



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 08, 2005

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of March 1, 2005 City Council Study Session

The Minutes of March 1, 2005 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

March 1, 2005

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 March 1, 2005. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on February 23, 2005.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, and City Attorney Doug Walker

Mayor Communication: Mayor Vavricek reminded everyone of the City Council Retreat this Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Home Federal Bank. Mayor commented on the outstanding duties of Paul Briseno, Assistant to the Administrator for working on a Home Land Security Grant.

Presentation of Site & Needs Study for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Jim Rowell thanked the committee members who worked on the study. Chief Rowell introduced David Streebin representing RDG Planning & Design Group who gave a presentation on the Site and Needs Study for replacement of Fire Station #1 and a Fire Training Center.

Mr. Streebin explained the process of the study and the groups involved, those being RDG Planning & Design, BKV Group, and Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. (ESCI). Lenny Enz explained the ESCI portion of the study which was based on population and community risk, system benchmark comparisons, current resources and deployment, and service delivery options. Explained were a 4-6 minute response time and the top six sites the group selected.

Reviewed was the Fire Training Center site and needs assessment program. Listed were several buildings and training areas for a total project cost of \$21,095,888.00. Mr. Enz emphasized the importance of a business plan.

Presented were the following sites for the Training Center:

Site #1 – East of Central Community College and College Park Area

Site #2 – Fonner Park

Site #3 – Near Law Enforcement Center

Site #4 – Capital Avenue E Farm Land

RDG recommended the Central Community College and College Park Area as the best site to locate a Fire Training Center. The second recommended site was near the Law Enforcement Center.

Ted Redmond with BKV Group explained the Fire Station programming process. Presented were several options at an approximate cost of \$3,000,000.00 for each site with the majority of the cost marked for acquisition of land and development.

The sites presented were as follows:

Strategy A – Walnut and Charles Streets

Strategy B – North Sycamore and East First Streets

Strategy C – East Fonner Park Road

Strategy D – Two Stations - Bismark Road and Sky Park Road

Strategy E – Stuhr Road near the intersection of Seedling Mile Road

Strategy F – Two Stations - Locust Street and Stolley Park Road and Sycamore Street and 5th Street

City Administrator Gary Greer presented a PowerPoint on the City Administration's recommendation for a new fire station.

The following points were presented concerning a new fire station:

- Build a replacement fire station without headquarters
- Build in the Fonner Park area
- Pay cash for the facility
- Do not build a station at Lion's Park
- Continue to study the need for a fire station in the northeast portion of the City
- Closely look at redevelopment area for station in future as build out happens

Estimated cost of a fire station at this location would be approximately \$2,422,284.00.

The following points were presented concerning a fire training facility:

- Pursue property east of Central Community College for Fire Training Facility
- Continue on a long term, pay as you go approach
- Pursue connections with CCC and College Park for facilities and Curriculum
- Put together a business plan for the Fire Training facility
- Evaluate the possibility of the Fire Administration being located at the Fire Training Facility long term

Fire Station #1 Solutions:

- Meets short term goals
- Allows for long term goals
- Adheres to the proposed budget
- Jump starts the replacement of Station #1
- No interest cost for the project
- Allows for maximum partnerships
- Combines resources with other agencies
- Redevelops property in need
- Maximizes response

- Opens doors for expanded training center
- Provides time to plan
- Positions us well for grants and funding

Councilmember Nickerson commented on the Strategy A location of Walnut and Charles Street because of response time. Councilmember Whitesides commented on the Fonner Park location as the best site and stated the Walnut, Charles, Cedar, and Louise site was unacceptable. Discussion was held with regards to emergency responses sending engine companies and ambulances. Councilmember Gilbert stated she was not concerned about a 6 minute response time because of the equipment that each truck and ambulance carried.

Discussion was held with regards to the location at Fonner Park with future expansion, response time, and traffic controls. Councilmember Meyer commented on the importance of response time and the importance of a fire station located in the northeast part of the City. Councilmember Cornelius questioned the timeline. Mr. Greer stated administration would like to start immediately after council approval of a site with completion within 18 months.

Councilmember Pielstick recommended that the recommendation of City Administration be brought back to council at the next meeting for approval.

Supporting the Fonner Park location were Gene Dominic, 221 East 1st Street, Carl Mayhew, 507 Plum Road, and K.C. Hehnke, president of the Downtown Improvement Board, and Larry Cast, 1416 Sheridan Place who presented Council with petitions of 400 signatures against locating a fire station on the Dodge parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk