



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Council Session

## Item G6

### Approving Minutes of February 19, 2002 City Council Study Session

*The Minutes of the February 19, 2002 City Council Study Session are submitted for approval. See attached MINUTES.*

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

#### MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

February 19, 2002

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 February 19, 2002. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on February 13, 2002.

Mayor Ken Gnadt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Pielstick, Ward, Seifert, Hornady, Whitesides, Haase, Murray, Walker and Sorensen. Councilmember Larson was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Public Works Director Steve Riehle and Finance Director David Springer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said.

Discussion of Possible Park Land Acquisition. Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director reported that some time ago the school system sold off school land. Mr. Lowenstein bought 10 acres and contacted Mr. Paustian about making 6 acres located north of Fonner Park at Cherry Street and Sunset Avenue into a neighborhood park. Mr. Lowenstein was interested in selling four acres and leasing two more to the city for park development. This will be presented to the Council at their retreat.

Update Concerning Solid Waste Fee Schedule. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director, reported that the Solid Waste Fee Schedule based on weight was implemented on October 1, 2001. The switch from volume measurement (Cubic Yards) to weight based measurement (Tons) increased the disposal fee for packed loads (ie: residential packer trucks) and decreased the disposal fee for loose loads (ie: roll off containers). A dual fee structure with a lower tipping fee for packer trucks was approved by the city council in an effort to reduce the financial impact on the residential property owner. Data available at the time indicated that the hauler's disposal fee for a packer truck could increase 7.0%, resulting in a potential increase to each household of \$3.86 per year.

Solid Waste Superintendent, Kevin McKennon reviewed the revenue for the time period of October 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. The following five options were presented to the Council:

1. Do Nothing
2. 12% Increase in all Rates
3. Adjust the Rates Loose and Roll Off Containers
4. Single Rates for the Landfill and Transfer Station
5. Two Rates at the Landfill and Transfer Station

Mr. McKennon recommended option #4 "A Single Price at the Landfill and Transfer Station". Mr. Riehle updated the council on the effect the conversion has had on the financial status of the division. He also stated that option #5 would be a workable solution.

Councilmember Sorensen stated that the City should cut back instead of raising the prices to the customers. Mr. McKennon stated that there had been cut backs in the Public Works Department with cutbacks in equipment and not hiring an assistant solid waste superintendent. Councilmember Pieltstick raised concern about raising rates and having people dump illegally in the roadside ditches and other places where the City would have the expense of cleaning it up. Councilmember Seifert questioned the use of the Transfer Station. Mr. Riehle explained the use of the Transfer Station and the Landfill and the cost to the haulers. Councilmember Ward stated that the hours would have to be changed if the haulers would have to haul to the landfill. Instead of starting at 5:00 a.m. they would have to start earlier, which would not make the public happy.

Tom O'Neill, 804 West Stolley Park Road, stated that charging by the yard would probably bring in more money. He stated that Council should hold off until spring when there would be more volume and the figures would change. John Luna, 712 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke concerning cubic yards versus tonnage basis. Mr. Luna suggested staying with yards.

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson stated that this would be reviewed at budget time, which would give the council a more accurate picture.

Review of Comprehensive Plan. Marlan Ferguson, City Administrator, reported that the Hall County Regional Planning Commission had signed a contract with JEO Consulting Group of Wahoo. Mr. Ferguson stated that JEO had a wide range of experience in planning in Nebraska and surrounding states. They would be teaming with CBB of St. Louis to update the transportation network for Grand Island that was created for the 1992 comprehensive plan.

The cost of the proposed scope of services was \$218,065. The Planning Commission raised \$225,000 for this project in funds from member communities and grant sources. A steering committee would be formed and representatives from Council would be appointed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk