



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Council Session

## Item G3

### Approving Minutes of September 30, 2003 City Council Study Session

*The Minutes of September 30, 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

September 30, 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 September 30, 2003. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on September 24, 2003.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Pauly, Hornady, and Haase. Councilmembers Cornelius and Walker were absent. The following City Officials were present: Interim City Administrator David Springer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, and City Attorney Doug Walker.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said.

RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: Two individuals reserved time to speak on agenda items.

Presentation of Parks & Recreation Projects. Steve Paustian, Parks & Recreation Director reported that this presentation was being provided to update all Council Members regarding the projects currently being developed by the Park and Recreation Department. The presentation was made in an attempt to inform, solicit comments, suggestions and questions from Council Members. Mr. Paustian stated it was important to remember that the actual construction of a project may be the least expensive component of the overall development. Several of the projects currently underway would result in the need for more employees and funding, to operate the developments at a proper level.

A power point presentation was presented updating the Council on the following projects:

- Cornhusker Army Ammunition Land
  - Hike/Bike Trails
  - Sports Shooting Facility
  - Paintball Course
  - Rifle Shooting Range
  - Lake and Camping Area
  - Law Enforcement Training Area
- Hike/Bike Trails System in Grand Island
  - Riverway Hike/Bike Trail
  - Shoemaker Hike/Bike Trail
- Webb Road Soccer Complex
- Sucks Lake Project
- Chevron Park

- Zoo Reuse Project
  - Stolley Arboretum
- Softball Fields by Senior High
- L.E. Ray Lake
  - Camping
  - Perimeter Trail
  - Foot Trail
  - Boat Ramp
  - Playground & Picnic Areas

Kent Coen and John Hoggatt representing the Grand Island Skeet Club were present and spoke in support of the efforts taken by the City and thanked Mr. Paustian for his work.

Councilmember Pielstick commented on L.E. Ray Lake and the changes that had taken place over the years. Mr. Paustian stated with the additional parks and pools within Grand Island over the years, L.E. Ray Lake had suffered. Councilmember Gilbert questioned revenue regarding the skeet shooting facilities. Mr. Paustian stated currently it had been run by volunteers at no cost to the city and was not sure what the future would bring. Councilmember Nickerson asked if the city could use volunteers. Mr. Paustian stated anyone interested should contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

Discussion Concerning Billboards. Craig Lewis, Building Department Director reported that in July of this year the City council passed an ordinance creating a temporary moratorium on the construction of any new billboard signs, with the understanding that new regulations to control the development would follow. A first draft of a proposed off-premise sign regulation was sent to several sign companies on August 29, 2003, the second draft included comments from that review and was forwarded for City Council consideration. Those proposed regulations began with a model ordinance prepared by the Outdoor Advertising Association of America and had been modified to reflect local conditions and philosophy.

June O'Neill, 1002 South Shady Bend Road representing Bellows Outdoor Advertising commented on the following changes she would like to see regarding the suggested Ordinance:

I – L - V Type Sign – requested 20 feet apart.

III – Legal Nonconforming Signs – equal to or exceed 50% of the cost – thought it would be difficult to access.

IV – F – Questioned if land owner or builder would be responsible.

V – A – Size of Signs – Standard size of sign is 672 square feet, not 576 square feet.

VII – A – Spacing for Off-Premise Signs – 800 foot radius sets signs up against the businesses. Ms. O'Neill commented on double stacked billboards. Would like to see 500 foot radius but would agree to a 700 foot radius.

VII – D – Suggested a rule that off-premise signs not block other businesses and their signs.

VIII – B – 10' side setback - would like to see 5' instead.

Don Deitemeyer, Doniphan representing Lamar Outdoor Advertising spoke in support of the recommendations made by the Building Department. He commented concerning the ability to be able to update their signs. Discussion was held concerning grandfathering in the existing signs.

It was decided that an Ordinance would be brought back to Council in November at a regular meeting for final approval.

Discussion Concerning Reduction of Old Ordinances as New Ones are Added. David Springer, Interim City Administrator reported that Councilman Whitesides had requested that time be made on the agenda for a discussion related to City ordinances, such that as new ordinances were passed and added to the statutes, a like number of antiquated ones be terminated and removed.

Mr. Springer stated there were ordinances on the books for which may have outgrown their usefulness and for which no current purpose was served. Deletion would reduce the total and make reference, retrieval and maintenance easier. It may also foster more thought in the passage of new ordinances. To do, in essence, a purging of the existing files, legal staff time would be required to research each ordinance before submitting to Council for approval to remove. This would take valuable staff time as well as Council time to review. Council would have to decide if that is where staff's and their own efforts should be directed. Typically, obsolete ordinances would be candidates for removal as they became evident, through the normal course of business.

Councilmember Whitesides explained why he felt this issue was important. Mentioned were those ordinances which were not enforced and felt there were too many laws on the books. City Attorney Doug Walker commented on the number of ordinances passed so far this year (66) of which (8) were actual new laws. He also stated that some laws may not be enforced, but if they were needed the law was in place and could be enforced. Several Councilmembers were concerned about the time it would take staff to review all ordinances. It was the consensus of the Council that when old ordinances were found and not needed they would be removed from City Code.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk