



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Council Session

## Item I-1

**#2022-196 - Consideration of Appointing Laura McAloon as City Attorney**

Staff Contact: Aaron Schmid, Human Resources Director

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Mayor Roger G. Steele  
**Meeting:** July 26, 2022  
**Subject:** Appointment of Laura McAloon as City Attorney  
**Presenter(s):** Mayor Roger G. Steele

## Background

Under Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-308 and Grand Island City Code, §2-30, the office of City Attorney, for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is an appointed position. The position is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council and serves through the Mayor's term.

## Discussion

I am pleased to present Laura McAloon as my choice for appointment to the City Attorney position.

McAloon currently resides in Spokane, WA, and has served as the managing member of McAloon Law PLLC since 2018. In this role, McAloon founded a law firm specializing in the representation of municipal governments and related non-profit organizations. Her services included; interpretation of state and federal laws and regulations, advising local governments on municipal governance, sunshine laws, land use, procurement and competitive bidding, bond counsel, issuer's counsel and disclosure counsel services to governmental issuers of tax-exempt municipal debt instruments.

Prior to this position, McAloon was also serving local governments. She spent three years as member of Witherspoon Brajcich McPhee PLLC in Spokane, ten years as a Partner at K&L Gates LLP in Spokane and five years as an Associate Attorney with Paine Hamblen LLP in Spokane. All firms advised local governments on municipal governance.

McAloon earned a Bachelor of Science in Business/Paralegal Studies from College of Saint Mary in Omaha. She then went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane.

McAloon's admissions include; Bar of Washington, U.S. District Court, EDWA, U.S. District Courts, WDWA, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court,

and Bar of Nebraska. Professional organizations include; National Association of Bond Lawyers, American Bar Association and Rising Star, Washington Super Lawyers (2006, 2011)

Pending City Council approval McAloon's employment will commence on September 1, 2022. Her starting salary will be at step nine of the City Attorney pay scale which is \$161,106.79 annually. As City Attorney she will supervise the legal department staff.

Mrs. McAloon will bring a career worth of knowledge and experience to the position. Furthermore she will be a great addition to our leadership team.

Finally, I would also like to express my appreciation to Stacy Nonhof for continuing to represent the City Of Grand Island as the City Attorney during the candidate search.

### **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**

I recommend the approval of Laura McAloon as the City Attorney.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve Laura McAloon as the City Attorney.

RESOLUTION 2022-196

WHEREAS, under Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-308, the office of City Attorney, for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is an appointed position; and

WHEREAS, under Grand Island City Code, §2-30, the office of City Attorney, for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is an appointed position; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, may appoint the position of City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, this position appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council shall hold the position to which they may be appointed until the end of the Mayor's term of office; and

WHEREAS, Laura McAloon has accepted the offer and is prepared to start work on September 1, 2022 at Step 9 of the City Attorney salary table of \$161,106.79

WHEREAS, this position appointed by the Mayor may be removed at any time by the Mayor with approval of a majority of the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that Laura McAloon is hereby duly appointed the City Attorney for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, until the end of the Mayor's term of office.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, July 26, 2022.

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Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
July 22, 2022	☒ City Attorney