



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

**Council Session**

## **Item G2**

**Approving Minutes of February 19, 2008 City Council Study Session**

**Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards**

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

February 19, 2008

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 Community Meeting Room of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on February 19, 2008. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on February 13, 2008.

Mayor Margaret Hornady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Brown, Haase, Nickerson, Carney, Gilbert, Ramsey, Niemann, and Meyer. Councilmember's Zapata and Gericke were absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Jeff Pederson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, City Attorney Dale Shotkoski and Finance Director David Springer.

INVOCATION was given by Pastor Nick Schonlau, Third City Christian Church, 4100 West 13th Street followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Hornady commented on the Law Enforcement Center dedication and ribbon cutting this Friday, February 22, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.; Cheerleader and Dance Competition at the Heartland Events Center this Saturday, February 23, 2008; and the Community Youth Council Talent Contest this Sunday, February 24, 2008 at the Grand Island Mall.

Presentation by BKD, LLP Relative to Fiscal Year 2007 Electric and Water Audit Reports. David Springer, Finance Director introduced Roger Watton from BKD, LLP to give the 2007 electric and water audit reports. Mr. Watton stated these were clean and unqualified opinions which were the highest ratings given. A brief overview and review of the water and electric audit reports were given.

Highlights of the water funds were given with revenues up from last year. The electric department revenues were up also from last year. Mr. Watton stated both funds were in excellent financial conditions.

Update on Downtown "Vision" and Previous Plans: Cindy Johnson, Chamber of Commerce President updated the council with a PowerPoint presentation on the Downtown Improvement District. Introduced were Christa Boosma, Partnership Services Director with the Chamber and Matt Armstrong, Chairman of the Downtown Improvement Board.

Christa Bosman updated the council on the following activates currently being implemented in the downtown area:

- Design
- Historical Building Restoration & Upper Level Development
- Economic Restructuring
- Physical Environment & Streetscape

- Arts & Humanities Center
- Promotions
- Parking Solutions

J.L Schmidt, Director of the Nebraska Lied Main Street Program commented that Grand Island Downtown was being nominated for a National Downtown award.

Councilmember's commented on the Kauffman & Cummings Park, businesses being closed during special events, directional horns, parking issues, rented/reserved parking areas, awnings, entertainment, and public transportation.

Presentation by Shonesy Associates for FY 2007 City Single Audit and General Purpose Financial Statements. David Springer, Finance Director introduced Terry Galloway representing Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth who reviewed the FY 2007 City Single Audit and General Purpose Financial Statements. A PowerPoint was presented with a detailed report of the findings. The financial audit received a clean and unqualified rating which was the highest rating possible.

The following areas of concern were mentioned:

- Decline of Cash Reserves in General Fund
- Debt Service, including Lease Payments
- Balanced Budget

Discussion was held concerning the appropriate level of cash reserves.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk