



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Council Session

Item G-2

Approving Minutes of August 10, 2021 Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

August 10, 2021

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 August 10, 2021. Notice of the meeting was given in *The Grand Island Independent* on August 4, 2021.

Mayor Roger G. Steele called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m. The following City Council members were present: Mike Paulick, Justin Scott, Michelle Fitzke, Mark Stelk, Jason Conley, Vaughn Minton, Bethany Guzinski, Maggie Mendoza, Mitch Nickerson, and Chuck Haase. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Jerry Janulewicz, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director Patrick Brown, Interim City Attorney Stacy Nonhof and Public Works Director John Collins.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Presentation concerning the City's Bi-Lingual Employee Pay Policies and Use of Employees who Receive Bi-Lingual Pay. Human Resources Director Aaron Schmid reviewed the statistics from the US Census Bureau and the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations pertaining to bilingual pay with included nearly all of the City's collective bargaining agreements. Testing was done verbally and written. There were a total of 25 employees that were tested.

Regional Planning Administrative Assistant Norma Henandez commented on her duties as a translator. Discussion was held regarding hiring bi-lingual employees.

2021/2022 Budget Discussion. Finance Director Patrick Brown stated General Fund appropriations less transfers for FY 2022 increased \$2,553,691 or 6/5% mostly due to a 27th period payroll which will happen in 2022. The extra pay period added \$1.1 million to personnel services. Personnel services included a Grant Administrator and an interpreter/translator. Operating expense increased by 4.8% or \$327,265.

During the current year we received American Rescue Plan funds of \$4,546,940 which were deposited into the General Fund. In FY2022 budget, we are transferring those funds to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund for the possible Airport Sewer Project.

The FY 2022 budget showed a loan to Solid Waste in order to do the Transfer Station upgrade. The loan would be for \$4.5 million at 3% interest for 20 years. This saves financing costs to Solid Waste and increases the interest revenue for the General Fund.

General Fund Revenues for FY 2022 included a three percent increase projection for Property Taxes. This was leaving the mill levy at 0.3445 as it was today. Sales tax projection was based off of current receipts and an average of the last two years plus two percent. FY 2021 budget Sales Tax projection for the General Fund was \$11,125,000 which had been the lowest

projection in several years due to COVID-19. FY 2022 Sales Tax projection for the General Fund was \$13.4 million

Discussion was held regarding the property tax request and property tax relief. Valuations would be certified by the County Assessor on August 20, 2021. Comments were made concerning keeping the mill levy the same as last year.

Mr. Brown gave a heads up on LB 644 which would take effect next year. The City could capture the growth plus 2% but this would have to go to a joint meeting with the County.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk