



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Council Session - Corrected

## Item I-2

**#2014-202 – Consideration of Approving the City of Grand Island  
Acclamation as “The State Fair City”**

Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Mayor Jay Vavricek

**Meeting:** July 22, 2014

**Subject:** Approving by Resolution the City of Grand Island  
Acclamation as “The State Fair City”

**Item #'s:** I-2

**Presenter(s):** Mayor Jay Vavricek

## Background

The City of Grand Island, by resolution, was acclaimed as "The City of Kindness". The reference is very well deserved and has good intentions. Since that designation was approved, Grand Island has become the host city of the Nebraska State Fair. In light of the huge community investment, involvement and support of this annual event, it is recommended our community honor our unique involvement and partnership with the State Fair. The title, "The State Fair City", will further identify and promote this annual event much like other Nebraska City's are identified with key events or unique heritage within their respective communities. A few examples are: Seward as "The 4th of July City"; Minden as "The Christmas City"; Stromsburg as "The Swedish Capital of Nebraska"; Loup City as "The Polish Capital of Nebraska"; and Lincoln as "The Star City".

## Discussion

On August 22, 2014 the fifth Nebraska State Fair will officially welcome visitors and residents of our community to enjoy its wide array of entertainment and educational opportunities. In keeping with the welcoming spirit as the City of Kindness, this year and each year thereafter, from the kickoff of pre-fair festivities of the 1868 Nebraska State Fair Foundation's Blue Ribbon Rollout through the duration of the State Fair itself, the City of Grand Island will be known as "The State Fair City". An official signing of the proclamation would be a part of the opening festivities.

The identity:

- offers a multitude of branding opportunities important to our community's well being and serves as a reminder to all of the largest festival of its kind in our City and our State.

- serves as a reminder of the year long convention and exhibition offerings of its facilities on the Fonner Park campus.
- reinforces the faith and confidence the State of Nebraska extended to our community with the re-location from its 140 year home.
- is a positive effort to move our community forward more successfully.
- is a source of pride for our community or our uniqueness in Nebraska and the world.

A resolution detailing a portion of the recent history of a series of events and community involvement with the Nebraska State Fair is suggested by Mayor Vavricek. Based on the significance and potential longevity of this acclamation, a City Council policy making decision is merited.

### **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**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the City of Grand Island acclamation as “The State Fair City”.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the Resolution.

RESOLUTION 2014-202

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island successfully demonstrated its ability to best serve as host city for the Nebraska State Fair with its 140 year history and traditions as acknowledged by the passage of Legislative Bill 1116 and signed into law by Governor Dave Heineman in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska conveyed its confidence by re-investing over \$42 million in improvements within 18 months on the Fonner Park Campus in cooperation with the Hall County Livestock Improvement Association, Fonner Park and the City of Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, the people of Grand Island embraced its new responsibilities to showcase agriculture, family values, showmanship, workmanship, entertainment, dedication and state wide spirit in addition to making an \$8.5 million investment with a Parks and Recreation Community Fieldhouse enjoyed year round in our community, and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska State Fair is completing yet another new \$5.5 million facility in partnership with the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the Fonner Park campus in close proximity to the city owned Heartland Events Center; and

WHEREAS, the transition of the Nebraska State Fair has been widely acclaimed with four successful events to date hosting over 1.2 million people and other year round events and countless visitors all of whom are important to the vitality of Central Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing success of the state fair is insured by the “Can Do” spirit of up to 1000 yellow clad volunteers in coordination with the dedicated service of the employees of the City of Grand Island and elected officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, in commemoration of its fifth annual event in Grand Island, the City of Kindness, beginning with each year’s Blue Ribbon Roll Out through the duration of the State Fair, will officially be known as Nebraska’s State Fair City. This acclamation will be observed ceremoniously August 22 during the opening of the 2014 State Fair and will provide numerous ways to uniquely showcase our community and build on the success and partnership of the leadership of the Nebraska State Fair Board of Directors, state wide and community stakeholders and the State of Nebraska, something no other community in the world “Can Do”.

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Approved as to Form July 21, 2014	by _____ City Attorney
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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, July 22, 2014.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk