



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Council Session

Item G6

Approving Minutes of June 4, 2002 City Council Study Session

The Minutes of the June 4, 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

June 4, 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 June 4, 2002. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on May 29, 2002.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said.

RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: No individuals reserved time to speak on agenda items.

Recognition of Kurt Mann, State Championship Winner in Shot Put. The Mayor and City Council recognized Kurt Mann, Senior High School Student for his State Championship win in the Shot Put. Shot Put Coach Monty Fyfe was also be present for the recognition.

Discussion Concerning Greenspace Regulations. Chad Nabity, Regional Planning Director reported that Greenspace provides a number of benefits to a community. Those benefits ranged from creating an inviting environment and places for recreation to providing for storm water drainage. Currently, the City has a landscaping ordinance that applies to new commercial/manufacturing buildings and uses.

Landscaping along streets is done by individual property owners. Most new city parks are purchased using general funds budgeted to the Parks Department. Trails are built with federal and city funds. Parks and greenspace are provided by various means in communities. Landscape regulations can require property owners to install and maintain landscaping on their property.

The City can charge fees to pay for new parks. Developers can be required to reserve space in their subdivisions for parks or trails. Combined facilities such as schools and parks lower the overall cost of providing greenspace. Property owners can donate land for public greenspace. Subdivision regulations can be written to give density bonuses to developers in exchange for maintaining greenspace.

Councilmember Larson stated that it seemed like big developers or companies were the ones that resisted greenspace development and the City makes concessions to get them to locate here. Mr. Nabity stated not always was that the case. Grand Island's greenspace regulations were not that hard to meet compared to other big cities.

Councilmember Ward mentioned the importance of the hike/bike trails and encouraged their use. Councilmember Hornady felt that we need to take a good look at those things around us to build a better quality of life. Councilmember Larson mentioned the changes to South Locust Street and how much better that looked.

City Attorney Charlie Cuypers stated that the businesses within a Business Improvement District see the advantages of greenspace and would pay for the costs. Councilmember Murray mentioned the parks and who pays for them. Parks and Recreation Director, Steve Paustian reported that a study had been done as to where parks should be located. Budgetary issues were talked about.

Councilmember Pielstick asked if there was a way we could look at codes from other cities. Mr. Cuypers stated that this could be done and Grand Island was behind in this area concerning greenspace.

John Luna, 718 East 8th Street, talked about areas in Colorado and was concerned about the fees. Mr. Luna felt greenspace was a good idea and a quality of life issue.

Discussion of Agreement with Nebraska Emergency Management Regarding Providing Hazardous Material Response and Equipment. Jim Rowell, Fire Chief reported that the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency had received funds through a Department of Justice grant program to provide equipment to selected emergency responders for hazardous material handling. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency provides the equipment directly to the City for use in the community and in other areas when requested. The Memorandum of Understanding provides the responsibilities for the City of Grand Island and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Seven other cities across the state had entered into similar agreements.

Mr. Rowell stated there was \$55,000 available in equipment for Grand Island from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Councilmember Larson asked if we had a choice in the type of equipment we would receive. Mr. Rowell stated that there may be some equipment that we could request. Councilmember Piestick asked if we had a Haz Mat team. Mr. Rowell stated that we do not. This item will come before the Council at the June 11, 2002 regular meeting.

Mr. Rowell updated the Council on the Fire School held here in Grand Island.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk