



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of October 18, 2005 City Council Study Session

The Minutes of October 18, 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

October 18, 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 October 18, 2005. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on October 12, 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, City Attorney Doug Walker, and Public Works Director Steve Riehle.

INVOCATION was given by Councilmember Jackie Pielstick followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Presentation by the Hall County Supervisors Regarding Jail Election. Hall County Supervisor Chair Pam Lancaster stated that counties are required by state statutes to provide for the incarceration of their criminals. A PowerPoint presentation was given with the help of Dave Arnold, Correction's Director to review the current conditions of the jail. The current facility was built in 1904 with additions in 1948 and 1978 and does not meet the Nebraska Jail Standards but has been allowed to operate since 1980 because of a Grandfather clause.

Introduced was Correction Officer Corporal Jimmy Vann who spoke concerning the dangerous working conditions at the current jail.

Martin Berglund with the DLR Group of Omaha, Nebraska presented the proposed site layout of the new jail to be located on East Highway 30. Councilmember Meyer asked whether the facility would be able to expand vertically. Mr. Berglund stated that it would not. Reviewed was the proposed floor plan. Discussion was held regarding the separation of male and female inmates and the difference between minimum and maximum security.

Hall County Supervisor Bud Jeffries explained the possibility of expansion and the work release program. The goal was to get more prisoners on work release. Mentioned was this facility would be a very basic steel and cement structure. County Supervisor Scott Arnold mentioned the safety and management issues of a new facility. The current Public Safety Center would be converted to a Court House Annex and the current jail would be torn down. Discussed was the possibility of the Jail Standards or the Judges closing the current facility due to safety issues. Mr. Arnold explained the process of booking an inmate and the logistics of the current facility which were inadequate.

County Supervisor Jim Eriksen stated this proposal was the only alternative there was. The jail committee worked hard at coming up with the best option available. This facility was projected to meet the needs for the next 20 to 25 years.

If the jail bond should pass the timeline would be 2 to 2½ years before it could be occupied.

Dan Smith representing Kirkpatrick Pettis explained the cost of the facility. Mr. Smith stated the projected cost was estimated at \$22,225,000 with financing of a 30-year bond. Based on a \$100,000 of property valuation the cost per year would be \$39.50.

Councilmember's Meyer and Pielstick spoke in support of the jail bond. Discussion was held with regards to educating the public, jail tours, and advertisement for the bond election.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk