



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Council Session

Item F5

#8829 - Consideration of Temporary Moratorium Relative to Commercial Signs

The City has been receiving complaints about the proliferation of billboard signs within the Grand Island City Limits. The ordinance would place a moratorium on any new commercial signs that are not on the site of the business that is advertising on it. The moratorium is being sought to give the City Planning, Building and Legal Departments the opportunity to draft some new ordinances that may restrict the number, location and size of billboard signs in the community without causing a large number of new sign permit applications prior to the enactment of any new ordinances. There have been some recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions in this area which are usually cases involving first amendment free speech issues. Ordinances that potentially infringe on first amendment rights are carefully scrutinized; therefore, we want to be cautious in drafting any new ordinances so that they will meet the needs of the community and be upheld if challenged in court.

Staff Contact: Doug Walker

ORDINANCE NO. 8829

An ordinance to place a temporary moratorium on commercial signs; to repeal any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and the effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that:

SECTION 1. No person or business entity shall erect a commercial sign off of the site of the business for which the sign is advertising from the date at which this ordinance takes effect until January 1, 2004. For the purposes of this ordinance, the term "commercial sign" shall mean any device composed of one or more letters, words, pictures, figures, characters, symbols or emblems, or any combination or grouping thereof which prefigures, typifies or represents one or more ideas for the goods and services of any business.

SECTION 2. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect fom and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

Enacted: July 22, 2003.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
July 18, 2003	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Attorney