



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Council Session

Item G-9

#2016-36 - Approving Disaster Declaration made on February 4, 2016

Staff Contact: Jon Rosenlund

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jon Rosenlund, Emergency Management Director

Meeting: February 23, 2016

Subject: Disaster Declaration

Presenter(s): Jon Rosenlund, Emergency Management Director

Background

On February 2, 2016, the City of Grand Island experienced an historic winter weather event with the second largest snow depth on record and winds gusting over 50 miles per hour, causing severe blizzard conditions. As a result, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island declared a local disaster and the City requested outside assistance for snow removal operations to support emergency response and establish safe transportation along City streets. This resolution will acknowledge that Disaster Declaration as necessary for adequate disaster response.

Discussion

On February 1-2, 2016, the City of Grand Island experienced an historic winter weather event with the second largest snow depth on record and winds gusting over 50 miles per hour, causing dangerous blizzard conditions. Highways, roads and streets in the entire County were closed and impassable for vehicle traffic and local emergency crews required significant assistance from City snow removal operators to respond to emergency calls for assistance throughout the blizzard, and to clear roads for emergency transportation.

Snow depths and the near record high water content of this snow event required more robust snow removal resources that the City of Grand Island maintains, which required the utilization of resources outside the City's jurisdiction including contract labor and intergovernmental assistance by Hall County Roads.

As a result, on February 4, 2016, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island declared a local disaster and the City requested and received additional and immediate assistance for snow removal operations to return City streets to passable and safe conditions. This resolution will acknowledge the necessity for that Disaster Declaration to adequately respond to this historic winter storm.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the Disaster Declaration made on February 4, 2016.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Disaster Declaration made on February 4, 2016.



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LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION


The City of Grand Island has suffered from a Blizzard that occurred on February 2 & 3, 2016 causing severe interruption of transportation and endangerment of health and safety of the citizens of the City of Grand Island within the disaster area.

Therefore, the Mayor of Grand Island has declared a state of emergency authorized under Nebraska State Statute R.R.S. 81-829.50 on behalf of the City of Grand Island, and will execute for and on behalf of the City of Grand Island, the expenditure of emergency funds from all available sources, the invoking of mutual aid agreements, and the applying to the State of Nebraska for assistance from the Governor's Emergency Fund and any other resources he deems necessary in the fulfillment of his/her duties.



Jeremy L. Jensen
Mayor, City of Grand Island

WITNESS my hand and the seal of my office
this 4th day of February, 2016.



RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

2/4/2016
Date

RESOLUTION 2016-36

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2016, the City of Grand Island experienced a near record setting winter weather event with significant amounts of heavy snow and high winds causing dangerous blizzard conditions; and

WHEREAS, the February 2016 Blizzard event required additional resources outside those maintained and operated by the City of Grand Island for snow removal to ensure emergency services as well as safe and passable streets for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the necessary resources were immediately required to provide a timely and effective disaster response for the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2016, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island issued a Disaster Declaration to obtain the necessary resources to ensure a timely and effective disaster response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City Council approve of the necessity of the February 4, 2016 Disaster Declaration in order to obtain and utilize outside resources to respond to the February 2016 Blizzard, to ensure a timely and effective response and to provide for safe and passable streets.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 23, 2016.

Jeremy Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
February 19, 2016	☒ City Attorney