



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Council Session

Item G-2

Approving Minutes of October 18, 2016 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

October 18, 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 October 18, 2016. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on October 12, 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, Michelle Fitzke, Vaughn Minton, and Mike Paulick. Councilmembers Chuck Haase, Julie Hehnke, Linna Dee Donaldson, and Roger Steele 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 Jackie Gonzalez.

INVOCATION was given by Community Youth Council member Jackie Gonzales followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Information and Discussion on Upcoming Ballot Issue for 1/2 Cent Sales Tax. Paul Wicht, 1708 Jerry Drive spoke regarding the Sycamore Street underpass and requested the City check with the Union Pacific Railroad for their responsibility.

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson stated that on August 23, 2016 the City Council approved Resolution #2016-208 which placed an initiative on the November 8, 2016 General Election ballot to increase the City's sales tax by 1/2 percent. Two issues would be on the ballot: one was to authorize the City to generate or collect the funds and the second one was to authorize the City to spend the funds. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and review the Sales Tax initiative, potential projects, and financial projections.

Mr. Ferguson explained LB 357 passed by the Nebraska Legislature would allow for an additional 1/2% sales tax. The additional 1/2% sales tax would be used for public infrastructure projects such as: streets, water, sewer, drainage, etc. The projected revenue per year was \$5.5 million. There would be a 10 year sunset or until bonds for which revenue was pledge was paid off. Additionally LB357 required an oversight committee with a local government agency. An Interlocal Agreement had been approved with the Community Redevelopment Authority for this oversight committee.

Mayor Jensen commented on upcoming projects that had been prioritized in an amount of \$133,000,000 of which the City was responsible for. Property tax was mentioned and the need for the 1/2% sales tax to pass so the local property tax owners would not be solely responsible.

The sales tax was a shared tax for everyone who came to Grand Island. He did not guarantee that the property tax would not go up but without the additional sales tax it more than likely would.

Public Works Director John Collins commented on the pavement conditions within the City. Budgeted trends and actual expenses for Capital projects were presented. He stated Adams Street, Highway 281 and several other projects the City was committed to, some through the Nebraska Department of Roads. The Mayor commented on the growth of Grand Island and the amount of money that was spent for infrastructure. Aging infrastructure, additional traffic, and safety concerns were mentioned.

Comments were made regarding the importance of passing this additional sales tax. The additional funds would be used for specific projects.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk