

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, July 7, 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 Members Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Tim Riopelle, Tim Johnson, and Marc DeMers.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council from June 16, 2020.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council from June 23, 2020.
3. Consider approving the minutes of the “Special Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council from June 29, 2020.

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

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

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 June 3, 2020 and for June 17, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Consider awarding the 2nd Avenue NE street repair to Opp Construction for a total of \$49,992.30.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO AWARD THE 2ND AVENUE NE STREET REPAIR TO OPP CONSTRUCTION FOR A TOTAL OF \$49,992.30.

Council member Helms asked what the timeline was to complete this project. Mr. Stordahl said currently there was no deadline for completion but it will be done in a timely manner. Council member Helms asked if there would be any starting and stopping of this project. Mr. Stordahl stated he was not sure when it would be started, but once started the project would be worked on until it was completed and they would be leaving lanes of traffic open while working on the street.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

6. Consider awarding the Police Department Door Access, Holding Cell, and Fire Alarm systems update to Electro Watchman for a total of \$95,145.40.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO AWARD THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DOOR ACCESS, HOLDING CELL, AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS UPDATE TO ELECTRO WATCHMAN FOR A TOTAL OF \$95,145.40.

Council member Helms asked if this project had been included in the budget. Chief Hedlund explained \$55,000 had been budgeted for this, they were not able to get a good estimate for the holding cell project, but some projects were being moved to 2021 so there were funds available to cover the holding cell costs in the building maintenance fund.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

7. Consider approving the Joint Use Agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and Independent School District 595 for community use of outdoor recreational facilities.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE JOINT USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 595 FOR COMMUNITY USE OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

8. Consider approving the request to purchase four slides and one rope ladder for Sherlock Park from Play by Design for a total of \$13,721.00 which does include freight.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PURCHASE FOUR SLIDES AND ONE ROPE LADDER FOR SHERLOCK PARK FROM PLAY BY DESIGN FOR A TOTAL OF \$13,721.00 WHICH DOES INCLUDE FREIGHT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-07-44 appointing election judges for the 2020 Primary and General Elections.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-07-44 APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE 2020 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-07-45 approving the formatting to the ballot question for the proposed revisions to the city charter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-07-45 APPROVING THE FORMATTING TO THE BALLOT QUESTION FOR THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CITY CHARTER.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

CLAIMS:

11. 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: DeMers, Vetter, Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, and Olstad.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander said he recently talked with Ms. Joann Whicker and he reminded the Council she was the person who took the lead in getting an outdoor seating area at the Good Samaritan Maples building. He explained she raised approximately \$69,000 in cash and in-kind items, she wanted to thank the Council for bringing awareness to this issue, and was wondering if a couple garbage cans could be donated to finish this project. He commented how this area is well used by the residents, how visits can be scheduled for family members of residents to come visit in these outdoor areas, and he thanked Ms. Whicker for all the work she did.

Mayor Gander said things were starting to open up across the country, there is an unexpected number of rise in cases in some states, in some areas they are close to capacity in their intensive care units, and some areas may need to slow things down. He stated they knew this would happen with people coming into close proximity with each other, the sky wasn't falling, he doesn't like wearing a mask, and he doesn't like being told what to do. He added if this is what is needed to have some freedoms to get back to life taking these precautions will be a big deal, Governor Walz is considering requiring wearing masks in public, and before that happens people can consider their role and help minimize the spread of the virus. He commented how following these guidelines are getting old but the challenge is to continue following these guidelines which will more than likely be for the next 12 to 18 months. He stated more information will be coming, other states are test cases, and lessons are being learned.

Council member Helms asked Mr. Stordahl when the area on 5th Avenue NE will be fixed or if the City can fix it and bill them for it. Mr. Stordahl said he was told it was going to be fixed but will follow up and see what the time frame is for this project. Council member Helms stated he received a phone call regarding flooding the industrial park from the recent rains. He asked the Council to do everything possible to back Mr. Stordahl and give him what is necessary to fix the issues in the industrial park because every street was flooded and employees were not able to get to work. He said he would not want to buy a lot in this area and it seems to have issues a few times a year so they should try to get something done.

Council member Riopelle asked that Mr. Stordahl give him a call.

Council member DeMers said he had missed a meeting so he wasn't sure if this was discussed but during the Economic Development Authority Board (EDA Board) meeting today they started discussing possible uses for money that was coming from the State due to COVID. He asked if there had been a discussion at the Council level and if there was any additional information. Council President Olstad stated the Council did not have a discussion about this yet. Ms. Anderson stated the Governor signed so the funds

could be released to the cities. Mr. Gorte commented the EDA Board only meets once a month so it was brought forward at their meeting for discussion, they were brainstorming on what can be done, but they are also waiting on the guidelines on how the funds can be used. Council member DeMers said he thought there was going to be \$660,000 available to the City, there is \$150,000 reserved for expenditures, leaving approximately \$500,000 that could be used as a result of COVID. He said they will want to start thinking about this, if the City does not spend these funds they will be transferred to the County, then to the State, and then back to the federal government. He asked everyone to start thinking about this and the earlier the discussion starts the more uses they will find.

Council President Olstad asked if this item should be brought back to the next work session or what the best time frame would be. Ms. Anderson said the League of Minnesota Cities will be sending out parameters in the next week. Mr. Murphy suggested bringing this to a work session after they get guidance from the League of Minnesota Cities. Council member Helms stated this was mentioned in the EDA Board meeting so they could start brainstorming on what this could be used on, how it has to be COVID related, and what isn't used is sent back. He added just because they have it doesn't mean it has to be spent so they need to be smart about what they do. Mayor Gander said the dollar amount on how the community has been affected will be much higher than this amount and they will be applying these funds to the highest priorities. Council member DeMers stated how schools have been and will be affected but he wasn't sure if the City would be able to partner with the school or not. He commented they will be underestimating this situation and they don't want to overspend.

Mr. Emery informed the Council the pre-construction meeting for the 2020 watermain replacement project was going to be held the next day and would on 4th Avenue NW between 14th Street NW and 17th Street NW. He added he did not have a timeline for the project just yet but that should be determined within the next week or two.

Chief Hedlund apologized for joining the Council but he was unable to sign into the Zoom meeting. He added that Officer Justin Roue will be completing his field training on Friday, July 10th, the previous officers had been sworn in before the Council, but due to the current conditions his swearing in ceremony was going to be held on Saturday, July 11th at the Police Department before his first shift working by himself. He said they were welcome to join the ceremony.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 7, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:24 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Grassel.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer