

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, July 21, 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: 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:**

**OPEN FORUM:**

- **Comments from Mr. Kenyon Leopard – will be participating via Zoom**

Council President asked Mr. Leopard to state his name and address for the record. Mr. Kenyon Leopard, 806 ½ 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, stated he has seen a lot of police activity in the neighborhood lately and the police have not been wearing masks. He said based on COVID chart maps in the last few weeks there has been an outbreak of a few thousand cases of COVID in Polk County and he feels if there is something the City can do to enforce city officials to wear masks, it should be done, or try to convince them to wear masks. He added there hasn't been a global pandemic since influenza in 1918, wearing a mask was not a political statement, and this is about lives. He stated that was all he had and asked the Council to strongly consider this.

Mr. Murphy said as far as city requirements for masks, if they are going into a home for something like an inspection a mask would be required, but if they are able to social distance and be out and about the policy states it is a personal choice to wear a mask. Mr. Leopard said officers without masks on have been arresting people, they are not able to social distance while arresting someone, and he would have to infer social distancing would not be observed through the rest of the process including the jailing process.

Chief Hedlund stated they have zero control of the Polk County Jail, but the jail is currently requiring officers to wear masks when someone is brought to the jail, and they are not allowed to enter without a mask on. He said beyond that masks have been made available to staff, it has been recommended they are worn, especially if there is a possibility someone may have COVID, but at this time it has not been mandated. He added the officers' jobs can be difficult, things can change quickly, and become hands on. Mr. Leopard said he understood and the active investigation they have going on for the extremely heinous crime that happened recently, he understands the crisis that was going on, and the pressure they are under

on a daily basis. Chief Hedlund said he understands the concerns about COVID-19, it's something to be aware of, and they are open to discussion on having staff wear masks more frequently. He added he will be discussing this further with Mr. Murphy. Mr. Leopard thanked the Council and staff for listening to him.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Council Meeting" for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council from July 7, 2020.
2. Consider approving the minutes of the "Work Session" for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council from July 14, 2020.

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

*Voting Aye: Vetter, Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, and DeMers.*  
*Voting Nay: None.*  
*Absent: Grassel.*

**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.*

3. Consider approving the Special Event Permit Application for the Iron Pigs Motorcycle Club for the motorcycle ride on the Kenneth Olson Memorial Trail in the greenway system on August 8, 2020 between 11am and 11:30am.
4. Consider approving the request to start the internal hiring process for a lead equipment operator.
5. Consider approving the request to start the internal hiring process for an equipment operator.
6. Consider approving the request to start the internal and external hiring process for a truck driver.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH SIX (6).**

Council member Helms asked how many times the motorcycle ride had taken place or if this was a new request. Ms. Nelson said it was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual ride but only the third time the request to ride on the trail had come before the Council.

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

*Voting Nay: None.*  
*Absent: Grassel.*

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

7. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for July 1, 2020.

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-07-46 supporting the proposed traffic signal replacement and ADA work at the intersections of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW on Demers Avenue and commit to paying 50% of the traffic signal costs for this project.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-07-46 SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT AND ADA WORK AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW ON DEMERS AVENUE AND COMMIT TO PAYING 50% OF THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL COSTS FOR THIS PROJECT.**

*Voting Aye: Vetter, Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, and DeMers.*  
*Voting Nay: None.*  
*Absent: Grassel.*

9. Consider adopting Resolution No. 20-07-47 showing support for the LaFave Park Improvements Application for the Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails grant funding and local match commitment of 25% for a project to include \_\_\_\_\_.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-07-47 SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE LAFAVE PARK IMPROVEMENTS APPLICATION FOR THE GREATER MINNESOTA PARKS & TRAILS GRANT FUNDING AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT OF 25% FOR A PROJECT TO INCLUDE \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ms. Nelson asked which option they would like to include. Council member Riopelle asked to label them Options 1, 2, and 3. Ms. Anderson asked to have the options explained. Mr. Huttunen explained feedback was taken from the last work session and with Mr. Emery they tried to adjust things such as the size of the parking lot to make this project more affordable. He stated an estimate was put together for one boat ramp and a gravel parking lot based on a request from Council member DeMers and totaled \$566,000, the second portion of the grant was connecting people to the outdoors which he was hoping the Council would support, and how that was to try to engage and connect people along the Red Lake River Corridor.

He said this information has been sent out earlier in the day and the first option was recommended for approval because if the overlay was included on 1<sup>st</sup> Street they would be over the 40% that would be allowed to spend on streets. He added how he spoke with Ms. Anderson after this was sent out, how staff looked into including two boat ramps, the mill and overlay of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the curb and gutter for gravel parking lot, and connecting people to the outdoors, the project cost was \$943,202, and that dropped the percentage to just under 40% which would qualify. He added how this could help address the mill and overlay needed on 1<sup>st</sup> Street and it could cost the City an additional \$150,000 to pay for the mill and overlay if it was not included in this project. He stated it would be a larger local match but it could be spread out into 2024 because the grant period expires in June 30, 2024. He said again when he had sent out the information that morning he was recommending Option 1 but after reviewing this information Option 3 would be a good option to apply for because of what could be accomplished.

Council President Olstad asked Council member Helms if he wanted still make the motion. Council member Helms withdrew his motion. Council President Olstad asked for a motion.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DEMERS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-07-47 SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE LAFAVE PARK IMPROVEMENTS APPLICATION FOR THE GREATER MINNESOTA PARKS & TRAILS GRANT FUNDING AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT OF 25% FOR PROJECT OPTION THREE TO INCLUDE TWO BOAT RAMPS, GRAVEL PARKING LOT, CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER, AND 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET NE MILL AND OVERLAY.**

Council member DeMers asked if there was a difference in rehabbing roads compared to building new roads and if there was any stipulations for new connections. Mr. Huttunen said he could not say if new construction would take priority but in the criteria it states the project would get 15 points if it is a critical acquisition or critical rehabilitation and repair of a park facility or structure. He commented how they should qualify under that based on the regional impact this boat access and park area has, how many people currently use this area, and how that number could increase with improvements.

Council member Demers said it looked like \$80,000 had been set aside for this project last year in the capital fund and if that was correct. Ms. Anderson said she believed so, they have discussed this in the past, it could be added in future budgets, and would be consider infrastructure so they could look at what other funds are available just as the TIF dollars or State Aid maintenance funds. Council member DeMers asked if they would only need to come up with \$160,000 over the next three years. Ms. Anderson said the funds were not set aside because the grant was not approved. Council member DeMers asked if they went with the one boat ramp if the current ramp could be kept in place while the new one was being constructed. Mr. Huttunen said that had been discussed, they could install a new one, and not lose river access during this project. Council member DeMers asked if there was any benefit to change the geometry to allow for a dock to fit in between the ramps. Mr. Huttunen said that was the plan, this was started with just updating one ramp, and any changes to the dock would need to include ADA accessibility.

Council member Helms asked if they needed two boat ramps, if the area in between the two would wash away, and how he had received the information about the boat ramp but was wondering why the costs were so high. Mr. Emery said the costs included curb and gutter for the parking lot and islands and not knowing what is there for the parking lot the costs include a new gravel section that would be approximately 12 inches deep. Discussion followed about how there was a break down included in the

information provided to the Council on what the costs are.

Council member Helms asked what the cost was for connecting people to the outdoors. Mr. Huttunen said this grant was being applied for through the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board, it is made up of six communities along the corridor, all applications apply jointly because this corridor has been deemed regionally significant which is how the City qualifies for this grant, and a focus of the commission is wanting to see how these projects would connect people to the outdoors. He explained the joint powers board has worked on the plan for each community to have river specific events and market the corridor for recreation and tourism for the region to bring people to the area. He stated each community is committing to apply to meet this requirement, if approved they will hire professionals to help with marketing, highlight the two events in each city, and try to engage people in new activities which is being emphasized by the grant commission. Council member DeMers asked if this included wayfinding. Mr. Huttunen said they were currently working on that.

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

*Voting Nay: Helms.*

*Absent: Grassel.*

**CLAIMS:**

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.**

Council member DeMers asked what the \$90,000 that was going into the trust account. Ms. Anderson said it was for an EDA loan for a business that was expanding, it was not due to COVID, and it goes through Mr. Galstad's trust account.

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

*Absent: Grassel.*

**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:**

Council member Johnson thanked Ms. Ellis and Mr. Stordahl for getting the crosswalk painted by the swimming pool.

Council Member DeMers thanked Chief Boushee for the quick response for a question regarding the sirens. He stated residents should be informed about what the sirens can be used for, how there was some confusion, and how that information could be made available on the City website.

Mr. Murphy stated the special legislative session had expired, the bonding bill was not approved, and he was told to use best judgement when it came to projects and to use the League of Minnesota Cities projections when it comes to local government aid. He added there was a divide on the bonding bill which

could make for a long road ahead.

Mr. Emery told the Council the notice of intent for the quiet zone had been sent out to the different parties, there is a 60 day comment period, and the deadline to receive comments is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stordahl informed the Council the hydraulic study was almost complete and the information was going to be presented at the next work session.

**ADJOURN:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 21, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:33 P.M.**

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

*Voting Nay: None.*

*Absent: Grassel.*

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David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer