



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Council Session

## Item G2

### Approving Minutes of June 15, 2004 City Council Study Session

*The Minutes of June 15, 2004 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 15, 2004

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 15, 2004. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on June 9, 2004.

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, Walker, and Haase. Councilmember Cornelius was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, and City Attorney Doug Walker.

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

Fire Station #1/Fire Training Site Presentation. Fire Chief Jim Rowell reported that since the one-half cent sales tax was approved on May 11, 2004, the Fire Department's priority was the construction of a training center and the replacement of Fire Station One. Chief Rowell commented on the public support for these facilities.

Fire Training Chief Troy Huges reported on the training facility sites. A PowerPoint presentation was given for the proposed sites.

The following criteria were looked at for each site:

- Adequate space – room for future expansion
- Impact to surrounding areas
- Access to roadways
- Emergency response to City Of Grand Island
- Ability to acquire

Site #1 – 8<sup>th</sup> and Taft

Benefits:

Near Airport, adequate land (89.49 acres), near LEATC, near rail line, water and sewer available, active neighborhood association to partnership with.

Potential Problems:

Near residential, may be costly, and response to south would be through residential neighborhood.

Site #2 – Capital and Shady Bend

Benefits:

Near airport and future helicopter base, adequate land (111.39 acres), near golf course, near LETC, and good access to roadways.

Potential Problems:

Water may attract waterfowl and no water or sewer at this time.

Site #3 – West of Capital Trailer Court

Benefits:

Adequate land (61.86 acres), access to main road (Capital Ave), water and sewer, good emergency response to City.

Potential Problems:

Near residential, high traffic count during school periods may interfere with roadway access, and might limit future expansion.

Site #4 - Highway 281 and Airport Road (west) and Site #4b – Highway 281 and Airport Road (east)

Benefits:

Adequate land (60.53 acres), highly visible – presents good image to visitor of Grand Island.

Potential Problems:

May be expensive, might interfere with commercial development, poor access to roadway, and no water or sewer.

The following were the recommended rankings of the Fire Department:

1. Site #1 – 8<sup>th</sup> and Taft
2. Site #2 – Capital and Shady Bend
3. Site #3 – West of Capital Trailer Court
4. Site #4 – Highway 281 and Airport (west)
5. Site #4b – Highway 281 and Airport (east)

It was recommended that City Attorney Doug Walker contact owners of the Council's preferred properties, begin preliminary negotiations to purchase property, and bring a Resolution to the June 22, 2004 City Council Regular Meeting to allow negotiation and purchase of the training center land.

City Administrator Gary Greer commented that this project would be phased in and there were three other projects ahead of this one.

Fire Operations Division Chief Curt Rohling presented a PowerPoint on the site selections for the replacement of Fire Station One.

The following criteria were looked at for locating a new fire station site:

- Response Time
- Risk Assessment

- Mapping Responses
- Access

The following needs assessments were looked at:

- 2 Acres
- 20,000 Square Foot Required for the Building
- Parking Space
- Administrative Offices
- Approach
- Traffic Flow

The following were the proposed sites:

Site #1 - Existing Station (Koenig Street and Pine Street):

Benefits:

Currently own large section of land and preserve Station One – (remodel)

Potential Problems:

Limited response routes and cost of remodel

Site #2 – Proposed Fonner Station (Fonner Park and Pleasant View Drive):

Benefits:

Cost of land and expansion room

Potential Problems:

Limited coverage, congested emergency routes, limited response routes, and extended response times.

Site #3 – Proposed Walnut Station (Walnut, Cedar, Kownig, and Charles Streets):

Benefits:

Coverage, response time, and response routes

Potential Problems:

Cost of property, displacement of property, and demolition

Site #4 – Proposed Sycamore Station (Sycamore, First, Second, and Kimball Streets):

Benefits:

Acquired land

Potential Problems:

Extended response time, congested traffic, parking, poor coverage, and drive through

City Administration recommended proposed Site #3 - Walnut Station site because of location, access, and coverage with regards to population, NFIRS calls, and cardiac calls.

Discussion was held with regards to increase in population in the future and the importance of response time with this location.

Lewis Kent, 624 East Meves complimented staff on their presentation. He stated he would liked to have seen this station further south on South Locust with the Events Center and Wal-Mart coming.

Tom O'Neill, 804 Stolley Park Road thanked the Fire Department for the good job they were doing and stated they know their business and we should give them the area that they think was best.

Several Councilmember's stated they were impressed with the Walnut Street site. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the Fire Station One and Fire Training sites as recommended by City Administration.

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

Respectfully submitted,

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk