



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Council Session

## Item G3

### Approving Minutes of March 4, 2002 City Council Retreat

*The Minutes of the March 4, 2002 City Council Retreat are submitted for approval. See attached MINUTES.*

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

#### MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION (RETREAT)

March 4, 2002

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session (Retreat) of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted at Plum Street Station, 603 North Plum Street, on March 4, 2002. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on February 26, 2002.

Mayor Ken Gnadt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Pielstick, Ward, Seifert, Larson, Hornady, Whitesides, Haase, Murray, Walker and Sorensen. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Public Works Director Steve Riehle and Finance Director David Springer.

Pat Mader, President of the Hall County Historical Society welcomed the Mayor and City Council and gave an update about the depot.

#### OPENING COMMENTS:

Mayor Gnadt made a few statements about the State of the City address. Reviewed was the foresight of our city fathers and the progress that Grand Island has made over the years. The Mayor suggested 0% increases in departmental budgets and no new hires for the City.

#### SNAPSHOT REVIEW/PAST GOALS:

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson briefed the Council on the agenda for the night. Reviewed were the following 2000-2001 Council Goals:

1. Community Events Center
2. Softball Fields
3. Police Substation in Northwest Grand Island
4. Speed Slides at Island Oasis Water Park
- 5-6. New Technology Infrastructure  
Recreation Vehicle Park
- 7-10. Expanding Hike and Bike Trails  
Improving City Information Technology  
Implement Greenspace Regulations  
Affordable Housing

Other issues discussed at last years council retreat were reviewed.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS:

Finance Director David Springer presented an overview of the City's financial condition and stated that this was a preview to the upcoming budget. The general budget five-year capital and capital projects were reviewed. Also reviewed were the project list both currently in progress and those planned for the future.

SALES TAX STATUS:

Finance Director David Springer presented the Sales Tax Analysis for February 2002 and the tentative budget preparation schedule. Sales Tax was up approximately 7% from October 2001 to February 2002.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:

INTEGRATED SOFTWARE UPDATE:

Finance Director David Springer stated that a new integrated technician (IT) was hired and had started working within the last month. The first of the year the City went on-line with a new payroll and claims package. The Utilities package is being worked on as far as billing and databases. Remote locations were discussed in regards to connecting with the City's database.

WEBSITE:

Community Projects Director Cindy Johnson updated the Mayor and Council on the new website. Ms. Johnson stated that this would always be an evolving project. To keep information current and assessable to the customers, changes were inevitable.

PAPERLESS COUNCIL PACKETS:

Community Projects Director Cindy Johnson briefed the Mayor and Council on the paperless packet. The goal was to have the packet assessable through the internet. Ms. Johnson stated that the City Code would be on-line in the near future and the benefits that would bring.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson reviewed the Grand Island Economic Development Projects.

ANNEXATION:

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson mentioned the annexation issues discussed at last years' council retreat. Reviewed were the possible urban areas that could be annexed and the reasons for that.

The following 15 sites were reviewed:

1. St. Paul Road from Capital Avenue to Airport Road
2. Airport
3. Fairacres located in the eastern part of Grand Island

4. East lakes located south of the Wood River, west of Gunbarrel Road and north of the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks
5. East Bismark Road located north of Bismark Road and east of Stuhr Road
- 6&7. Firethorne and Vanosdall Subdivisions located in the southern part of the City around Firethorne and Vanosdall Lake
8. South lakes located in the southeast part of the City
9. Scheel Subdivision located in the southern part of the City, north of Schimner Drive and west of the St. Joseph Railroad tracks
10. South of US Highway 281 located along Cougar Drive, Antelope Drive, Elk Drive, US Highway 281 and Wildwood Drive
11. Langenheder Street located in the southern part of the City along Langenheder Street, north of Husker Highway and west of US Highway 281
12. Schroeder and Fireside Subdivision located in the southwest part of the City along Schroeder Avenue, Graham Avenue, Springview Drive, Laura Avenue, Hillside Drive, Summer Circle, Grassridge Drive and Westview Drive
13. Stolley Park Road and Engleman Road located along Engleman Road, south of Stolley Park Road
14. Airport Road and North Road located north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks, west of North Road and south of Airport Road
15. North Webb Road located north of the existing city limits along Airport Road and south and west of North Road

City Attorney Charlie Cuypers briefed the Council regarding the process of annexation.

#### DEPARTMENT/PROJECT REPORTS:

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson gave an informative power point presentation regarding departmental projects.

#### LONG RANGE PLANNING:

Community Projects Director Cindy Johnson facilitated the discussion on the long range planning. The following items were brought forward by the Mayor and Council as goals the Council wanted to work on:

1. Off site study sessions
2. Communications with the Council and public
3. Odor Issues
4. Economic Development
5. Current Projects not finished
6. Annexation
7. Zoo Reuse Plan 1) Theme Playground & Train Rides 2) Arboretum 3) Pavilion 4) Ice Rink
8. Rehabilitation Home Grants – Community Wide
9. Replacement of Fire Station #1
10. Hike/Bike Trails – 1) Downtown 2) CHAAP Land
11. By Pass Connection in Eastern Part of Grand Island

12. Planning Infrastructure – sidewalks, sewer, drainage, water, electric, etc.
13. Traffic Controls for Highway 281
14. Community Policing – Proactive
15. Enforce Noise Ordinance
16. Director Accountability
17. Police Department working with Businesses to Deter Crime
18. Economic Development along South Locust to I-80
19. Heartland Event Center
20. GITV – 1) More Community Events 2) Update Equipment
21. Health Department Facility Needs
22. Communication/Notification regarding planning issues
23. Drainage
24. ½ Cent Sales Tax – Community Development
25. ½ Cent Sales Tax – Public Safety
26. Air Service
27. Affordable Housing
28. Neighborhood Associations
29. Softball Fields
30. Governmental Facilities Infrastructure
31. Parking Near City Hall (Ramp/Garage)
32. Plate Property
33. Qualified City/County Grant Writer
34. Program to Avoid Duplication – City/County Combine Services

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNCIL GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

City Administrator Marlan Ferguson reviewed facilitated the finalization of the goals.

It was the consensus of the Council that the goals and objectives and those project in progress from 2001-2002 would continue to be a priority. The following were listed as “givens”:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Hike/Bike Trails
3. Softball Fields
4. Parks
5. Heartland Events Center
6. CHAAP Cleanup
7. CHAAP Development
8. Old City Hall
9. Library Expansion - \$5 million
10. Replace Fire Station #1
11. Greenspace

The tabulated priorities by the Council were:

1. ½ Cent Sales Tax
2. Promote Heartland Events Center

3. Solve Odor Issues
4. Communication with Council/Public
5. Long Term Planning on Infrastructure
6. Health Department Building Needs
7. Community Policing
8. Development of Zoo Property

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk