

**City of Moorhead
City Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2012 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council Meeting was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, on February 27, 2012, at 5:30 PM.

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

1st Ward Council Member:	Luther Stueland	Present
1st Ward Council Member:	Nancy Otto	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Heidi Durand	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Mark Altenburg	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Mike Hulett	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Brenda Elmer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Steve Gehertz	Present
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present

City Council Meeting

1. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)

Minutes: Mayor Voxland called the meeting to order.

2. Recognitions - Presentations

A. [Swearing-In Ceremony: Rich Duysen, Moorhead Fire Chief](#)

Minutes: Mayor Voxland performed the swearing-in ceremony for Rich Duysen, Moorhead Fire Chief.

3. Approve Minutes

A. [February 13, 2012 \(City Council\)](#)

Minutes: The following corrections were noted:

- Agenda item #11 – Remove duplicate Council Member names listed in the voting section for the motion.
- Agenda item #15 – Correct the text of amendment to state, “Amend Resolution to direct staff to engage in discussions with the Federal Congressional offices to request legislation to parallel the TIGER Discretionary Grant process or request their assistance in any way they see fit.”
- Agenda item #17 – Add the following text to the minute, “Council support for the integrity and professionalism of the police volunteers was noted.”

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Heidi Durand

Approve February 13, 2012 (City Council) minutes as corrected

Motion Passed

For: 8

4. [Citizens Addressing the Council](#)

Minutes: No citizens addressed the Mayor and Council.

5. [Agenda Amendments](#)

Minutes: No agenda amendments were noted.

6. [Consent Agenda](#)

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are enacted by one motion.

Minutes: The following items were removed from the consent agenda:

- #10 – Consider Actions Related to Mixed Use - 3: Commercial Mixed Use Zoning District
- #11 – Renew Professional Service Agreement with Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Nancy Otto

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as amended

Motion Passed

For: 8

7. Mayor and Council Appointments

A. [Resolution to Approve Appointment to Moorhead Library Board \(Ward 3\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Brenda Elmer and seconded by Mike Hulett

Resolution to Approve Appointment to Moorhead Library Board (Ward 3)

Motion Passed: **2012-0227-1**

For: 8

Public Hearing

8. [Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of Special Assessments for Prairie Meadows 1st Addition Boulevard Trees](#)

Minutes: Public hearing opened at 5:50 p.m.

City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- The improvements were petitioned by 100% of the benefiting property owners.
- Property owners can elect to plant their own trees.

Public hearing closed at 5:53 p.m.

- A. [Resolution to Approve Assessment for Boulevard Trees, Prairie Meadows 1st Addition](#)

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Steve Gehrtz
Resolution to Approve Assessment for Boulevard Trees, Prarie Meadows 1st Addition
Motion Passed: **2012-0227-2**
For: 8

Community Services Department

9. [Consider Actions Relating to the FEMA Designated Floodplain](#)

- A. [Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-1: An Ordinance to Amend Sections of Title 10: Zoning and Title 11: Subdivision of the Moorhead City Code Relating to the Designated FEMA Floodplain](#)

Motion to Approve made by Brenda Elmer and seconded by Nancy Otto
Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-1: An Ordinance to Amend Sections of Title 10: Zoning and Title 11: Subdivision of the Moorhead City Code Relating to the Designated FEMA Floodplain
Motion Passed: **Ordinance 2012-1**
For: 8

- B. [Resolution to Approve Title and Summary \(Ord. No. 2012-1\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Mike Hulett
Resolution to Approve Title and Summary (Ord. No. 2012-1)
Motion Passed: **2012-0227-3**
For: 8

10. [Consider Actions Related to Mixed Use - 3: Commercial Mixed Use Zoning District](#)

Minutes: City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- Proposed revisions to sign standards would bring Moorhead City Code into compliance with Minnesota State Statutes. Other revisions address issues when issuing sign permits. All changes would allow for additional or more flexible use of the sign code.

- A. [Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-2: An Ordinance to Amend Sections of Title 10: Zoning of the Moorhead City Code Relating to Mixed Use Zoning, Use Standards, Signs and Site Development Standards](#)

Motion to Approve made by Luther Stueland and seconded by Nancy Otto
Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-2: An Ordinance to Amend Sections of Title 10: Zoning of the Moorhead City Code Relating to Mixed Use Zoning, Use Standards, Signs and Site Development Standards
Motion Passed: **Ordinance 2012-2**
For: 8

- B. [Resolution to Approve Title and Summary \(Ord. No. 2012-2\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Nancy Otto
Resolution to Approve Title and Summary (Ord. No. 2012-2)
Motion Passed: **2012-0227-4**
For: 8

C. [Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-3: An Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map](#)

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Nancy Otto
Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-3: An Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map
Motion Passed: **Ordinance 2012-3**
For: 8

D. [Resolution to Approve Title and Summary \(Ord. No. 2012-3\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Luther Stueland and seconded by Nancy Otto
Resolution to Approve Title and Summary (Ord. No. 2012-3)
Motion Passed: **2012-0227-5**
For: 8

11. [Renew Professional Service Agreement with Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County](#)

Minutes: City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- A Red River history exhibit was part of the original reason the Hjemkomst Center was built and one of the reasons the construction was supported by the State of Minnesota.
- The exhibit is still in development stages. It would focus on the Red River and explore topics of recreation, agriculture, and industry.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Heidi Durand
Renew Professional Service Agreement with Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
Motion Passed: **2012-0227-6**
For: 8

Engineering - Wastewater Treatment

12. [TIGER Grant Application for the SE Main Ave/20th St/21st St Railroad Grade Separation Project. Eng. No. 02-2-2](#)

Minutes: Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer, provided a brief report on a proposed TIGER Grant Application. The Mayor and City Council were asked to provide direction on a preferred funding strategy to utilize in completing the application.

City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- The City's previous TIGER Grant application requested \$26M. City staff has been informed that a more realistic grant award is between \$12M to \$18M. This reduced amount would require significant City

match.

- The Federal Highway Bill is not likely to have direct financial authorizations for transportation projects.
- If the grant is awarded, staff would seek other funding sources to augment/reduce special assessments or City cost. Special assessments are based on parcel size. The earliest special assessments would be charged to residents would be 2015.
- The City would likely need to incorporate some special assessments for a project of this magnitude.
- Construction inflation costs will continue to increase as the City seeks funding for this project.
- There is significant value to construction of the wye rail junction as it would reduce delays along numerous downtown crossings.
- The State of Minnesota contributes to transportation projects through the MSA funding process. Direct State of Minnesota bonding money would not be available for this purpose. City staff is confident that the \$4M in Municipal State Aid (MSA) funds dedicated toward this project will be available.
- The current grant has an aggressive schedule and will favor applications that are ready to be built. There will not likely be many applications submitted for funding.

The Mayor and Council Members noted the following:

- Concern was noted regarding the City's significant local cost share related to a TIGER grant award.
- Concern was noted regarding the culminating effect of special assessment costs related to flood mitigation and transportation improvement projects paid for by the same residents.
- It is preferred that a submitted grant application be within the suggested range in order for it to be in a favorable position for award.
- The wye rail junction will decrease crossing delays in downtown Moorhead and the 20th Street/21st Street underpass will increase public safety.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Nancy Otto
Approve submission of a TIGER Grant Application in the amount of \$22M for the SE Main Ave/20th St/21st St Railroad Grade Separation Project. Eng. No. 02-2-2 and if awarded the grant, City staff is directed to seek other funding sources to augment/reduce special assessments or City cost.

Motion Passed: **2012-0227-7**

For: 6 - Nancy Otto, Heidi Durand, Mark Altenburg, Brenda Elmer, Mark Hintermeyer, Steve Gehrtz

Against: 2 - Luther Stueland, Mike Hulett

Administration

13. Approve Licenses - Permits

A. [*Resolution to Approve Licenses – Permits](#)
2012-0227-A

B. [*Resolution to Approve Issuance of On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License to All Star Bowl](#)
2012-0227-B

14. [Federal Legislative Services Agreement Discussion](#)

Minutes: City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- The current Federal Legislative Services provider is interested in retaining a relationship with the City of Moorhead. If desired, City staff could negotiate a new financial arrangement if directed.
- The provider works as an independent contractor with a concentration on transportation issues.

The Mayor and Council Members noted the following:

- It may not be necessary to continue to expend limited City funds toward Federal Legislative Services as City staff has good relationships with the Congressional Delegation and transportation projects are now being funded through the TIGER Grant application process.
- The current Federal Legislative Services provider has good working relationships with the Congressional Delegation, Congressional Committee staff, and numerous agency staff contacts that are affiliated with transportation projects.
- It may be beneficial to retain services to assist in securing supplemental funds if the City of Moorhead is awarded a TIGER Grant.

15. [Mayor and Council Reports](#)

Minutes: Council Member Gehrtz provided a report on a recent meeting of the Economic Development Authority.

Council Member Hulett provided a report on a recent meeting of the Moorhead Public Service Commission.

Council Member Elmer provided a report on a recent neighborhood meeting related to flood mitigation projects hosted by City Engineering staff.

Council Member Otto reported that she is working on a “Bike Night” concept intended to encourage activity in downtown Moorhead.

Council Member Altenburg provided a report on a recent meeting of the Human Rights Commission.

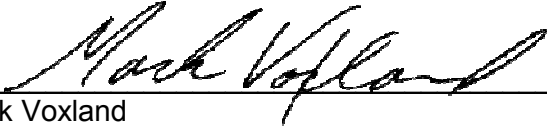
16. [City Manager Reports – Updates](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, noted that neighborhood meetings related to flood mitigation projects will continue in March with City staff and technical consultants. The City also plans to dedicate specific staff members for resident questions related to these projects. The City continues to try to secure the remaining \$20M from the Minnesota State Legislature in order to complete flood mitigation work.

It was noted that there is not current City Council support for development of a letter to American Crystal Sugar urging them to continue union negotiations.

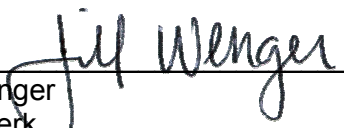
Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Mark Voxland
Mayor

ATTEST:



Jill Wenger
City Clerk

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jill Wenger, City Clerk