



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Council Session

Item I-10

#2013-167 - Consideration of Funding the Community Offering and Approving Authorized Official to Retain the Grand Island Veterans Home

Staff Contact: Mary Lou Brown

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Meeting: May 28, 2013

Subject: Consideration of Funding the Community Offering and Approving Authorized Official to Retain the Grand Island Veterans Home

Item #'s: I-10

Presenter(s): Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Background

On March 4, 1887 the Nebraska Legislature enacted legislation creating the Nebraska Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and directing it be located in Grand Island. This facility eventually became the Grand Island Veterans' Home and for more than 126 years has been located in our community.

The Veterans' Home in Grand Island was the first in the State of Nebraska and has served as the model for subsequent Veterans' Homes constructed and located in Bellevue, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff.

During its existence of more than one and a quarter centuries, the Grand Island Veterans' Home has housed and cared for veterans of our nation's armed conflicts from the Civil War to the present along with peacetime veterans. In that time, the people of Grand Island have supported our nation's veterans and the Veterans' Home initially by purchasing and donating 640 acres of land for the Home's location. Since the 1880s, the people of Grand Island have continued to support the Veterans' Home and all veterans. This support has manifested itself through activities at the home and in the community. It has manifested itself through the construction and maintenance of veterans' memorials and monuments throughout the community. Most recently, it has manifested itself through citizens organizing and financing the Heroes Flight program which transported World War II veterans to the Washington, DC memorial to that great victory.

Last year, the State of Nebraska announced it would build a new Veterans' Home and solicited proposals from cities throughout Central Nebraska for the Home's location. The City of Grand Island will submit a proposal to retain the Veterans' Home here in the City that has supported it and its members without fail for more than 126 years. Part of that

proposal will include financial assistance to support the State decision to build a new facility in Grand Island.

The Council is being asked to approve two matters. The first is the City's financial commitment of funding not to exceed three million dollars. The second matter for consideration is the approval of the authorizing official, which will be the Mayor.

The final complete proposal will be submitted to the State on June 11 with a final determination to be made by the State by August 1, 2013.

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

The City Administration supports and recommends the approval of a Resolution of financial support and authorization for the Mayor to sign the proposal for the retention of the Nebraska Veterans' Home.

Sample Motion

Move to approve Resolution #2013-167.

RESOLUTION 2013-167

WHEREAS, on March 4, 1887 the Nebraska Legislature passed an Act for the establishment and maintenance of the Nebraska Soldiers' and Sailors' Home to be located in Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, that facility is now known as the Nebraska Veterans' Home and has been continuously located in Grand Island for more than 126 years; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Veterans' Home located in Grand Island was the first in the State of Nebraska and has served as the model for other Veterans' Homes constructed and located in Bellevue, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff; and

WHEREAS, the people of Grand Island have supported the Nebraska Veterans' Home, its residents, and all veterans by initially purchasing and donating 640 acres of land for the Homes' location; and

WHEREAS, the people of Grand Island have supported the Nebraska Veterans' Home, its residents, and all veterans, through sponsoring activities at the Home, constructing and maintaining veterans' memorials throughout the community, and organizing and financing the Heroes' Flight program; and

WHEREAS, the people of Grand Island have supported the Nebraska Veterans' Home and its residents which have included veterans of the nation's armed conflicts since the Civil War and veterans who served in peacetime; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Nebraska announced it would construct a new Veterans' Home and solicited proposals from cities in Central Nebraska for its location; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island will be submitting a proposal to retain the Nebraska Veterans' Home as this City is the best choice for that facility given Grand Island's lengthy and unfailing support for the Veterans' Home, its residents, and all veterans; and

WHEREAS, part of that proposal will include a statement of financial support for the Nebraska Veterans' Home and authorization approving the Mayor as the authorized official.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island commits itself to providing financial support for the retention of the Nebraska Veterans' Home not to exceed three million dollars and authorizing the Mayor as the authorized official.

Approved as to Form	by _____
May 24, 2013	City Attorney

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, May 28, 2013.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk