

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE WORK SESSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024 – FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the East Grand Forks City Council for Tuesday, August 13, 2024 was called to order by Council President Olstad at 5:02 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, and Brian Larson.

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; Jeremy King, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; Megan Nelson, City Clerk; and Jason Stordahl, Public Works Director.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Council President Determined a Quorum was present.

- 1. Update from Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities – Marty Seifert**
 - a. Mr. Seifert will be bringing handouts to the meeting.**

Mr. Seifert introduced himself to the Council, how he was the senior lobbyist for the Coalition that represented 106 rural cities, and he would be recapping the legislative session. He explained most things were completed in May, the bonding bill was not passed, and the hope is one will be approved during next year's session. He reviewed how there was discussion on Uber, funding had been approved for emergency services because there was not enough funding coming from Medicare, the bonding bill needed approval from both parties, and how legislators like Representative Kiel would vote in favor of the bill when there were items for communities from her district. He added proposed mandates for zoning had been proposed, they fought against it along with the League, 40 groups were in favor of it, it was not a partisan issue, but it ended up staying as local control. He referred to the chart so show what legislation was started, how it progressed or was stopped, the lack of a bonding bill prevented water and wastewater infrastructure projects from moving forward, there was one time infrastructure funding for smaller towns, and they were trying for additional funding for the major corridors. He asked for questions. He reminded the Council the fall conference was coming up and it was during that conference they finalize the items they focus on during the following year which is direction given from the cities. Mayor Gander thanked Mr. Seifert for their help with the change to the LGA formula, it was now a permanent change, and thanked him for their great work.

2. Request to File Plans & Specifications for 2024 City Project 1 for SCADA System Improvements – Steve Emery

Mr. Emery informed the Council he had been working with IPS on finalizing the plans for the SCADA system improvements. He thanked Mr. Dillon Nelson and Mr. Corey Thompson for their help during this process. He requested to file the plans and specifications and set the bid date for the project. There were no questions.

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

3. Consider 2024-2025 Winter Recreation Fees – Jeremy King

Mr. King told the Council a 15% increase had been planned for the 2024-2025 program fees for the winter season programs. He stated this would help with operational costs. He added they had received feedback from the clubs on the fees and to prevent participants from starting to join because of high fees, the fees would be higher for the more advanced programs. He said registration opened on August 22nd, the proposed fees were in align with other communities, and recommended to approve the proposed increases. There were no questions.

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

OTHER:

Ms. Renee Cardarelle reminded the Council about the grant that was received, she was working with Northland Community and Technical College on Dine and Dialogue events, and two events were coming up on September 7th and October 5th. She added it would be great to see them all there and the two goals they were working on was to help connect neighbors and how to make the community more welcoming.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 13, 2024 WORK SESSION OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:18 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Absent: Peterson.

Megan Nelson, City Clerk