

The Committee of the Whole met on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Vice President Weigel. Present at roll call were: Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs, Sande and Vein – 7; absent: None.

2. Informational Items

2.1 Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) Series F Agreement

Dan Gaustad, City Attorney, provided information on continued updates to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) Series F Agreement. Recent updates related to payments of member entities for their share of the project and default terms if payment is not made. The agreement continues to move through approvals with various entities boards, working toward closing. President Sande thanked Gaustad for his work on this agreement.

3. Discussion Items:

3.1 Application for Class 4 (Food & Beverage) Alcoholic Beverage License from The Spud Jr, LLC dba The Spud Jr

An application from The Spud Jr, LLC, dba The Spud Jr was presented for Committees review. There were no comments.

Motion by Osowski, second by Lunski, to refer to City Council with a recommendation to approve as staff recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Application for Class 4 (Food & Beverage) Alcoholic Beverage License from Short or Tall Grand Forks, LLC, dba Short or Tall / Surly

An application from Short or Tall Grand Forks, LLC, dba Short or Tall / Surly was presented for Committees review. There were no comments.

Motion by Sande, second by Osowski, to refer to City Council with a recommendation to approve as staff recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

3.3.Visit Greater Grand Forks Loan

Maureen Storstad, Finance Director, provided information on the history of the \$150,000 loan given to Visit Greater Grand Forks in 2020, when their funding was low due to the shut downs as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She explained that Visit Greater Grand Forks receives funding from a 3% lodging tax on overnight stays, which were greatly reduced due

to cancelled events and travel activities. In 2022 the loan was restructured to extend the pay back period to 10 years. Current balance on the loan is \$90,000.

Through the budget process, the benefit and support that Visit Greater Grand Forks continues to provide to support various activities and events in the community and forgiveness of the loan would free up additional funds for them to use for community support. Mayor Bochenski and Administration are bringing the request forward to City Council for their continuation.

Council Member Osowski commented that she is not in favor of forgiveness, but would support a loan restructuring to lower payments and extend term of the loan to assist the organization. Council Member Lunski commented regarding the amount that the City provided last year for support of events that Visit Greater Grand Forks administered. Storstad provided historical data on history of budget for the event regrating program, which was \$159,000 last year, but is no longer being funded.

Julie Rygg, Executive Director of Visit Greater Grand Forks, addressed the Committee and shared information on their budgeting process and anticipated additional expense for adding a position to their organization to focus on working with organizations and drawing events to the community, including for the Altru Sports Complex and the community, with the position being shared with the City and Park District.

Council Members Fridolfs, Sande and Vein commented regarding the impact the work of Visit Greater Grand Forks has on the community, and while they are a separate organization, act in many ways as an arm complimenting the City and expressed appreciation for their work. It was also noted that they do independently provided from their funds grants to events through an application process as well as providing some support services for the events. They are not part of the arts regrating process which is now administered by the City.

Motion by Sande, second by Vein, to refer to City Council with a recommendation to approve as recommended by staff. Motion carried 6-1, with Osowski dissenting.

4. City Council Member Discussion Matters - None

5. Adjourn

Motion by Osowski, second by Berg to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherie Lundmark, City Clerk