

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, June 20, 2023 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, Ben Pokrzywinski, Dale Helms, Brian Larson, and Karen Peterson.

Staff Present: Jeff Boushee, Fire Chief; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Charlotte Helgeson, Library Director; Reid Huttunen, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; Keith Mykleseth, Water and Light General Manager; 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:

Ms. Renee Cardarelle, 525 Demers Ave, and Ms. Nora, 1012 4th Ave, both introduced themselves to the City Council. Ms. Cardarelle said she was there on behalf of a group called Connections, an informal group of people from both communities, they met at the library and have started working with New Hope. Ms. Nora informed the Council that New Hope was a non-profit organization that worked with New Americans and connect them to the great community. Ms. Cardarelle said they were inviting the Council to attend the Eid celebration that was going to be held on June 28th from 4pm to 7pm at Sherlock Park. She added the Connections group and New Hope were trying to bring community members together and they hoped to see them at the celebration. Mayor Gander asked for times again. Ms. Nora said it would be from 4pm to 7pm. Ms. Cardarelle added it would be on June 28th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Council Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of June 6, 2023.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “COUNCIL MEETING” FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL OF JUNE 6, 2023.

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

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.

2. Consider approving the Temporary Liquor License Application for the International Association of Firefighters Local 3423 for the Cats Incredible Event taking place July 28-30, 2023.
3. Consider approving Special Event Application for the International Association of Firefighters Local 3423 for the Cats Incredible Event taking place July 28-30, 2023 on the banks of the Red River and LaFave Park area.
4. Consider approving the Special Event Application for the Law Enforcement 10-78 5K annual event closing off the parking lot by restaurant row on Saturday, August 12, 2023 starting 8am to noon.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO APPROVE ITEMS TWO (2) THROUGH FOUR (4).

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

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 May 17, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS:

6. The City has been notified that there will be change with how glass is being accepted as a recyclable, changes would not be taking place until August 1st, and representatives from Countrywide will be attending the July 13th Work Session to educate the Council and community on the changes and give reminders on best practices for recycling.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 23-06-41 formally requesting \$7.379 million to be included in the 2024 bonding bill for the East Grand Forks Recreation Facility Reinvestment project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 23-06-41 FORMALLY REQUESTING

\$7.379 MILLION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2024 BONDING BILL FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS RECREATION FACILITY REINVESTMENT PROJECT.

Voting Aye: Pokrzywinski, Riopelle, Olstad, Larson, Peterson, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: Helms.

8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 23-06-42 rejecting the bids that were opened on May 31, 2023 for the 2023 City Project No. 2 LaFave Park Improvements.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 23-06-42 REJECTING THE BIDS THAT WERE OPENED ON MAY 31, 2023 FOR THE 2023 CITY PROJECT NO. 2 LAFAVE PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

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

Voting Nay: None.

9. Consider approving the renewal agreement for Mutual Aid in Fire and Emergency Services between the City of East Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Air Force Base and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL AID IN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE AND AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

10. Consider approving the On-sale Weekday and On-sale Sunday Liquor License Renewal for the Spud Jr located at 302 Demers Ave NW East Grand Forks, MN 56721.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO APPROVE THE ON-SALE WEEKDAY AND ON-SALE SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE SPUD JR LOCATED AT 302 DEMERS AVE NW EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721.

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

Voting Nay: None.

11. Consider approving the purchase of a Jetter Truck from Flexible Pipe Tool Company for a total of \$293,085.25.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A JETTER TRUCK FROM

FLEXIBLE PIPE TOOL COMPANY FOR A TOTAL OF \$293,085.25.

Mr. Stordahl reminded the Council about some operational items that were addressed by the City using the jetter truck that include during sewer backups, cleaning out catch basins, cleaning out bridge joints, and for clean up after flooding events. He reviewed that in the last 3 years there were 30 sewer backups, averaging 10 calls a year, they run the truck about 66 hours per year, and comparing that information to prices given by contractors it would average about \$51,361 per year. He added that using the cost of the truck it would average out to \$14,654 per year.

Mr. Stordahl told the Council that the contractors informed the City that they could be on call but would need a minimum four hour window to respond and when there is a backup, time was of the essence to stop significant damage. Council member Larson asked what the City's liability was for a sewer backup and how that cost analysis figured into the purchasing of a truck rather than relying on a contractor. Mr. Stordahl said residents were responsible for their private line all the way out to the connection to the sewer main and if there was an issue in their private line there was no liability. He added if there was a blockage in the sewer main the liability of the City would be determined by the insurance adjuster. Council member Helms asked about the truck that was on 20th and if those contractors would still need to be hired. Mr. Stordahl explained the items he had listed were completed by staff and they would continue to hire out sewer cleaning to be done each year based on the recommendation from the League of Minnesota Cities.

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

Voting Nay: None.

12. Consider approving the street repairs on James Avenue and 2nd Street NE to be completed by H&S Construction for a total of \$130,039.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO APPROVE THE STREET REPAIRS ON JAMES AVENUE AND 2ND STREET NE TO BE COMPLETED BY H&S CONSTRUCTION FOR A TOTAL OF \$130,039.00.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

13. Consider authorizing the Interim City Administrator to issue payment of recommended bills and payroll.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander reviewed the history of Juneteenth, how it took over two years for the news that slavery was outlawed to reach Texas on June 19, 1865, how the 13th amendment ended slavery in the United States, and this was the history was behind the newest holiday. He commented on how this holiday was for everyone that enjoyed freedom. He added he has gotten to know some Somali immigrants who appreciate the freedom, equality, and opportunity in the US more than most people that have grown up in the US. He stated there are some that might live like they are in slavery and were unaware of the opportunities they may have so he challenged everyone to think of the arbitrary limits they have placed on themselves because everyone was free.

Council Member Helms reminded everyone to drink lots of water during these hot days.

Chief Boushee introduced Austin Coole and Parker Anderson who just successfully passed their one-year probation and met all expectations and exceeded some of them. He stated he wanted to publicly congratulate them, which was followed by a round of applause.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 20, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:15 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Megan Nelson, City Clerk