

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024 – 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Meeting of the East Grand Forks City Council for Wednesday, November 6, 2024 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: Karla Anderson, Finance Director; Jeff Boushee, Fire Chief; Maggie Brockling, Economic Development Director; Nancy Ellis, City Planner; Ron Galstad, City Attorney; Michael Hedlund, Police Chief, Reid Huttunen, City Administrator; 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

Council President Olstad stated the open form was an opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on items not on the current agenda and items requiring Council action maybe deferred to staff or Boards and Commissions for research and future Council Agendas if appropriate. He asked if anyone would like to address the City Council, please come up to the podium to do so. No one came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” for the East Grand Forks, Minnesota City Council of October 15, 2024.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE “REGULAR MEETING” FOR THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL OF OCTOBER 15, 2024.

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

Voting Nay: None.

SCHEDULED BID LETTINGS: NONE.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

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.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

2. Regular meeting minutes of the Water, Light, Power, and Building Commission for October 2, 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Consider adopting Resolution No. 24-11-80 approving the naming of the outdoor rink the Jim Bradshaw Outdoor Rink and authorize additional sponsorship signage on the outside of the Blue Line Club.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER RIOPELLE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 24-11-80 APPROVING THE NAMING OF THE OUTDOOR RINK THE JIM BRADSHAW OUTDOOR RINK AND AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BLUE LINE CLUB.

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

Voting Nay: None.

4. Consider adopting Resolution No. 24-11-81 authorizing staff to enter into an agreement with SRF Consulting for the amended scope of work, including the Fiscal Year 2025 RAISE grant application utilizing funds from the original contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 24-11-81 AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SRF CONSULTING FOR THE AMENDED SCOPE OF WORK, INCLUDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION UTILIZING FUNDS FROM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT.

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

Voting Nay: None.

5. Consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of East Grand Forks and the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local No. 152 continuing the recruitment incentives through December 31, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER POKRZYWINSKI, TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES LOCAL NO. 152 CONTINUING THE RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025.

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

Voting Nay: None.

6. Consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of East Grand Forks and the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local No. 152 continuing the Officer Retention Program through December 31, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LARSON, TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES LOCAL NO. 152 CONTINUING THE OFFICER RETENTION PROGRAM THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025.

Council Vice-President Riopelle asked to put this item on hold until the health insurance policy was done. Council member Larson asked if the request was being made to table this item. Council Vice-President Riopelle said yes. Council President Olstad asked if anyone wanted to table the item but there was no motion to table to item.

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

Voting Nay: None.

CLAIMS:

7. Consider authorizing the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to issue payment of recommended bills and payroll.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT OF RECOMMENDED BILLS AND PAYROLL.

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

Voting Nay: None.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor Gander thanked everyone that voted, this was the American process at its best, and there did not appear to be any contesting of election results. He thanked everyone that ran for office and thanked those that won their elections for their willingness to serve. He continued saying the recreation facilities will get some good long-term maintenance, the community has spoken, and the improvements will be done allowing the facilities to be used for years to come.

Council Member Pokrzywinski congratulated Mayor Gander, he congratulated everyone else that won their elections, and welcomed the new members to the city council.

Council Vice-President Riopelle thanks his constituents for their votes and he hoped he could live up to it.

Council Member Helms thanked all the candidates for running and congratulated those that won.

Council Member Larson thanked everyone for their support from the community, it was very important to him, and he congratulated everyone else that ran.

Council President Olstad thanked everyone that ran for office, that voted, and there was going to be two new members on the Council going forward. He added it was going to be an honor to represent the city and he was looking forward to it.

Mr. Huttunen echoed the congratulatory statements and would like to recognize the election judges, some that helped throughout the early voting process, and how the day started at 6am until almost 10pm. He said the elections were ran was done with the utmost integrity and people were able to get in and out. He also thanked Ms. Nelson for organizing the election process and for Ms. Kringlen for all her help with the elections. He commented how it was increasingly busy with close to 1100 people filing for absentee voting starting September 20th through November 4th which increased the workload on staff. He told the Council the cannabis ordinance was almost ready to go, the Planning Commission was going to review the zoning of the ordinance, and a public hearing was going to be held on November 19th along with the first reading of the ordinance. He added he would like to hold a special budget work session that would follow the council meeting because of the number of people that would be out and they should have more information about health insurance at that time.

Mr. Galstad said he had finalized the cannabis ordinance, requested for the work group to review, and there were a couple questions that needed to be answered.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HELMS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VETTER, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 6, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 5:11 P.M.

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

Voting Nay: None.

Megan Nelson, City Clerk