



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Council Session

Item G-2

Approving Minutes of February 7, 2017 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

February 7, 2017

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 February 7, 2017. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on February 1, 2017.

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

Mayor Jensen introduced Community Youth Council members Cynthia Serrano and Hanadi Isa.

INVOCATION was given by Community Youth Council member Cynthia Serrano followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Presentation and Discussion Concerning the Public Works Department. Public Works Director John Collins presented a high level overview of the Public Works Department. He stated the Public Works Department was responsible for constructing and maintaining the City's infrastructure. This is a 24/7/365 operation with numerous Federal and State mandates. There were 85 positions in the following 8 divisions: Administration, Engineering Services, Fleet Services, Transit, MPO, Solid Waste, Streets, and Wastewater.

Mr. Collins stated that just less than 20% of the City's \$214 million budget was for the Public Works Department. The 2017 budget was \$41,919,385. Reviewed were staffing levels in each division. There were almost 30 square miles in the city and 83.61 lane miles which was an increase from 2006-2016.

Solid Waste Division: Mr. Collins stated the Solid Waste Division was an enterprise fund which received no funding from the General Fund. All revenues were generated from tipping fees and were one of the few Divisions with competition. The Solid Waste Division serves both residents and non-residents and is utilized by both commercial haulers and the general public. Waste is hauled from the transfer station to the landfill located at 5050 West Old Potash Highway (one mile west of City limits) for disposal.

The Yard Waste site accepts grass, leaves, and trees from residents for free year-round. Screened compost is sold for \$5.00 per cubic yard and wood chips are sold for \$1.50 per cubic yard. This facility is located adjacent to the transfer station property.

Landfill: Mr. Collins stated the landfill is used mainly by commercial haulers and is located at the Hall/Buffalo County line approximately 18 miles west of Grand Island. Hand unloading of materials was not allowed. Reviewed was the regulatory permits/compliance for both the Transfer Station and Landfill along with staffing.

Explained was the Landfill Cell 3 expansion project. The restricted fund was expected to cover the entire cost of this project. The engineering/design was scheduled for this current fiscal year. Cell 3 would provide disposal for the next 15-20 years.

Wastewater Division: Mr. Collins stated the plant was located at 3013 E. Swift Road. There were 14 lift station, 225 miles of pipe, and 4,300 manholes. The Wastewater Division was also an enterprise fund and received no funding from the General Fund. Revenues were generated by: user fees, televising pipes, bonds, septage, grease, credit card rebate, permit fees, assessment fees, Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SWSRF), and laboratory. Reviewed were rates from other cities, staffing, and regulatory permits/compliance.

Fleet Services Division: The Fleet Services Division is located at 1111 W. North Front Street. This included the Fleet Services office and shop garage. This division was competitive with private shops. Mentioned were the improvements made at the facility over the past few years. Reviewed were staffing, budget, and revenues.

Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO): Mr. Collins stated the MPO was required in urbanized areas with a population of over 50,000 and it was regulated by Federal Law. It was federally funded 80% by USDOT (FHWA/FTA) for transportation policy-making and planning. MPO was responsible for regional transportation planning and coordination.

Explained was the GIAMPO Policy Board which was comprised of elected and appointed officials representing local, state, and federal government agencies. This board sets regional long-term transportation policy and approves work products. The GIAMPO Technical Advisory Committee was an advisory body to the Policy Board which provides technical support and recommendations. It was comprised of staff-level officials of local, state and government agencies.

The GIAMPO staff provides information and support to the Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee. They prepare the required state and federal documents, manage the planning process, and coordinate transportation studies and projects. Mr. Collins explained the funding sources which was 80% from the Federal government and 20% from the local government.

Streets Division: responsible for: streets & alleys; drainage; right-of-way; snow and ice removal; traffic control; and bridges. The Streets Division Office and main yard are located at 1111 W. North Front Street on leased property from the Union Pacific Railroad. The "West Yard" is located at 2124 Old Lincoln Highway. Reviewed were staffing, budget, revenues, equipment, and programs.

Engineering Services Division: provide technical services and assistance for public improvement projects as well as review plans for developer proposed projects. They give technical support to the Streets Division for planned maintenance projects, provide engineering and project management support to the Wastewater Division, and collect data for inventory and asset management for GIS. They also develop project concepts and budgets, projects to maintain or repair existing infrastructure, manage paving and sewer districts from request to implementation, and respond to public requests. Explained were the Federally mandated Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) requirements. Also mentioned were the duties performed for the downtown parking lots and downtown parking ramp.

Transit Division: Mr. Collins gave a brief history and stated this division was created because of a federal requirement that the City be the agency receiving FTA funds for MSA designated areas. This was formally handled by Hall County. The Transit Division prepares and manages state and federal grant applications, submits required federal reports, oversees transit related programs, ensures compliance with FTA Annual Certifications and Assurance and the FTA Triennial Review, and manages transit operations contract.

Discussion was held concerning staff vacancies in the engineering department. Mr. Collins commented on the difficulty of getting qualified applicants. He answered questions regarding in-house vs out-sourcing project designs. He stated in-house was more cost effective.

Public Works Manager of Engineering Services Terry Brown commented on the process of Request for Proposals (RFP's)/Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) and all standards within the Public Works Department. Discussion was held regarding street sweeping. Street Superintendent Shannon Callahan answered questions concerning Fleet Service activities and equipment replacement. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Marvin Strong answered questions concerning sanitary sewer pipes. Solid Waste Superintendent Jeff Wattier answered questions concerning landfill rates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk