

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, February 24, 2026 was called to order by Council President Larson 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 Mark Olstad, Council President Brian Larson, Council Vice-President Tim Riopelle, Council members Tami Schumacher, Ben Pokrzywinski, and Karen Peterson.

Staff Present: Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Maggie Brockling, Economic Development Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; 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.

AGENDA**1. Site Use Agreement for Senior Center Commercial Kitchen with Nutritional Service, Inc. - Jeremy King, Parks & Recreation**

Mr. King gave an update relating to how Nutritional Services Inc. has been operating from the senior center's commercial kitchen over the past year. When the city entered into an agreement at \$750 per month, with the understanding that the rent structure would be reevaluated with a possible with built in escalations increasing annually. Because this location was new to NSI, staff agreed to revisit the agreement once they were fully established and able to assess their operations. The site has since proven successful, with NSI averaging approximately 1,200 meals per month from this location. A lot of these meals are home delivered meals, who have an average age of 85. The rental revenue helps offset 60% of the facility's utility costs. The updated lease agreement replicates the previous agreement, with the only change being the revised rental rate.

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

2. RCA Activity Fees - Jeremy King, Parks & Recreation

Mr. King mentioned in the 2026 budget, the Parks & Recreation proposed modest increases to summer recreation program registration fees to help offset rising costs for supplies and staffing across all

programs and facilities. The Parks & Recreation Commission reviewed the proposed adjustments and recommended forwarding them to the City Council for discussion and approval. Overall, the proposed fee changes reflect a 3% increase over 2025 rates, rounded to the nearest \$5.

The Parks & Recreation are also recommending an increase to the pool rental fee. The proposed pool rental rate would increase to \$200 for the base rental, with each additional hour priced at \$100. Additionally, the East Grand Forks School Parent Teacher Organization has requested to again provide each student in grades K–8 with one free daily swim pass for use during the summer of 2026, as was done in 2025. Of the 1,800 passes distributed last year, 260 were redeemed. Summer registration is scheduled to open on March 4 and close on March 25.

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

3. CGMC Legislative Action Day – March 25, 2026 – Reid Huttunen, City Administrator

Mr. Huttunen mentions the Coalition of Greater MN Cities is hosting its annual Legislative Action Day on Wednesday, March 25th in St. Paul. City Council members, Mayor, and staff have attended this event to advocate for East Grand Forks priorities. Staff are seeking interest in who would like to attend this year, and discussion of top priorities to focus our discussion and set meetings with legislators. Proposed topics for discussion:

- State Capital Bonding Request for improvements to Industrial Park roads/infrastructure
- Modifications to Border Cities Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) policy
 - No change to monetary allocation for BCEZ. Propose leaving at annual allocation of \$750,000 program wide.
 - Increase per employee credit to allow more flexibility for businesses that need additional assistance
 - Remove restrictions on business types that qualify for BCEZ, allow inclusion of recreation, tourism, and hospitality industries as eligible.
 - Remove geographical restriction of BCEZ area for Cities of Moorhead, Dilworth, and Ortonville. Currently East Grand Forks and Breckenridge are the only two that can designate the entire City as eligible for BCEZ credits.
- Advocating for a sales tax exemption or refund on construction materials for city arena projects.
- Supporting local partner organizations' bonding requests, such as the Potato Research Lab and a new special education learning center for the school district.

Mayor Mark Olstad also brought up the topic of having sales tax from marijuana reinstated back into the bill and the importance of tracking the costs to the city.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 24, 2026 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:13 P.M.

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



Renee Olson, City Clerk