

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023 – FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 was called to order by Council President Olstad at 5:01pm.

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, and Karen Peterson (5:02pm).

Staff Present: Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Jeff Boushee, Fire Chief; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Steve Emery, City Engineer; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Paul Gorte, Economic Development Director; Michael Hedlund, Police Chief, 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 A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

1. Update on Recycling from Countrywide Sanitation – Jason Stordahl

Mr. Stordahl stated representatives from Countrywide Sanitation were going to talk about changes to the recycling program. Ms. Rachel Gornowicz introduced herself to the Council and started explaining that glass would need to be removed from the single stream or not included in the residential recycling bin. She stated there would be another container for just glass that would be in the greensite area and the reason for it was because of all the complications with the glass. She told the Council glass was hard on belts and the floors and the end users now wanted it separated out. She introduced Mr. Cole Hegg who handled business development and operational issues.

Mr. Hegg thanked the City for its business over the last nine years, there had been good communication between their company and the City over the years, and they had informed other communities of this change and were following suit to inform the City. He explained they were trying to take a proactive approach, there were issues happening nationwide with contaminated recycling, and they were working on educating the community to make changes to help with the issue. He added they would be sending out information to residents to help reduce contamination in the residential recycling bins and they were working on signage for the changes at the greensite. Ms. Gornowicz added they would also be sending out postcards to help inform everyone at their own expense. She reminded the Council they had worked with the City for nine years and were working weekly on cart repairs. Mr. Hegg stated there were more repairs needed because the containers were older, they were trying to be proactive, and help reduce issues. Ms. Gornowicz said bigger containers may help with some of the contamination because it seemed that if

the garbage was full, it sometimes ended up in the recycling. Mr. Hegg said some communities had larger containers and there were less issues so it could help mitigate some of the contamination of the recycling.

Council member Vetter said he had been told by some that they don't recycle because it was just brought to the land fill and asked if that was the case. Ms. Gornowicz stated the recycling that was picked up at residences were recycled and did not end up in the landfill. Mr. Hegg said they would be happy to show how they prepared the recycling to ship down to Shakopee. Ms. Gornowicz said some items from the greensite have been taken to the landfill because of the amount of garbage that was put in the containers. Council member Helms asked for a phone number for those that need cart maintenance. Council President Olstad said it was included on the postcard. Council member Helms asked about glass. Mr. Hegg said in August glass would need to either be thrown in the trash or dropped off at the drop sites for glass. There were no other questions.

2. Request to Re-apply for Additional LaFave Park Funding – Reid Huttunen

Mr. Huttunen told the Council he was working on the application for additional funding and he needed direction from the Council on the amount for the local match. He reviewed the information that had been included in the packet which included the information from the previous application and how they had a 25% local match with that application. He explained the costs for engineering and what would be eligible for grant reimbursement. He said with the additional costs the current local match was around 15%, reviewed the pointing processes awarded for the different percentages for a local match, and adding about \$70,000 would increase the local match to 20%. He stated the best option was to use the uncommitted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars which still had a balance of \$650,000 which had been set aside for park improvements.

Council President Olstad said other communities were in the same situation and asked if others would also be applying for additional funds. Mr. Huttunen stated he was not sure about many of the cities but did know that Crookston would be applying for additional funds. Discussion followed about applying for additional funds, it would not affect the funds that were already awarded, the additional funding could come from the ARPA funding, and how the deadline to use the ARPA dollars was December of 2024. Mr. Huttunen said there were not enough funds to complete one project and reminded the Council how there was interest from the Commission that was issuing the grant dollars to see the projects completed. Mr. Mykleseth asked about the ARPA funds to be used towards replacing lead lines. Ms. Anderson commented on how there was grant programs for replacing lead lines. Council President Olstad stated he would support moving forward with 20% local match. Mr. Huttunen told the Council if the amounts come down, it could also decrease the local match.

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

3. Request to Being Promotional Process for Rank of Corporal – Michael Hedlund

Chief Hedlund told the Council they had to pull the School Resource Officer out of the schools due to staffing shortages, with the recent hiring they would be able to but that officer back into the school and it would leave an opening of the corporal position on that shift. He asked to start a list and process for hiring a corporal. There were no questions.

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

4. Request to Begin Selection Process for Position of Police Investigations Position Assigned to the Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force – Michael Hedlund

Chief Hedlund stated there would be some personnel moves in the Police Department, there was going to be a retirement the following month, and he had been meeting with Mayor Gander and Council President Olstad to discuss changes. He said one of the changes would be to move an officer into the drug task force, Sergeant Schrage was still the commander, so time was needed to transition the new person in and allow Sergeant Schrage work on the paperwork and not work in the field, and time was needed to fill the commander role. Discussion followed about how there were new officers that started working for the task force in recent years, transitions will take months to complete, and it wasn't determined how long the person would be in the task force position. Chief Hedlund told the Council there was not much interest from others on the task force to take over as the commander otherwise they were recently appointed and did not have much experience. Council President Olstad added they had lost the border patrol agents and other federal officers as well. Mayor Gander thanked Chief Hedlund for working on the process of cycling people through positions.

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

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 11, 2023 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:40 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Larson.

Megan Nelson, City Clerk