



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of April 19, 2005 City Council Study Session

The Minutes of April 19, 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

April 19, 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 April 19, 2005. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on April 13, 2005.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. Councilmember Meyer was absent. 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 commented on the following:

- Thanked students at Grand Island Christian School, Westlawn Elementary School, Multi-Cultural Leaders, First Baptist Church, Heartland Lutheran Fund Raiser
- Challenged everyone to notice the progress in the Community – Central Community College Hike/Bike Trail, Stolley Park Road concrete replacement, and dirt work going on in the community
- Urged all citizens to enjoy this time of the year
- Arbor Day – City Hall will be open – Mayor encouraged everyone to plant a tree
- One year ago Noah Boye and Eric Knott died in Iraq serving our country, the Mayor encouraged all to remember those who have given their lives and those still serving our country
- This Sunday, April 24, 2005 Walk of Support convening at City Hall to recognize those serving our country

Presentation of Railroad Corridor Safety Study. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director reported that as the community continues to grow and train traffic increases, concern with rail crossing safety and delays increase. Mr. Riehle introduced Randy El Dorado and Rick Haden representing Kirkham Michael and Associates who had been hired to conduct a Railroad Corridor Study for the City.

Mr. El Dorado stated that Grand Island has the Union Pacific Railroad with 18 crossings including 4 grade separations (underpass or overpass) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad with 16 crossings including 8 grade separations.

The following key study issues were presented:

- Impacts to Community – delay at crossings, risk for accidents, train noise
- Engage Public Dialogue – stimulate community input, educate citizens, build community support

- High Delay Leads to High Risk Behaviors – driving around gate arms, pedestrians trespassing
- Emergency Vehicle Response – Fire/Rescue, Police
- Build on Comprehensive Plan – transportation network connectivity, economic vitality
- Railroad Relocation
- Grade Separations
- At-Grade Crossings Improvements

Mr. Haden presented the project approach with regards to data collection/compilation, comprehensive transportation plan, UPRR track relocation, alternative grade separations, grade separation screening, public involvement, and quiet zones.

Mr. El Dorado commented on the importance of involving the general public in this study. The first public kick-off meeting would be held May 12, 2005 at Walnut Middle School, with focus meetings to follow on June 16th and August 25th. Reviewed was the schedule of the study with completion of the final report to be presented to Council on November 15, 2005.

Discussion was held with regards to the downtown area and the train noise. Mentioned were the way-side horns that were being used in Gering, Nebraska for the past 8 years and other communities. It was suggested that the study include the feasibility of another line by the Platte Generating Power Plant for coal delivery. Federal funding was discussed along with funds available from the Department of Roads. County involvement was mentioned and encouraged.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk