

**City of Moorhead
City Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2010 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 September 27, 2010, 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:	Diane Wray Williams	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Mark Altenburg	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Dan Hunt	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Brenda Elmer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Greg Lemke	Absent
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present

City Council Meeting

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

Minutes: Mayor Voxland called the meeting to order.

2. [Approve Minutes](#)

A. [September 7, 2010 \(Adjourned Council Meeting\)](#)

B. [September 7, 2010 \(Committee of the Whole\)](#)

C. [September 13, 2010 \(City Council Meeting\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Diane Wray Williams and seconded by

Approve Minutes

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

3. Citizens Addressing the Council

A. [Presentation from Moorhead Public Schools on the 2010 Operating Levy Referendum](#)

Minutes: Lynne Kovash, Superintendent, and Wayne Kazmierczak, Assistant Superintendent, Moorhead Area Public Schools, provided a brief presentation on the School District's operating levy referendum scheduled for public vote during the November 2, 2010 General Election and clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- The most recent Moorhead Area Public Schools operating levy ended last year. Moorhead is one of 35 districts in the state and the only school district in Clay County that does not currently have an

operating levy.

- Over the last decade, the district has incorporated many ways to improve efficiencies and reduce costs including eliminating old buildings, downsizing to seven sites, and reducing administration and staff costs.
- There have been some facility improvements at Horizon Middle School in response to energy consumption and efficiency concerns.
- Approximately 70% of the revenue from a successful referendum would be used to maintain existing programs. The remaining 30% would be used to preserve and improve class sizes, repair and replace aging technology equipment, increase access to world languages, and increase access to early childhood programs such as "Kinder Plus."
- If the operating levy does not pass there will be further reductions in staff, services, and programs.
- Additional information regarding the referendum can be found on the school's website at www.moorhead.k12.mn.us.

B. [Presentation of a Design Proposal for a Defiant Garden at the Moorhead Power Plant](#)

Minutes: Colleen Sheehy, Director of the Plains Art Museum, and Kevin Johnson and Rob Fischer, Artists, provided a brief presentation on a design proposal for a "Defiant Garden" at the Moorhead Power Plant.

4. [Agenda Amendments](#)

Minutes: No agenda amendments were noted.

Motion to Approve made by Diane Wray Williams and seconded by Nancy Otto

Approve Agenda Amendments

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

5. [Consent Agenda](#)

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

Motion to Approve made by Diane Wray Williams and seconded by Nancy Otto

Approve Consent Agenda

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

6. [*Approve Licenses - Permits](#)

A. [*Approve Permits](#)
Resolution 2010-0614-A

7. [Mayor and Council Reports - Appointments](#)

Minutes: Council Member Elmer provided a brief update on the Moorhead Economic Development Authority (EDA).

8. [Permanent Flood Protection Discussion/Update](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, reported that the next Metro Flood Study Work Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7th, 2010.

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

- Current flood mitigation projects are in various stages of completion. City infrastructure will be protected with the completion of these projects.
- Approximately 8,500 notices were mailed to Moorhead residents identified in an assessment district for various flood mitigation projects. Each household would be assessed \$162.
- The assessment was charged to properties in order to recoup part of the \$8.2 million of matching City funds required to secure \$38.8 million from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Flood Damage Reduction Grant program. Stormwater utility funds were also designated toward the City's match.
- The City identified the largest possible assessment district to include households directly or indirectly affected by sewer backup. It generally includes households west of 20th Street.
- This is a one time only assessment. It can be paid over five years.
- The assessment hearing will occur on Monday, October 11th at 5:45 p.m. during the regular City Council meeting.
- Individuals who have questions regarding the proposed assessment can contact the City Engineering Department.

Community Services Department

9. [Endorse Heading Home: West Central Minnesota Plan to End Longterm Homelessness](#)

Minutes: The following individuals addressed the Mayor and Council regarding their support for the endorsement of, "Heading Home: West Central Minnesota."

- Carla Solem, Continuum of Care Coordinator, West Central MN
- Laurie Baker, Executive Director, FM Coalition of Homeless Persons

Solem and Baker clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- There are 174 homeless housing units of different types in the nine-county region.
- The "Housing First" model is an effective approach to the needs of

homeless people with serious mental illness.

- Coordinated discharge planning with jails assists with reducing homelessness.
- Local emergency shelters have expert mental health and chemical dependency assistance staff.
- A majority of homeless persons originate from this region.
- Organizations serving homeless persons are providing education throughout the region and attempting to better serve homeless or “unaccompanied” youth.

The Mayor and Council Members stated the following:

- Many state-owned mental health institutions have closed. This has accelerated homelessness and transferred the issue to municipal government entities.
- There has been a significant increase in the use of homeless shelters in the area and local jails have seen a rise in arrests due to mental health issues.
- Concern was noted that increasing taxpayer costs imposed by local, State, and Federal governments may accelerate homelessness in our community.
- Concern was noted regarding the end of the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) Program. It is anticipated that this will likely have an impact on the homeless population.
- Many City ordinances, policies, and procedures may have a direct effect on the homeless population.
- The issue of homelessness is a complex situation requiring collaborative approaches from public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Motion to Approve made by Diane Wray Williams and seconded by Mark Altenburg
Endorse Heading Home: West Central Minnesota Plan to End Longterm Homelessness

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2010-0614-1**

For: 7; Absent: 1 - Lemke

10. [Resolution Awarding a Three-year Contract for Operation of Transit Services to First Transit](#)

Minutes: Lori Van Beek, Transit Manager, provided a brief overview of the contract for operation of transit services in Moorhead.

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

- It was noted that a percentage calculation error was found in a table

on the Council Communication for this agenda item. The total costs outlined in the table are correct.

- It is intended as a disincentive for employees to receive payment in lieu of insurance. The employer covers only 30% of the premium in cash in lieu of insurance vs. 70% of the premium for health insurance coverage.
- Safety programs and incentives are implemented to encourage and reward good performance.
- Route by route comparisons are not easily evaluated. Route coverage is maintained in the core areas of the City. Sections of routes are tweaked as ridership trends change.

The Mayor and Council Members stated the following:

- Appreciation was expressed to City staff for their hard work in compiling data and evaluating potential transit contractors.
- Use of technology in the transit system is growing.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Diane Wray Williams
Resolution Awarding a Three-year Contract for Operation of Transit Services to First Transit

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2010-0614-2**

For: 6; Against: 1 - Luther Stueland; Absent: 1 - Lemke

11. [*Resolution to Accept the "Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area Transit Marketing Research Report" as prepared by Results Unlimited](#)
Resolution 2010-0614-B

Engineering - Wastewater Treatment

12. [Resolution to Approve Change Orders #1-4 for the Phase 2 River Haven Road Flood Mitigation Project. Eng. No. 09-A13-2B](#)

Minutes: Tom Trowbridge, Assistant City Engineer, provided a brief report regarding the removal and replacement of a flood wall attached to the 40th Avenue South Stormwater Pumping Station. He clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- Insufficient soil compaction under the footings likely caused the wall to crack. A geotechnical firm has tested the soil and a report will be provided with their analysis.
- At this point it appears that the wall damage was caused by construction error. It could be argued that it was a flawed engineering design or unforeseen circumstance.
- The wall will be removed and replaced this construction season.
- The City is working with the same contractor in order to correct

issues related to a structure in another flood mitigation project; however, this wall would not be touching water in a flood situation and is not as immediately concerning.

- There will be another change order brought forward for this construction project at a future City Council meeting. The project will cross over an oil/gas pipeline. The contractor and City are currently working on a solution that is acceptable and provides adequate flood protection.

Motion to Approve made by Luther Stueland and seconded by Brenda Elmer
Resolution to Approve Change Orders #1-4 for the Phase 2 River Haven Road Flood Mitigation Project. Eng. No. 09-A13-2B

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2010-0614-3**

For: 7; Absent: 1 – Greg Lemke

Fire Department

13. [*Resolution to Approve the North Dakota Hazmat Budget Adjustment](#)
Resolution 2010-0614-C

City Attorney Reports

14. [Resolution Accepting Offer on the Sale of \\$10,340,000 Taxable Public Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2010C](#)

Minutes: Brian Neugebauer, City Attorney, provided a brief report on the bids received for the sale of the Taxable Public Utility Revenue Bonds.

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Diane Wray Williams
Resolution Accepting Offer on the Sale of \$10,340,000 Taxable Public Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2010C

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2010-0614-4**

For: 7; Absent: 1 – Greg Lemke

City Manager Reports

15. [*Resolution to Waive Bonding Requirements and Authorize Issuance of Replacement Checks](#)
Resolution 2010-0614-D
16. [Reports - Updates](#)

Minutes: Redlinger announced that the City is monitoring the flood recovery efforts in southern Minnesota and will provide assistance if requested.

The topics slated for the next Committee of the Whole meeting will include “Community Partnership” funding and the first of two sessions receiving City departmental reports.

It was noted that a recent street closing event caused some concern to area businesses. Redlinger stated that City staff plan to discuss the street closing process to determine ways to streamline the request process as well as

balance public safety with access to area businesses/services.

17. [Executive Session - Annual Performance Review - City Manager](#)

Minutes: It was reported that an executive session would be conducted for the annual performance review of the City Manager, Michael Redlinger. A summary report will be made public at the next City Council meeting.

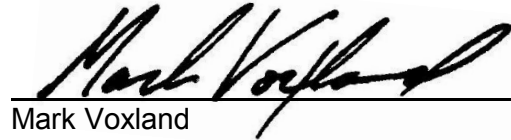
Motion to Approve made by Diane Wray Williams and seconded by Mark Hintermeyer
Enter into Executive Session to Conduct the Annual Performance Review of the City Manager

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

This meeting was adjourned to October 4, 2010.

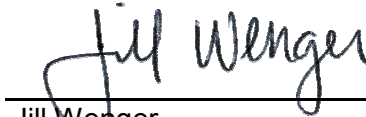
Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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