



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Council Session

Item F2

**#9009 - Consideration of Amending Chapter 2 of the Grand Island
City Code Relative to City Council Study Sessions**

Staff Contact: Doug Walker

Council Agenda Memo

From: Douglas R. Walker, City Attorney

Meeting: September 27, 2005

Subject: Consideration of Amending Chapter 2 of the Grand Island City Code Relative to City Council Study Sessions

Item #'s: F-2

Presenter(s): Douglas R. Walker, City Attorney

Background

Section 2-2.1 sets forth the requirements for City Council study sessions. This section of the code currently requires City Council study sessions to be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The code section as currently drafted also requires these meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. To allow greater flexibility in scheduling study sessions a revision to Section 2-2.1 of the City Code is being proposed for consideration by the City Council.

Discussion

Section 2-2.1 as currently drafted uses mandatory language requiring study sessions to be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. To allow the Council to have more flexibility on the scheduling of study sessions, revisions to Section 2-2.1 have been proposed which makes the study sessions discretionary as needed by the City Council. The revisions to this code section also gives the Council greater flexibility on the time and place where study sessions will be held. The revisions to the code section also require that study sessions be held as public meetings and that notice be given as required by the state statutes.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Approve the changes to City Code Section 2-2.1 to create greater flexibility in scheduling study sessions.

2. Do not approve the revisions to the City Code which would leave this code section unchanged.
3. Postpone the issue to future date.
4. Take no action on the issue.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the changes to Section 2-2.1 of the Grand Island City Code.

Sample Motion

Motion to suspend the rule for three separate readings and move to pass the ordinance changing Section 2-2.1 of the City Code regarding study sessions.

ORDINANCE NO. 9009

An ordinance to amend Chapter 2 of the Grand Island City Code; to amend Section 2-2.1 pertaining to City Council Study Sessions; to repeal Section 2-2.1 as now existing, and 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:

SECTION 1. Section 2-2.1 of the Grand Island City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§2-2.1. City Council; Study Sessions

The City Council ~~may shall~~ hold a meeting to be referred to as a "Study Session" as needed and at the discretion of the City Council. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Regular study sessions shall be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall commencing at 7:00 p.m. Special study sessions may be called in the same manner as special meetings in §2-2. Study sessions will be public meetings held at the time and place to be determined by the Council for which notice will be published pursuant to Nebraska statutory requirements. Study sessions shall be conducted to facilitate discussion between members of the Council and shall not be subject to formal parliamentary procedure. No motion, action, or vote of any kind shall be taken on any matter during a Study Session, except upon a motion to recess or to adjourn.

SECTION 2. Section 2-2.1 as now existing, and any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. The validity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof.

SECTION 4. That this ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Independent as provided by law.

ORDINANCE NO. 9009 (Cont.)

Enacted: September 27, 2005.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk