



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Council Session

Item G-2

Approving Minutes of June 24, 2014 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

June 24, 2014

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 June 24, 2014. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on June 19, 2014.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Vaughn Minton, Mike Paulick, Mark Stelk, John Gericke, Peg Gilbert, Mitch Nickerson, Linna Dee Donaldson, Julie Hehnke, and Kent Mann. Councilmember Chuck Haase was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Mary Lou Brown, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, City Attorney Robert Sivick, City Treasurer and Finance Director Jaye Monter, and City Engineer and Public Works Director John Collins.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Presentation on Stolley Park Road Configuration. Public Works Director John Collins stated the Public Works Department had looked at this area for the past 3 years. He reported the construction of Stolley Park Road was completed in two parts; (South Locust to Blaine) in 1978 and (Blaine to Hwy 281) in 1983. The road was constructed as a four lane arterial route, but the outside lanes were never opened to traffic. Traffic volume had continued to increase and the City had received a number of complaints, which the Public Works Department had studied and verified. Most issues related to the design and current configuration of the street. Questions were asked concerning the type of accidents. Mr. Collins stated over 60% was rear end accidents.

Engineering Manager Terry Brown commented on this being a Federal Aid Project which was originally designed as a four lane street. He updated the Council on the history of vehicular traffic and accidents which had increased over the years. Mentioned was Stolley Park Road was an arterial roadway and that intersections were working well because of the turn lanes but the straight ways were the problem.

The following three potential layouts to improve safety and capacity along this route were presented:

- Stripe for four lanes as originally planned/promised.
- Stripe for 3 lanes through most of the route, with additional lanes in some locations, as has been done for several routes in Grand Island.
- Stripe for a 'Complete Street Design' which would include 3 lanes and bicycle lanes for most of the route; and some alternate configurations where indicated.

Matt Rief representing Olsson Associates presented the concept on restriping the road to a four lane and in the area from the railroad tracks going west to a five lane and extending turning lanes. Discussion was held regarding traffic signals.

Presented was a three lane concept with two lanes of traffic and a turning lane and bike lanes on each side. Discussion was held concerning the safety of bike lanes and parking along Stolley Park. Mentioned were cars illegally passing on the right. Mr. Brown stated both schools along

this route would have to look at drop off and pick up zones. Dan Petsch with the Grand Island Public Schools commented on the driveways for drop off and pick up and supported the three lane design.

Mentioned was the need to have more signals on this road so people could cross the road. Stolley Park entrance intersection was mentioned and the possibility of changing the entrance. Also mentioned was the entrance at Runza and the need to look at this entrance.

Mr. Collins stated a speed limit study would need to be done. Police Chief Steve Lamken stated this was not a safe street, it was a busy arterial and the city needed to do something with it.

Waunita McGowan, 2909 Circle Drive spoke of the need for changes on this road to make it safer. Chris Rosacker, 1123 W. Division spoke in support of a three lane with center turning lane and bike lane. Jim Wilson, 429 Stolley Park Road read a letter to the editor opposing the changes and taking away the parking.

Mr. Brown stated they would look further at truck traffic and mentioned the wear and tear they caused on this street. He stated a three lane would help the State Fair traffic and would be visitor friendly. Bike lanes would be looked at with regards to different color striping.

Comments were made concerning slow moving traffic causing accidents and creating a traffic division within the Police Department. It was mentioned the Police Department used to have motorcycles and maybe this should be looked at again.

Mr. Collins stated the current striping needed to be done and changes to a three lane could be done with the current budget at a cost of \$100,000. Traffic signals would need to be studied and budgeted for at a cost of \$200,000 per signal. Discussion was held concerning the need for three signals along this road.

Comments were made that this road needed to be a four lane as originally planned. Mentioned was that there was a hike/bike trail not far from this road so there was no need for a bike lane. Comments were made by several Councilmembers supporting a three lane with a center turning lane as was support for a four lane.

Discussion was held regarding a five lane and Federal funding. Hike/bike crossing east of Piccadilly Apartments was being looked at with a possible signal in the area to help break up traffic.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk