

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, August 17, 2021 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 Tim Riopelle, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Dale Helms, Tim Johnson, and Brian Larson.

Staff Present: Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Jeff Boushee, Fire Chief; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Megan Nelson, City Clerk; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

President Olstad stated the open form 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 maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate. He asked if anyone would like to address the City Council, please come up to the podium to do so.

Mr. Robert Gilleland, 523 4th Ave NE, asked the Council if they were aware of all noise the trains make because he sleeps with windows open and stated how at 2am and again at 4am the trains blow their whistles 15 times in a three block area. He asked if the Council was working on this issue. Mr. Murphy explained the City has been working with the railroad on this for a couple years, the Council had taken decisive action on the vacation and closure of the 3rd Street crossing, Sacred Heart had been included on the process of the closure, and the railroad would then upgrade the cross controls at the two remaining crossings. He said these changes would allow for a quiet zone so the trains would not have to blow horns through this area. He added these changes have been scheduled to take place in 2022. Mr. Gilleland thanked Mr. Murphy for the information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of August 3, 2021.

2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of August 10, 2021.

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 Larson.

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers.

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 Exempt Gambling Permit Application for Sacred Heart Church & School to hold a raffle on January 18, 2022 at Sacred Heart located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
4. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for Sacred Heart Church & School to hold a raffle on March 12, 2022 at Sacred Heart located at 200 3rd St NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
5. Consider approving the Exempt Gambling Permit Application for the Northern Lights Figure Skating Club to hold a raffle on November 21, 2021 at the VFW Arena located at 711 3rd St SE East Grand Forks, MN 56721 and waive the 30-day waiting period.
6. Consider approving the Facility Use Agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Arts & Crafts Council for use of the Civic Center and Blue Line Club Arena for the Arts & Crafts fair.
7. Consider approving the Facility Use Agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Blue Line Club for the use of the VFW Arena for a fall development camp.
8. Consider approving the final plat of the Sacred Heart Addition and require a digital file be submitted to the planning office.
9. Consider approving the request to advertise for the Team Lead: Facility Operations position for the Parks Department.
10. Consider approving the amendment to the Lease Agreement No. PS0371 between the City of East Grand Forks and the State of Minnesota for the use of the Park facility located at 929 5th Ave NE as the driver exam station.

11. Consider approving the Temporary Liquor License Application for LISTEN, Inc who is contracting with liquor services with The Spud Jr for the Craft Beer Tour event scheduled for September 25, 2021 at the Civic Center located at 300 15th St NE East Grand Forks, MN 56721.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH ELEVEN (11).

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers.

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

12. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for July 21, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

13. Consider approving Ordinance No. 30, 4th Series amending City Code Chapter 90 entitled “Public Parks” by adding sections 90.02 Through 90.19 captioned “The Greenway” and by adopting by reference city code Chapter 1 and Section 10.99 which, among other things, contain penalty provisions. (1st Reading)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 30, 4TH SERIES AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 ENTITLED “PUBLIC PARKS” BY ADDING SECTIONS 90.02 THROUGH 90.19 CAPTIONED “THE GREENWAY” AND BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE CITY CODE CHAPTER 1 AND SECTION 10.99 WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS AND REMOVE SECTION 90.04 RESTRICTING HOURS. (1ST READING)

Council member Johnson asked to have the hours removed so the greenway was always available, the taxpayers were paying for maintenance which was increasing, but usage was restricted with hours for use of the greenway. He said they were there to help the public and not restrain them. Council President Olstad asked for a second on the amended motion. There was no second to the motion so the motion died. Council President Olstad asked if someone wanted to move on the original motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 30, 4TH SERIES AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 ENTITLED “PUBLIC PARKS” BY ADDING SECTIONS 90.02 THROUGH 90.19 CAPTIONED “THE GREENWAY” AND BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE CITY CODE CHAPTER 1 AND SECTION 10.99 WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS. (1ST READING)

Voting Aye: Vetter, Helms, Riopelle, Olstad, and Larson.

Voting Nay: Johnson.

Absent: DeMers.

14. Consider adopting Resolution No. 21-08-62 approving the \$1 increase to the greenway maintenance fee in 2022 and the 5% annual increase to this fee until 2032.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-08-62 APPROVING THE \$1 INCREASE TO THE GREENWAY MAINTENANCE FEE IN 2022 AND THE 5% ANNUAL INCREASE TO THIS FEE UNTIL 2032.

Council member Vetter reminded the Council on June 1st they approved increases to the storm and sanitary sewer fees which would go into effect on January 2022 and would be 6 and a half percent to the budget. He continued saying if they approved this dollar increase for the greenway maintenance fee it would be .8% of the total budget if the fees had been included in the general fund. He added the mayor wanted to keep the levy increase to 5% and these fee increases are more than 5% which was an argument to bring these fees back into the general fund. He stated it would not be as easy to arbitrarily increase things by a \$1 or 5% each year, this was not right to the citizens, telling the citizens the budget would be held to 5% and increasing fees he was not in favor of so he would be voting no.

Voting Aye: Riopelle, Olstad, Larson.

Voting Nay: Vetter, Helms, and Johnson.

Absent: DeMers.

Council President Olstad stated it was a tie and asked the Mayor to vote to break the tie. Mayor Gander voted yes. Council President Olstad stated the motion passed.

Voting Aye: Riopelle, Olstad, Larson, and Gander.

Voting Nay: Vetter, Helms, and Johnson.

Absent: DeMers.

15. Consider adopting Resolution No. 21-08-63 requesting the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and move the City's sub target funding from 2022 to 2023 and move Polk County's sub target funding from 2023 to 2022.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-08-63 REQUESTING THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND MOVE THE CITY'S SUB TARGET FUNDING FROM 2022 TO 2023 AND MOVE POLK COUNTY'S SUB TARGET FUNDING FROM 2023 TO 2022.

Council Vice-President Riopelle asked if a time limit that could be imposed on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to make sure things get done. Mr. Murphy said this request was for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to make a switch in the funding cycle, Polk County seemed very interested, and this should not take much time. He said if they added a time line it would be during the next step and he would be bringing forward a request for a corridor study for 10th which what the MPO was requiring for more information before approving the amendment. He added he was requesting a time line on how long that process should take from the city engineer and that would be when they could request a time line from the MPO.

Voting Aye: Helms, Riopelle, Johnson, Olstad, and Larson.

Voting Nay: Vetter.

Absent: DeMers.

CLAIMS:

16. 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 HELMS, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander thanked the media for the excellent coverage of what has been happening in East Grand Forks for both events that were taking place and the decisions made by the Council. He thanked them again for holding the Council accountable and communicating what was happening to the citizens which was important. He also congratulated the Heritage Foundation on a great weekend. He added there was also a great turnout for the Law Enforcement 5K event that took place over the weekend and asked Chief Hedlund to talk about the fundraiser that would be coming up for Tony Hart. He ended by reminding everyone about the Rockin Up North event that would be taking place over the weekend and to enjoy this great event.

Council Member Helms said they did have a great weekend for Heritage Days, he thanked Mayor Gander and Chief Hedlund for being hotdish judges, and they had a record for the tractor pull with around 50 tractors. He commented how Sunday there were a little fewer people but it was also hotter that day but overall they were very happy with how the weekend went. He added he would absent from the next meeting because he would be gone for a week.

Council Vice-President Riopelle stated Joe's Diner remodeled the inside, it was very welcoming, and if people wanted to help support a local business that would be one they could help.

Mr. Emery told the Council Opp Construction would be starting on the south trail project on Monday, August 23rd, and it is expected to take about a week to complete. He added information would be sent out later out in the week on the city website to help make people aware the work was going to be done.

Council member Johnson asked about the work being done by the Palmiscno building and how soon that would be completed. Mr. Emery said that was a part of the gas main replacement project and he expected that should be completed within the next week or so.

Chief Hedlund reminded everyone that Tony Hart was a Sergeant in the Police Department, he had a heart transplant earlier in the year, he was doing well with his recovery but still had a long way to go. He said Sergeant Hart was back working part time with light duty and it was good to see him back at the Police Department. He stated the Eagles Club had reached out when Sgt Hart was still in the hospital asking to hold a fundraiser for him and that would be on Thursday, August 26th, there would be food, a silent auction, and many other things going on. He added more information could be found on the flyer which have been hung up around town and was available on the Police Department's Facebook page.

Council President Olstad thanked Chief Boushee, Chief Hedlund, and Sheriff Tadman for attending an event in Grand Forks that recognized law enforcement and fire fighters to thank them for what they do. He added they also had representatives from Grand Forks, Grand Forks County, and the Air Base and they had a great showing and he thanked them for attending.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 17, 2021 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:16 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: DeMers.

David Murphy, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer