BEACON SYSTEM, AND COMMITTING THE CITY TO MAINTAINING THE BEACON SYSTEM ONCE IT HAS BEEN INSTALLED.

Council Vice-President Grassel asked if the one side could be moved back if they move forward with this system. Mr. Emery stated that he talked with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and they are willing to work with the City on what the best placement is for this system.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

CLAIMS:

9. 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, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, and Grassel.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander stated it was good to be back, he reminded everyone about the upcoming Grand Forks State of the City address, and the City's State of the City address will be in April once again. He added he was glad they were looking at the pedestrian safety along Highway 220 and asked residents to be mindful of safety for pedestrians and all other types of traffic throughout the City. He informed everyone he would be meeting with Lou Tasa from MNDOT about the intersection of Bygland Road and 13th Street SE to see what can be done to address the challenges for pedestrians along with left turns for vehicles. He added that staff will be joining him for this meeting and even if it is not always talked about they are working hard to take care of the community.

Council Member Vetter said Bygland Road was going to be stripped this spring and asked to have that item brought to a work session so the Council can discuss how it should be stripped.

Council Member Riopelle said he had been at the Economic Development meeting earlier in the day and one thing that came up was where to find information about the park projects. He stated it was available online on the City website under Parks and Recreation and then click building and arenas. He added there was a plethora of information available on the projects.

Council Member Johnson stated since they are taking about safety they should also talk about 10th Street NW by the Presbyterian Church because it should be marked. Ms. Ellis said she had talked with Mr. Stordahl about that location, where it was requested was in the middle of a driveway, and there was a diagonal crossing that would be stripped in the spring.

Council Member DeMers informed everyone there were three cities and one county that have had hearings for their proposed local sales tax. He said there were 17 entities that have submitted information and suggested contacting legislators to make sure the City also has a hearing. He continued saying the League of Minnesota Cities is proposing a bill for street improvement districts, the City may want to pass a resolution in support of that. He said they may also be clarifying what fees can be charged for a development and this may need to be brought to a work session for discussion.

Council Member Olstad reminded everyone about the first informational meeting about the park and recreation projects was going to be held on Thursday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the Civic Center arena.

Mr. Murphy told everyone he volunteered for the 5K/10K Frozen Feet event, he was stationed at the 10K turn around on the East Grand Forks side, and he heard many comments from people from out of town on how nice the trails were.

Ms. Ellis said the census was going to be online in 23 days and cards will be sent out in the mail informing people how to fill out their information online. She stated there were going to be help locations at the Senior Center, the city library, the public school, and here at City Hall she was able to assist people with the census. She reminded everyone that the census is a big deal because it equates to \$2,000 per person per year, it's a lot of federal and state dollars that can be brought into the community, and there is a chance that the State could lose a representative in Congress so it is critical everyone gets counted in Minnesota.

Council member DeMers asked if there were volunteers or employment opportunities that are unfilled. Ms. Ellis said there are still positions available. Council member DeMers asked if there was marketing or if there was an outreach effort for this. Ms. Ellis said there will be a reminder on the April Water and Light bill, advertisements will be going out in the newspapers, on city buses, and on the social media accounts along with other things. Mayor Gander thanked Ms. Ellis for the work she had done on the Census, how she has been working ahead, and she is thorough and ahead of the game. He added this is a big deal because of the federal dollars that come with it.

Mayor Gander read the update from Interim Fire Chief Jeff Boushee about the upcoming flood situation. He said staff had met on February 13th and watched a National Weather Service 2020 Spring Flood Outlook webinar which was followed by a flood prep meeting afterward. He stated the staff members at the meeting and how there is little change in the outlook for flooding since the last update. He read through the percentages and how there is currently 95% chance the flood waters will reach 44.6 feet and 75% chance of the flood waters reaching 47 feet. He continued saying the Public Works is preparing for this event, Mr. Olson reported the inventory on the flood walls is good, and requested snow be moved away from the stem walls and closures to help prepare for flood wall installation. Mayor Gander thanked staff for staying on top of this.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 18, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:20 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Helms.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer