



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 08, 2003

Council Session

Item G4

Approving Minutes of April 1, 2003 City Council Study Session

The Minutes of April 1, 2003 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

April 1, 2003

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 April 1, 2003. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on March 26, 2003.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Nickerson, Pauly, Hornady, Walker and Haase. Councilmembers Larson and Seifert were absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, City Attorney Doug Walker and Finance Director David Springer.

RESERVES TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: One individual reserved time to speak on agenda items.

Presentation by Code Compliance Officer Tim Holloway Regarding Problem Resolution Team (PRT) Report. Tim Holloway, Code Compliance Officer reported that he had been inspecting all areas of the City of Grand Island for nuisance violations of the Municipal Code. Code violations included junk vehicles, litter/trash, graffiti and weeds. Inspections had been completed for Ward #4 and the initial inspections for Ward #3 had also been completed. Comparisons were noted with a total of complaints in 2002 of 1365 to 2003 of 555.

Councilmember Pielstick questioned whom the public needed to contact with a code violation. Mr. Holloway stated the public needs to contact the Code Compliance office. It was noted there were some cases that would be referred to the Health Department. Discussion was had on repeat offenders.

Mr. Holloway stated he was now in the process of doing follow up inspections for Ward #3. Once the follow-up inspection of Ward #3 had been completed, Ward #2 would be inspected. After Ward #2 was inspected, Wards #1 & #5 would be inspected. Follow up with another inspection of Wards #3 & #4 would be done before the end of the year.

Mr. Holloway stated the Assistant City Attorney had filed petitions on those properties where the nuisance had not been abated as requested after the initial inspections. For those properties that were brought into compliance after a petition was filed but prior to the first court date, it had been the City's policy to dismiss the case if the property owner paid all court costs and service fees. This process would be followed for all of the Wards in the City. Mr. Holloway stated that as we get into the summer months and the City receives complaints about unmowed weeds and grasses, he would inspect those properties when complaints were made and respond to situations where an obvious violation existed.

The Problem Resolution Team (PRT) was discussed. Mr. Holloway stated PRT was established in November 1998 with multi-departmental representation. A total of 193 properties to date had been looked at of which 16 properties were currently being worked. Salvage yards were discussed with regards to the City Code changes requiring a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Holloway also stated that he spent approximately 95% of his time out of the office to inspect properties. Discussion was had concerning parking vehicles in front of houses. City staff will look to see if the City Code allows for this.

Lewis Kent, 624 East Meves commented on the mess that Grand Island had before Code Compliance started. Mr. Kent requested that Mr. Holloway return phone calls instead of the secretaries. A comment was made about the property at 2nd and Oak Street, which needed to be cleaned up.

Presentation on Proposed 2004 Railroad Corridor Study. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director, reported that our community was laid out to serve the railroads. Currently we have Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Nebraska Central railroads going through our city. It was noted that 70 trains per day go through Grand Island. Discussion was centered on maintenance of crossings and side-tracks, horn noise, building of new overpasses and underpasses and the closing of some crossings. Installation of the Directional Automated Horn System was discussed of which the railroad circuitry needed to be upgraded first. Mr. Riehle stated the One and Six Year Street Improvement Program had funds planned for a comprehensive railroad corridor study in 2004.

Mr. Riehle stated the Railroad Corridor Study in 2004 would look at closing crossings, new underpasses & overpasses, rehab existing underpasses, review AHS directional horns and improve safety at existing crossings. Discussion was had concerning Broadwell Avenue railroad crossing. Several Councilmembers questioned spending money on a study of issues that they were already aware of.

Lewis Kent, 624 East Meves commented on the rough tracks and stated the railroad needed to correct this.

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

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk