



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Council Session

Item I5

#2013-42 - Consideration of Approving Appointment of John Collins as Public Works Director

Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mayor Jay Vavricek

Meeting: February 12, 2013

Subject: Appointment of John Collins as Public Works Director/City Engineer

Item #'s: I-5

Presenter(s): Mayor Jay Vavricek

Background

The Public Works Director position has been vacant since July 2012. Terry Brown, Manager of Engineering Services was appointed as Interim Public Works Director until the position is filled. A national search has been conducted by the City's Human Resources Department. The process included involvement from four city council members; Council President Bob Niemann, Councilman Scott Dugan, Councilwoman Peg Gilbert, and Councilman Mitch Nickerson. Other members involved in the selection process included City Administrator Mary Lou Brown, Human Resources Director Brenda Sutherland, and Interim Public Works Director Terry Brown.

Under Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-308 and Grand Island City Code, §2-30, the office of City Engineer, for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is an appointed position. The office of City Engineer/Public Works Director have been consolidated into one position for the City of Grand Island. 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 John Collins as my choice for appointment to the Public Works Director position. Collins' public works experience includes 25 years in various statewide engineering and management positions with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation. Additionally, he served as the City Engineer/Public Works Director for the City of Grand Island from March 2011 to July 2012. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska as well as the State of Louisiana. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana State University.

While in Louisiana, Collins managed a staff of 89 employees and an operating budget of \$40 million. Collins and his staff worked with the rehabilitation efforts during the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During his tenure at the City of Grand Island Collins was instrumental in implementing the Downtown Quiet Zone, developing the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvement plan, updating a dewatering feasibility study, and leading research and construction efforts on the Sycamore and Eddy underpasses. In addition, Collins led efforts to create an improvement plan for the route to the airport, developed a plan to rectify problems with the Stagecoach detention cell, and made plans for the extension of sewer infrastructure along Highway 281 to I-80.

Pending City Council approval Collins' employment will commence in March, 2013 – the exact starting date is yet to be determined. His starting salary will be at step twelve of the Public Works Director pay scale which is \$101,148.34 annually. As Public Works Director he will supervise the Engineering, Solid Waste, Streets, Fleet Services, and Wastewater Treatment divisions.

It is because of Mr. Collins' efforts and achievements while he last served the City that I am looking forward to his return. He was an employee who left in good standing and was an important member of the leadership team. Additionally, Terry Brown deserves much appreciation for his hard work and leadership through what has been a very busy time in the Public Works Department. The City can take great pride in the dedication and professionalism that it has in its Public Works Department employees.

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 John Collins as the City Engineer/ Public Works Director.

Sample Motion

Move to approve John Collins as the City Engineer/Public Works Director.

RESOLUTION 2013-42

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

WHEREAS, under Grand Island City Code, §2-30, the office of City Engineer and Public Works Director have been consolidated into one position for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, and is an appointed position; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, may appoint the position of City Engineer/Public Works Director; 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, 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 John Collins is hereby duly appointed the City Engineer/Public Works Director 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, February 12, 2013.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
February 8, 2013	☐ City Attorney