

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, October 13, 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, and Marc DeMers.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

1. Discussion on Aerial Photo & Pavement Management System Updates – Steve Emery

Mr. Emery explained the Metropolitan Planning Commission was working on updating work programs for 2021 and 2022, which would require financial support from the City. He stated one program included a new aerial photograph of the two cities; the photo was last done in 2018, and was typically taken every three years. He said the other project was an update to the pavement management system and the last time that was updated was in 2014. He reminded the Council there had been a lot of street work done in the years following that update. He told the Council there was \$92,000 available in federal funds to help pay for these projects and there was an 80/20 split so the local match for the full amount would be approximately \$23,000 which would be split between the two cities. He added federal funds would cover the streets that were classified as federal routes, which totaled about 12.9 miles. He stated the City would be responsible for the local streets, which total approximately 41.5 miles and 3.9 miles of the State Aid system was not included on the federal route. He informed the Council the local share for the road project was being estimated at \$15,890.

Mr. Emery said the total for City's portion for both projects was approximately \$27,390 and could be paid for from the State Aid maintenance funds for both of these projects. He added these items had been brought before the City of Grand Forks and were approved. He stated this would require Council support and funding. He asked for questions.

Mayor Gander asked if the resolution of the new photo would show the new sapling growing on 20th Street. Mr. Emery told the Council there would be a higher resolution used in the residential areas. Mayor Gander asked if this would be an important tool to have. Mr. Emery said it was an important tool and the aerial photo is used on a daily basis so both are important for things that are done every day. Mr. Stordahl stated the pavement management system was a tool used to show a need when requesting State or Federal funding and proved treatment or maintenance was needed. He added it helps to record what had been

done especially when it was smaller projects such as panel replacement. Mr. Emery said they could click on a street and get the information on when the street was constructed and what maintenance work had been completed. Ms. Anderson informed the Council there was approximately \$700,000 in the fund, other projects have been approved that reduces the total down to \$500,000, so there would be funding to cover these costs.

Council member Helms asked what they gain by having the aerial photo instead of using something like Google Earth, which was something he had seen Mr. Stordahl use. Mr. Emery said most cities use these photos for GIS systems, the City uses it for plan production and with the high resolution, they are able to zoom in and get a good view, which could help with preparing plans during the winter when the City is covered in snow. Council member Helms commented he has pulled many pictures up on his computer and they come out clear. He asked if the pavement management system was kept updated at Widseth. Mr. Emery said the last time they took photos of the streets to come up with the pavement condition index was in 2014 and since that time, all of the bituminous streets have been milled and overlaid or seal coated, this would keep the software current, and should be done every few years. He added they system still has the street information and they need to keep up with current photos and pavement ratings.

Council member DeMers stated he was in favor of both of these projects, it was important to have updated information, and this was open information available for everyone to use. He said these would be high resolution, which helps identify items such as manholes. He asked if this system could be included with other systems different departments were using. Mr. Emery said he would need to work with Mr. Thompson to see if something could be done. Ms. Ellis told the Council she was working on getting an open GIS platform that would work with the County's and the ICON Pavement system would be a part of this that could be open to city staff. She added there was a benefit to have a public GIS system for a variety of reasons. Council member DeMers stated he has concerns of using three different platforms and staff might want to coordinate efforts. Ms. Ellis said she has a license for GIS, this could be more open to the public, and things are becoming more affordable. Discussion followed about how the information needed to be kept up to date, how these should be made available to other departments, and how some unplatted areas could be included so a developer could use it to develop a plat.

This item will be referred to a City Council Meeting for action.

2. Update on MNDOT Local Partnership Program Project – Steve Emery

Mr. Emery informed the Council he had an update on the local partnership project along Demers Avenue that was going to be done with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and he needed some feedback. He stated the biggest scope of work was replacing the stamped concrete crosswalks. He said after initial approval there was a request for colored concrete in the crosswalks, he asked, and was told MNDOT would not be paying for that. He reminded the Council five of the stamped concrete crosswalks were already removed so if the Council wanted all of the crosswalks the same, the five crossings would need to be removed and replaced which was estimated at \$60,000 at the City's expense. He asked for direction on that item.

Mr. Emery then asked if the Council would be interested in thermal plastic pavement markers. He stated they had been installed in Bemidji and they had very good results with how they were holding up. He added MNDOT might participate in paying for the thermal plastic markers. He asked for direction from the Council on the markers if it would be an additional cost for the City. Council President Olstad asked where the funds to pay for these item come from. Mr. Emery said funding could come from the State Aid

allocation or maintenance funds. Discussion followed about just stripping the crosswalks would be paid for by the State, how the City could spend these funds on something else, a request for a map showing the project area, and if the existing crosswalks could possibly be tinted. Mayor Gander commented how there was investment in the downtown area, the other crosswalks gave a distinctive look, so they should be intentional with the design. Council President Olstad asked if the crosswalks included the one that goes in between Cabela's and the mall. Mr. Emery said that was included in this project. Mayor Gander asked to have what tint would cost to see if it was an option. Mr. Emery stated he would get the requested information and bring it back to a meeting.

This item will be brought back to a future meeting.

3. Discussion on Lot on the South End of the City – Dale Helms

Mr. Galstad informed the Council he had an opportunity to speak with the property owner who was very apologetic and thought some of these issues had been taken care of. He stated the two main issues were the removal of the brush pile and the cutting back of the hedge along the sidewalk. He said she would be talking with the caretaker and indicated that these things would be done this week or by the weekend. He added again how she had thought these items had been taken care of. He commented how several people have been involved with the effort of cleaning up the property and it looks better now than it has in years.

OTHER:

Mayor Gander thanked Mr. Galstad for getting the pile of tires removed from a property on the north end of the city. He said it had taken some effort and thanked the property owner for addressing the issue. Mr. Galstad thanked Mr. Judd Stauss for getting this issued addressed quickly.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRASSEL, TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:31 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer