

April 13, 2020

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
April 13, 2020**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota met electronically via Zoom for a special meeting on Monday, April 13, 2020 at the hour of 5:30 o'clock p.m. with Mayor Brown presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Dachtler, Weber, Mock, Marshall, Sande, Vein - 7; absent: None.

Mayor Brown announced that anyone wishing to speak to any item may do so by being recognized prior to a vote being taken on the matter, and that the meeting is being televised.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Brown commented regarding the following: the river crested this past week at 47' 6" and city engineer will have an update later in the meeting; encouraged all to stay home and stay well; thanked the Health Department for all of their work in response to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency; encouraged all to support those local businesses still operating; and encouraged all to fill out their census form.

FLOOD UPDATE

Al Grasser, City Engineer, provided information on the spring flooding, that the Red River did crest at 47.5' and is now on the way down, with current reading at 44.8'. Crews have begun removing sop logs at Lincoln Drive today, hope to reopen the Point Bridge Wednesday, and will be working with the ND DOT and MN DOT on inspections to open the Sorlie Bridge hopefully by the end of the week.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Debbie Swanson, Director of Public Health, gave a brief presentation which included updated statistics on the COvid-19 pandemic within North Dakota. The presentation also included a breakdown of those infected by age group and county. Swanson also provided information on how to contact the hotline for both the City and State as well as links for other helpful information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

**APPROVE EXTENSION OF MAYOR'S COVID-19
DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

A Resolution entitled "Confirmation and Extension of Declaration of Public Health Emergency", was presented and read for City Council's consideration. The resolution confirms and extends the Mayor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency dated March 16, 2020 to June 15, 2020.

Howard Swanson, City Attorney, explained that the Mayor can issue emergency orders for 30 days. City Council can extend those orders by 60 days. City Council would have the authority to rescind the action within that time if they chose to do so. If the extension is confirmed, then all emergency orders issued by the Mayor will end of April 15.

It was moved by Council Member Weber and seconded by Council Member Marshall to confirm and extend the Declaration of Public Health Emergency to June 15, 2020.

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Council Members discussed whether June 15 was too long a time period and if a shorter one was more appropriate and then incrementally extend. Swanson explained that the Governor's order has shut down several types of businesses that would not be able to continue to operate without the mayoral orders being in place such as takeout and delivery of food and alcohol. Other orders have allowed for closure of public buildings, virtual meetings and provisions for use of hotels for quarantine of individuals, all of which would also cease once the Mayor's Order expires. The City Council could choose a shorter period, but if the Governor's orders are prolonged, would then need to keep taking action to allow businesses to operate as they currently are. He again noted that if a 60 day extension was approved, the City Council could at any time within that 60 days rescind the action.

Council Member Sande stated that he supports the actions that are currently in place and knowing that we can rescind orders before the 60 days is in favor of approval.

Upon call for the question, the following voted "aye": Council Members Weigel, Dachtler, Weber, Mock, Marshall, Sande, Vein – 7; voting "nay": none. Mayor Brown declared the resolution adopted.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Council Member Weigel and seconded by Council Member Weber that we adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Approved:

Michael R. Brown, Mayor