

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY
COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Emergency Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for March 24, 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, Dale Helms, Tim Riopelle, Tim Johnson, and Marc DeMers.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

Council President Olstad state the Emergency Meeting was being held remotely pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.02, 13D.021 and 13D.04 and attended by Council President Olstad and Mayor Steve Gander in Chambers of the City Hall. He said the purpose of the meeting was to declare a Local Flood Emergency and the Emergency Meeting was noticed pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.04, Subd. 3.

1. Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Emergency

Mayor Gander read the declaration for a local flood emergency into the record.

DECLARATION FOR LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, as Mayor of East Grand Forks I find that the following situation exists:

Predicted flooding of the Red River of the North and the Red Lake River by the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service is predicting the river levels may reach 46 feet or higher.

WHEREAS, the river is considered to be at flood stage when it reaches 28 feet; and

WHEREAS, I find that conditions can change rapidly due to temperature change, ice blockages, or many other possible variables that can affect the flood waters; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven Gander, Mayor of East Grand Forks declare this situation to be a local emergency effective on March 24, 2020.

This declaration of a local emergency will invoke the city's disaster plan. The portions that are necessary for response to and recovery from the emergency must be used.

2. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-03-21 extending the mayor declared local emergency for flooding of the Red River of the North and Red Lake River.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-03-21 EXTENDING THE MAYOR DECLARED LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR FLOODING OF THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH AND RED LAKE RIVER.

Council member Vetter said the disaster plan was referenced and asked if they could receive a copy of the plan. Ms. Nelson stated it could be shared. Council member DeMers said the resolution was in effect until waters went below flood stage and asked if there was a 30-day maximum for an emergency declaration. Mr. Galstad said he would have to check for a flood, he believed it would be for as long as the flood was in existence, and they could modify this if it needed to be 30 days or shorter.

Council member DeMers moved to amend the resolution and add the wording to number one “or 30 days whichever is less”. He stated how the Council should revisit and review the situation. Mayor Gander said there was a good chance the crest may come around April 24th so 30 days may be short, the intent is for this is to include the recovery as well, and suggested 60 days. Council member DeMers stated it should be 30 days, there was going to be two more meetings within the next 30 days, and if an extension was needed the Council would be able to extend it. Council President Olstad asked to have the amended read. Ms. Nelson said the wording would be changed from “the end of the flood” to “or 30 days whichever is less”. Mr. Galstad stated he thought the intent was for “30 days or to the end of the flood, whichever is shorter”. Council member DeMers said that was his motion.

Council President Olstad stated there was already a motion on the table, Council member DeMers is asking for a friendly amendment, and asked if those that made the motion are okay with the change. Council member Johnson said yes. Council Vice-President Grassel asked Mayor Gander if he was okay with this change. Mayor Gander said most people should be around but if the intent of the resolution is to carry out into flood recovery, the time frame does not match the intent, so he is not okay with it. Council Vice-President Grassel said he agreed with the mayor and asked to leave it the way it was.

Council President Olstad asked for a second on the motion to amend the resolution. Council member Vetter seconded the motion to amend the resolution. Council member Helms asked if this would make any changes to how the City would be responding or getting assistance and suggested carrying this out until the flood was over. Mr. Murphy said the resolution does not have a specific time line because it references river levels. Discussion followed about how it does currently give a logical end point with the river going below flood stage, how some are not okay with not having a specified end date, and there are meetings scheduled where the Council could extend the emergency if necessary. Mayor Gander commented they would need this in place for longer than 30 days. Council President Olstad suggested leaving it the way it was. He asked for any other questions or if there was none they would be voting on the amendment. There were no other questions.

A roll call vote was taken on the proposed amendment of “30 days or to the end of the flood, whichever is shorter.”

Voting Aye: DeMers, Vetter, Johnson.

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

Council President Olstad stated the motion failed and asked for a vote on the original resolution.

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

Voting Nay: None.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 24, 2020 EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:11 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer