



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Council Session

## Item G-2

### Approving Minutes of January 19, 2015 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

January 19, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on January 19, 2016. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on January 13, 2016.

Mayor Jeremy L. Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Mitch Nickerson, Mark Stelk, Jeremy Jones, Chuck Haase, Julie Hehnke, Linna Dee Donaldson, Vaughn Minton, Roger Steele, and Mike Paulick. Councilmember Michelle Fitzke was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director Renae Griffiths, City Attorney Jerry Janulewicz, and Public Works Director John Collins.

Mayor Jensen introduced Community Youth Council members Eshan Sood and Melissa Cuellar.

INVOCATION was given by Community Youth Council member Eshan Sood followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

SPECIAL ITEM:

Update – Grow Grand Island. Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Johnson gave a history on visioning in Grand Island which started in 1997. Heartland Events Center, Moonshell and Multicultural Coalition were the first initiatives.

Presented was the following mission statement for Grow Grand Island (GGI): “Grow Grand Island cultivates bold ideas that create business and quality of life opportunities in our region through planning, partnering and doing.”

The goals for GGI were: to help existing businesses grow; assist and nurture entrepreneurial culture; enhance community image and marketing activities; improve educational attainment that align with employer needs; and continue to develop our community assets.

The GGI Executive Committee consisted of: Mayor Jeremy Jensen, City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, Hall County Supervisors Pam Lancaster and Jane Richardson, Don Smith, Implementation Chairman from the Grand Island Independent, Brad Mellema and Tony Schultz with the Grand Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, Cindy Johnson and Kurt Haecker with the Chamber of Commerce and Dave Taylor and Galen Stehlik with the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation.

Mayor Jensen’s passions were for the Patriot Gardens development project, State Fair-Fonner Expansion, Highway 281 Corridor Development and Husker Harvest Days partnership.

Implementation Chairman Don Smith, 304 Pheasant Drive thanked the City for the help in promoting this project. His committee was working on the seven entrances to Grand Island.

Reviewed were the entrances. The vision was to make distinctive, elegant, timeless welcoming impressions along the Grand Island major corridors. Reviewed was the process and schedule through 2040 for the transportation plan. Growth of the City and traffic congestion through 2025 and 2040 were presented. Housing preservation, development and neighborhood initiatives were reviewed.

It was mentioned that the Food & Beverage Tax would go before the voters at the May 10, 2016 Primary Election. This would continue the existing 1.5% tax on all food and beverage which included alcohol.

Discussion - Cemetery Expansion. Parks and Recreation Director Todd McCoy gave a brief background and reviewed the cemetery site selection and analysis process created by Confluence. Through this process Confluence examined multiple sites as expansion possibilities for the Grand Island Cemetery. The following five sites were chosen as potential expansion properties:

- Site 1 - Webb Road Sport Fields
- Site 2 - Westlawn Memorial Cemetery
- Site 3 - Undeveloped urban land
- Site 4 - Rural residential property
- Site 5 - Nebraska Veteran Memorial Cemetery site

Reviewed was the new Site at the Nebraska Veteran Memorial Cemetery.\

Site 5 – Veterans Cemetery Site:

Benefits – land is owned by the City so there are no acquisition costs. An existing cemetery is on-site, so shared maintenance facilities and equipment would be possible. This site has a good street presence and good views. There is multiple access points along both frontage roads, access through tree line could happen in the future.

Challenges – traffic along the roads could cause unwanted noise. The tree plantings must begin immediately to begin to build the desired cemetery character. Noise from adjacent highway and railroad tracks would need to be addressed to create a tranquil cemetery setting, buffers should be a consideration in master planning.

Constraints – the veteran’s cemetery must be incorporated into the future cemetery design and a drainage way existing through the site. Further study would be required to determine the full impacts.

The following total costs of expansion for each of the sites were presented along with the years before future expansion would be needed:

	<u>Expansion Costs</u>	<u>Future Expansion</u>
Site 1 – Webb Road	\$ 642,500.00	42 years
Site 2 – Westlawn Cemetery	\$2,058,950.00	25 years
Site 3 – Undeveloped Urban	\$2,314,850.00	73 years
Site 4 – Rural Property	\$2,350,100.00	73 years
Site 5 – Veteran Cemetery	\$1,316,600.00	44 years

Discussed was held on the payback to the Cemetery Fund which was included in these figures along with the number of cremations.

The following the operational costs were presented:

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 15</u>
Site 1 – Webb Road	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 45,000	\$140,000
Site 2 – Westlawn Cemetery	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$315,000	\$315,000
Site 3 – Undeveloped Urban	\$ 80,000	\$160,000	\$190,000	\$205,000
Site 4 – Rural Property	\$ 80,000	\$160,000	\$255,000	\$270,000
Site 5 – Veteran Cemetery	\$ 80,000	\$160,000	\$255,000	\$270,000

Additional staff was discussed. It was requested that Council be given a cost per existing burial site. Closure fund (Cemetery Trust Fund) amounts were requested for the Webb Road site.

Jerry Hirschman, 2315 Gateway Avenue requested that the Veteran Cemetery be kept strictly for veterans and that the land be controlled by the veterans. Jerry Poels, 3418 Deann Road spoke in support of the veterans keeping the land.

Mayor Jensen stated we needed to look at Site 5 – Veteran Cemetery and see how it fit into the bigger picture of the Patriot Gardens development before this was brought back to Council for final approval. He stated these 640 acres would take time to develop and needed to be studied by a consultant through a master plan.

Cemetery Superintendent Mark Sands, 1022 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street stated there was 5 years left in the current cemetery and it takes time to create a new cemetery. Time was of the essence and there needed to be more acres designated for the cemetery.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk