

**City of Moorhead  
City Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2011 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 March 10, 2011, at 5:30 PM.

**Roll call of the members was made as follows:**

1st Ward Council Member:	Luther Stueland	Present until 7:01 p.m.
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	Present
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present

**City Council Meeting**

1. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)
2. [Approve Minutes](#)
  - A. [February 14, 2011 \(City Council Meeting\)](#)
  - B. [February 28, 2011 \(City Council Meeting\)](#)

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Diane Wray Williams  
**Approve Minutes of February 14, 2011 (City Council Meeting) and February 28, 2011 (City Council Meeting)**  
Motion Passed by unanimous vote

3. [Citizens Addressing the Council](#)

Minutes: Pat Kovash, Moorhead Business Association, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the negative impact of the SE Main Ave. ramp closure at I-94. He requested a report on the current status of the matter and that a City staff member be assigned to maintain regular contact with the Moorhead Business Association on this issue.

A report on the SE Main Ave. ramp closure will be placed on the March 28, 2011 City Council agenda and staff will provide an update to the Mayor and Council. A written response will be provided to the Moorhead Business Association in response to Mr. Kovash's written testimony.

4. [Agenda Amendments](#)

Minutes: No agenda amendments were noted.

5. [Consent Agenda](#)

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

Minutes: The following item was removed from the Consent Agenda:

- #9 – Resolution to Approve a Pipeline License Agreement with BNSF for the 20th St & 40th Ave S Pedestrian Underpass Project. Eng. No. 11-2-1

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

**Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

6. Mayor and Council Appointments

Minutes: No Mayor and Council Appointments were noted.

7. [Mayor and Council Reports](#)

Minutes: No Mayor and Council Reports were noted.

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

A. [2011 Flood Preparations - Presentation & Discussion](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, provided a presentation entitled, "2011 Flood Preparations Update – 3/10/2011."

Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer, provided a handout entitled, "2011 Flood Briefing – March 10, 2011."

City staff recommended the following revised flood protection plan to accommodate a 20-30% probability flood event:

- Increased level of protection to a total of 43 feet (41' + 2' freeboard).
- Revised sandbag target goal of 1.5 million.
- Additional pallets and labor at the Oberg Farm storage site in Glyndon.
- Approval of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Advance Measures Assistance and Cooperation Agreement.
- Approval of additional \$100,000-\$160,000 in local cost if any USACE advance measures are declined.
- Total budget adjustment of \$500,000 from General Fund Reserves, bringing pre-event expenditure authorizations to \$1,000,000.

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

- Construction of clay levees will need to begin soon in order for full

completion prior to a flood event. Contingency levees will be built to a 44-foot level of protection.

- The City of Fargo is likely completing clay levee construction as local projects, not advance measures from USACE.
- Pre-event sandbag deliveries will be accommodated with pallets when and where practical. Flood event deliveries will be conducted by means of roll-off containers.
- The City is seeking locations for heated storage of sandbags at private properties along the river.
- The City encourages individual property owners in Flood Zones to gather and develop a Neighborhood Coordination Plan (NCP). Forms are available on the City's website to communicate this plan to Zone Leaders by the week of March 14.
- There is a strong probability that a Presidential Disaster Declaration will be issued in Minnesota as there is a likelihood of flooding in three to four regions of the state.
- The City has planned for a sophisticated sequencing strategy to simultaneously accommodate both sandbag dike and contingency clay levee construction.
- Clay levees will be constructed along the river and will not resemble clay levee placement in 2009. Provisions will be put in place to allow private property owners to access their homes.
- The City conducted one CodeRED alert which successfully connected with 70% of 16,000 registered phone numbers.
- Volunteers will be asked report to MSUM's Nemzek Hall when sandbag placement on private property begins.
- The City has expended approximately \$72,000 in paid labor through 3/5/2011. For efficiency and safety, the City is requesting volunteers to assist with palletizing and storage of sandbags.
- In 2010, it took 14 days to make 300,000 sandbags. In 2011, it is anticipated that the City will reach 1 million sandbags in 13 days. This accounts for a 334% increase in efficiency.
- In 2009, 2.5 million bags were produced in seven days; however the entire community was mobilized to accomplish this effort.
- Private property owners can begin to remove snow where sandbags will be placed and are encouraged to complete other preparation efforts.

The Mayor and Council Members stated the following:

- There has been a significant shift in flood preparation efforts in Moorhead due to the number and severity of past flood events. The City utilizes sophisticated information for planning and has adopted more efficient flood fight strategies.
- The City's pre-event preparation efforts will prevent the community from experiencing the trauma incurred during the 2009 flood event.

Minutes: The following individuals addressed the Mayor and Council regarding they City's 2011 Flood Preparations:

- John Bremer, Moorhead resident, requested that the City consider use of vacated homes for pre-event sandbag storage. City staff stated that requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis by Zone Leaders.
- Another Moorhead resident requested that the City carefully plan the placement and timing of clay contingency levees. City staff stated that there will be an adequate supply of filled sandbag and plans for timely deployment to neighborhoods. All homes near levee construction will be sandbagged.

Motion to Approve made by Nancy Otto and seconded by Dan Hunt

**Resolution to approve budget adjustment of \$500,000 from General Fund Reserves for costs associated with a revised flood protection plan providing 43 feet of total protection**

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2011-0310-1**

For: 8

Motion to Approve made by Brenda Elmer and seconded by Mark Altenburg

**Resolution to direct the Mayor and City Manager to execute Request for Advance Measures Assistance and Cooperation Agreement between the City of Moorhead and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2011-0310-4**

For: 8

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

**Resolution to approve a revised pre-event sandbag target to 1.5 million sandbags**

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2011-0310-2**

For: 8

## **Engineering - Wastewater Treatment**

9. [Resolution to Approve a Pipeline License Agreement with BNSF for the 20th St & 40th Ave S Pedestrian Underpass Project. Eng. No. 11-2-1](#)

Motion to Approve made by Mark Altenburg and seconded by Dan Hunt

**Resolution to Approve a Pipeline License Agreement with BNSF for the 20th St & 40th Ave S Pedestrian Underpass Project. Eng. No. 11-2-1**

Motion Passed: **Resolution 2011-0310-3**

For: 7; Absent: 1 - Luther Stueland

10. [\\*Resolution to Authorize Acquisition of Property, Permanent Easements & Temporary Easements for Miscellaneous Flood Mitigation Improvement Projects. Eng. No. 09-A13-2](#)  
**Resolution 2011-0310-A**

**Administration**

- 11. [\\*Approve Licenses - Permits](#)
  - A. \*Resolution to Approve Licenses – Permits  
**Resolution 2011-0310-B**

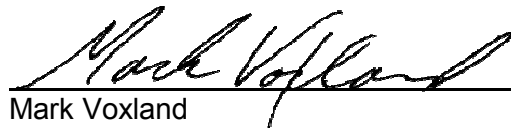
- 12. [City Manager Reports - Updates](#)

Minutes: A Special Meeting of the Moorhead City Council was scheduled for March 21, 2011. The City Council will receive a Flood 2011 Update from City staff and conduct some regular business including a second reading of an ordinance intended to protect permanent and temporary flood control measures.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Voxland  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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*