

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 was called to order by Council President Larson at 5:00 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL: Would the City Clerk please call roll

On a Call of Roll the following members of the East Grand Forks City Council were present: Mayor Mark Olstad, Council President Brian Larson, Council Vice-President Tim Riopelle, Council members Tami Schumacher, Ben Pokrzywinski, Dale Helms, Donald Casmey, and Karen Peterson.

Staff Present: Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Jeff Boushee, Fire Chief; Maggie Brockling, Economic Development Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Michael Hedlund, Police Chief, Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Reid Huttunen, City Administrator; Renee Olson, City Clerk; Jeremy King, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; Keith Mykleseth, Water and Light General Manager; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MAYORS' PROCLAMATION: RECOGNIZING FREEDOM WEEK FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 2026

OPEN FORUM:

“An opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring Council action maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of February 3, 2026
2. Consider approving the minutes of the “Work Session” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of February 10, 2026

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

Individuals with disabilities, language barriers or other needs who plan to attend the meeting and will need special accommodations should contact Nancy Ellis, ADA Coordinator at (218)-773-2208. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Also, materials can be provided in alternative formats for people with disabilities or with limited English proficiency (LEP) by contacting the ADA Coordinator (218)-773-2208 five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms

Voting Nay: None.

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 Application for the Annual YMCA Firecracker 5k & 10k Walk/Run event scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026 starting at 8:00 am MN DNR Special Use Permit Application has been submitted.
4. Consider approving the Special Event Application for the Grand Forks 10 event scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 29, 2026 starting at 6:00am and will require the closure of the Sorlie Bridge for the start of the race for approximately 30 minutes and will be contingent upon MNDOT approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SCHUMACHER, TO APPROVE ITEMS THREE (3) THROUGH FOUR (4).

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms

Voting Nay: None.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

5. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for January 21, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Consider approving Resolution No. 26-02-22 awarding the issuance and sale of \$11,725,000 general obligation sales tax revenue bonds, series 2026a fixing their form and specifications; directing their execution and delivery; and providing for their payment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, TO APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-22 AWARDDING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$11,725,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SALES TAX REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2026A FIXING THEIR FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS; DIRECTING

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THEIR EXECUTION AND DELIVERY; AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PAYMENT.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms
Voting Nay: None.

7. Consider Approving Resolution No. 26-02-21 approving the advertisement for bid package #2 for the recreation facility improvement project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-21 APPROVING THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID PACKAGE #2 FOR THE RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms
Voting Nay: None.

8. Consider approving the request to start the hiring process for an Administrative Assistant position in the Public Works Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SCHUMACHER, TO APPROVING THE REQUEST TO START THE HIRING PROCESS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms
Voting Nay: None.

9. Consider adoption of a 0.6% annual growth rate for the City of East Grand Forks socioeconomic study with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, TO ADOPTION OF A 0.6% ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FOR THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY WITH THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms
Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

10. Consider adopting Resolution No. 26-02-23 authorizing the City of East Grand Forks to approve purchases from Border States Trophy the goods for a total of \$36.00 whereas Council member Riopelle is personally interested financially in the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CASMEY, SECONDED BY COUNCIL

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MEMBER PUKRZYWINSKI, TO ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-23 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS TO APPROVE PURCHASES FROM BORDER STATES TROPHY THE GOODS FOR A TOTAL OF \$36.00 WHEREAS COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED FINANCIALLY IN THE CONTRACT.

Voting Aye: Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: Casmey

11. Consider authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to issue payment for accounts payable invoices totaling \$610,493.12 and the February 6, 2026, payroll.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES TOTALING \$610,493.12 AND THE FEBRUARY 6, 2026 PAYROLL.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Olstad reminded the community of the snow emergency starting at midnight tonight. He mentioned he presented a proclamation at a Sertoma International, civic organization Freedom Week program today at noon. He congratulated _____ for her first place essay. Fifth grade students from area schools write an essay of what freedom means to them.

Council Member Schumacher congratulated the essay winner and commented that she had really good second great teacher.

Council Member Helms apologized for missing the work session last week.

Council Member Peterson congratulated the essay winner.

Mr. Huttunen mentioned they met with Blue Peak a cable franchise, last week. Blue Peak is looking to start in April/May. Ms. Ellis will be working closely with Blue Peak to make sure they work section by section of the city. Blue Peak's vehicles are clearly marked so the community will know when they are working in the area. He also met with Tyler Technologies last week, Water & Light led a RFP in 2025 and Tyler Technologies was selected. The implementation process with Tyler Technologies will be approximately 12 to 18 months. Last week there was a Special Election for Polk County Commissioner 5th District. He thanked Renee and the part time election judges, it was a long day, thirteen hours or more for some of them. Voter turnout was low. Ross Pape was elected for District 5 and Mr. Huttunen plans to invite Mr. Pape to a future Work session. He also thanked Karla and Chris Hogan for all their work with the bond sale.

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Mr. Galstad expressed condolences to the Larry Stauss family.

Mr. Emery is continuing to work with MNDOT on the bridge project. Hoping to bid by late March.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PUKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:25 P.M.

Voting Aye: Casmey, Peterson, Larson, Schumacher, Pokrzywinski, Riopelle and Helms

Voting Nay: None.



Renee Olson, City Clerk