

**City of Moorhead
Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2012 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, on July 16, 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

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. [Brief Analysis of Moorhead EDA \(M-EDA\) and Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation \(GFMEDC\) Duties and Responsibilities](#)

Minutes: Scott Hutchins, Community Services Director, provided an overview of the Moorhead Economic Development Authority (M-EDA) and Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC). City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- Moorhead Housing and Redevelopment was renamed and reconstituted as the MoorheadEDA in 1986 through special legislation. This special law also created the Moorhead Public Housing Agency.
- State law allows Economic Development Authorities to utilize the staff of another agency (typically City staff) or hire its own professionals.
- The GFMEDC works closely with City of Moorhead staff, particularly in the last 1-2 years. The City intends to continue to foster this relationship.
- City staff is engaging in conversations with business owners who have establishments in both Moorhead and Fargo to learn competitive issues and will work with the M-EDA to develop tools to address these competitive disadvantages.
- Communicating border city competitive disadvantages to Minnesota Legislators is a priority of the M-EDA.
- City staff is seeking to engage real estate professionals and provide them with more easily accessible information and commercial trade criteria analytics on Moorhead's strengths.

The Mayor and Council noted the following:

- Border cities legislation and other economic incentives enable Moorhead businesses to stay competitive with Fargo.
- It is important to emphasize Moorhead's competitive advantages over Fargo, such as no sales tax on clothing.
- Concern was noted that economic incentives appear to centralize decision-making and offer only a temporary fix.
- It will be important to work with Moorhead Public Service and emphasize Moorhead's reliable electric service.

2. [Proposed 2013 Operating & Capital Budget Preparation Update & Proposed 2013 Capital Improvement Plan](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, and Wanda Wagner, Finance Director, provided a presentation on the development of the *Proposed 2013 Operating & Capital Budget* for the City of Moorhead. City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- Formation of a biennial budget would begin in 2012 and would be established for years 2013-2014.
- Under state law the 2014 budget cannot be formally adopted in 2012, and would be revisited in 2013 for any significant changes prior to adoption.

The Mayor and Council stated the following:

- A biennial budget is preferred based on the City's ability to conduct long-range planning and conduct deeper financial analyses.

City staff was directed to bring forward a resolution establishing the Council's intent to adopt a biennial budget for years 2013-2014.

3. City Manager Reports

A. [Presentation: 6 Month Report on Strategic Plan Activities & Projects](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, provided a report on strategic plan activities and projects accomplished in the last six months. The Mayor and Council asked the City Manager to convey appreciation to City staff for their work.

Michael Redlinger, City Manager, provided the following updates:

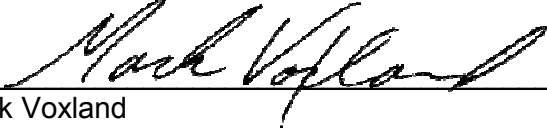
- The Fargo-Moorhead Chamber facility improvements at the Heritage Hjemkomst Center are complete.
- The League of Minnesota Cities will be conducting an event to acknowledge the work of Rep. Morrie Lanning.

The Mayor and Council requested that City staff organize a local event to

acknowledge Rep Morrie Lanning and cite his specific contributions to the City of Moorhead.

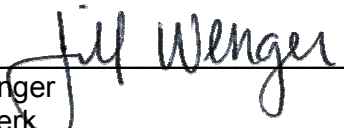
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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