



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

**Council Session**

## **Item G-2**

**Approving Minutes of March 15, 2016 City Council Study Session**

**Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards**

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

March 15, 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 March 15, 2016. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on March 10, 2016.

Mayor Jeremy L. Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Mitch Nickerson, Mark Stelk, Chuck Haase, Linna Dee Donaldson, Michelle Fitzke, Vaughn Minton, and Roger Steele. Councilmembers Mike Paulick, Julie Hehnke, and Jeremy Jones were 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 member Sarah Sugita.

INVOCATION was given by Community Youth Council member Sara Sugita followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Discussion Regarding Creating a Tree Board. Parks and Recreation Director Todd McCoy reported that a Tree Board was a group of people responsible for overseeing management of the community trees; also known as the urban forest. This board was usually created by ordinance. It would be made up of municipal staff, local citizens and/or tree care professionals. Grand Island had a Tree Board over 30 years ago.

The Tree Board would assess the community urban forest situation using some type of inventory to determine short-and long-range program goals and objectives. They would develop and review annually a comprehensive community forestry plan and would advise the Mayor, City Council, and various departments on matters concerning trees and related resources. Recommendations from the Tree Board may include policy changes and specific urban forestry projects.

The Tree Board would also educate residents on matters concerning the betterment of trees and related resources along with coordinate or conduct special projects for the betterment of the urban forest. Such projects should be included in annual plans. They also would keep abreast of current trends and issues in urban forestry through appropriate training and development.

Mr. McCoy stated issues facing Grand Island with regard to urban forestry was the need for planning and education regarding looming diseases and threats to trees in Grand Island. The Emerald Ash Borer, Pine Wilt, Oak Wilt, and other diseases had or soon would have a dramatic impact to our community's urban forest. The City was not heavily involved in promoting or

managing street trees which the Tree Board could help with. The City did not have a recently updated tree inventory which could be a responsibility of the Tree Board. It was important to start increasing species diversity with regards to street and park trees in Grand Island.

Justin Everton representing the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska State Arboretum encouraged the City to create a Tree Board. Kelly Markham, 115 Lakeview Drive #118 asked what the terms of the board would be. Mr. McCoy stated the details would be worked out when the Council approve the board by ordinance.

Discussion was held concerning the boards scope of work and that they would submit recommendations to the Council. Planning for the Emerald Ash Borer was mentioned. Mr. McCoy stated this would be a volunteer board and there was no funding at this time for the Tree Board but they could apply for grants. Mr. McCoy stated there were several people interested in serving on the Tree Board. Comments were made concerning replacement of trees, preventive measures, and inventory of the trees in Grand Island.

Grand Island Electric Generation Update. Utilities Director Tim Luchsinger gave a background on the Utilities Department's current and planned electric generation plans. The EPA Clean Power Plan was one of the primary drivers of electric generation strategy in the United States. The purpose of this regulation was to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 30 percent by 2030.

The Clean Air Act Section 111(d) Clean Power Plan rule was published in August, 2015 which established greenhouse gas emission goals by state, 40% reduction was proposed for Nebraska. The state's plan was to be submitted to EPA by September, 2016 for achieving emission targets for 2020-2029 and 2030+. This rule was currently stayed by the Supreme Court.

The Clean Power Plan was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the following "building blocks":

- Improve existing coal power plant efficiencies
- Increase natural gas combined cycle generation
- Increase use of renewable energy sources (Renewable Energy Credits)
- Implementation of demand-side energy reduction programs originally proposed but not in final rule

Currently the Grand Island Utilities Department (GIUD) had wind participation with NPPD Power Purchase Agreements with Ainsworth, Elkhorn Ridge, Laredo Ridge, Broken Bow, and Springview. Future participation planned was with Prairie Breeze III for March of 2016 and Antelope County proposed for the end of 2016. The Power Purchase Agreements were for a term of 25 years with commercial operation by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016. These had a firm energy cost with annual escalation and the cost was paid on energy produced with no upfront cost. The Power Purchase Agreements were executed by GIUD and Invenergy.

Mr. Luchsinger reviewed the following capacity additions:

	Year	Capacity	Cost
Platte Generating Station	1982	100 MW	\$80M
Burdick Gas Turbines 2 & 3	2003	68MW	\$50M
Nebraska City Unit 2	2009	35MW	\$40M
Whelan Energy Center Unit 2	2011	15MW	\$40M

Mr. Luchsinger stated in the future they would like to have 1/3 renewables and 2/3 fossil fuels to comply with regulations. Discussion was held concerning development in the future. Currently we were over capacity and Platte Generating Station (PGS) was being used less due to the lower operating costs in natural gas. Discussed were the comparison costs of coal, gas, and wind. Mentioned was that in the future PGS may be taken off line a few months out of the year. PGS had a possible life through 2030.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk