



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2013**

**Study Session**

## **Item -1**

### **Discussion Concerning the Grand Island Veterans Home**

**Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Jay Vavricek, Mayor  
**Meeting:** August 20, 2013  
**Subject:** Grand Island Veterans Home  
**Item #:** 1  
**Presenter(s):** Jay Vavricek, Mayor

## **Background**

On February 12, 2013, the City Council unanimously approved Resolution #2013-40 - Consideration of Support for Community Proposal to Continue Service for Veterans in a New Facility in Grand Island. The purpose of this Resolution was to state the City's support for the team of volunteers working on a community proposal to continue its service to honor and care for veterans in its new facility in our community.

On May 28, 2013, the City Council unanimously approved Resolution #2013-167 - Consideration of Funding the Community Offering and Approving Authorized Official to Retain the Grand Island Veterans Home. The purpose of this Resolution was to approve the City's \$3 million financial commitment of funding and to approve the Mayor as the authorizing official.

The community offering was submitted to the State on June 11, 2013. A site visit with the State's Site Selection Committee and its advisers occurred Friday, June 14, 2013. The Site Selection Committee was tasked with evaluating and recommending a site for the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home.

On June 21, 2013, Resolution 2013-186 - Consideration of Providing Responses to Veterans Home Site Selection Committee Questions and Concerns was unanimously approved by the City Council. The purpose of this Resolution was to formally address matters raised during the site visit and to confirm information and fully meet the needs and expectation of the State.

## **Discussion**

The purpose of the study session is to promote greater openness, more citizen awareness and more public engagement of a decision that may likely affect generations to come.

Council leadership should have ample time to gain a greater understanding of the community's desire for potential engagement of efforts that may occur to alter the State's recommendation to move the Grand Island Veterans Home to Kearney. An understanding how this request may affect the City of Grand Island, our community, the State of Nebraska, and the Grand Island Veterans Home members should result.

A funding request seeking tax payer funds in the amount of \$5,000 to research options has been tendered by the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce to the City of Grand Island in conjunction with the Home for Our Heroes Committee.

### **Conclusion**

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.