



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of March 18, 2008 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

March 18, 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 March 18, 2008. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on March 12, 2008.

Mayor Margaret Hornady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Brown, Haase, Nickerson, Gericke, Carney, Gilbert, Ramsey, Niemann, and Meyer. Councilmember Zapata was 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 Kip Smith, Peace Lutheran Church, 4018 Zola Lane followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Hornady commented on

Presentation on 2008 Groundwater Survey Report. Jeff Pederson, City Administrator reported that at the September 18, 2007 City Council Study Session, Olsson Associates presented an updated groundwater removal study and computer model. The updated project had an estimated cost of \$23,385,000 in capital, with annual costs of \$1,876,412 for amortization and \$467,170 estimated annual operational expenses. This study session resulted in City Council's request for further study.

Mr. Pederson recognized the following people involved in conducting and preparing the study:

- Paul Briseno, Assistant to the City Administrator
- Dale Shotkoski, City Attorney
- Craig Lewis, Building Department Director
- Chad Nabity, Regional Planning Director
- Gary Mader, Utilities Director
- Steve Riehle, Public Works Director
- Pat Larson, Geographical Information System
- Wendy Meyer-Jerke, Public Information Officer
- Catrina Delosh, Public Works Administrative Assistant
- Ed Mslonka, Regional Planning Technician
- Jeff Pederson, City Administrator

Paul Briseno, Assistant to the City Administrator presented a PowerPoint of the survey results.

Total cost of the survey was \$2,554.23 with 6,799 surveys being mailed, 5,880 surveys delivered, and 919 returned as undeliverable. 1,554 responded to the survey with a response rate

of 26.43%. Over 900 respondents utilized the comment section of the survey. The following five questions were included in the survey:

1. Do you have a basement? Yes/No
2. Do you currently have groundwater intrusion problems in your basement? Yes/No
3. Have you had groundwater intrusion problems in your basement in the past? Yes/No
4. Have you taken measures to mitigate groundwater intrusion? Yes/No
5. Have the mitigation measures worked? Yes/No
6. Comments

Results of the Surveys:

- Over half of the respondents, or 58%, did not report having groundwater intrusion issues
- 33% or (514) reported they had groundwater intrusion in the past
- 9% reported they currently have groundwater intrusion
- 36% or (553) responded they currently have or in the past had groundwater intrusion
 - 60% or (329) took measures to mitigate
 - 64% or (211) were successful
 - 36% or (118) were unsuccessful

Timeline:

- 1969 Village of Parkview annexed
- 1976 Floodplain areas were adopted and the National Flood Insurance Program went into effect
(Construction of basements in the floodplain was prohibited. Prior to 1976 prohibition of basement construction and regulations was nonexistent.)
- 1980 tornados hit Grand Island. City requested FEMA permission for construction of basements in the floodplain areas. FEMA approved request with exceptions.
- 1984 Capital Heights area in the northwest area of Grand Island was annexed
- 1995 City adopted a requirement for a subsurface drainage system to be installed for any new construction where the basement was 2 feet or more below the curb of the adjacent street
(Of the 141 responses that currently have groundwater intrusion, only 8 were built after 1995)
- 2007 At the City's request, Olsson Associates updated the dewatering system

Conclusion:

- Of 5, 880 surveys delivered 26% or 1,554 surveys were received
 - 58% did not report having groundwater intrusion issues
 - 36% reported having groundwater intrusion either currently or at sometime in the past
 - 60% of these responses have taken measures to mitigate the issue on their own
 - 9% reported currently having groundwater intrusion

Question to the Council from this study was: Does the benefit received by the 9% that currently have groundwater intrusion outweigh the \$24 million capital and annual cost of \$1,876,412

amortized over 20 years and \$467,170 for operations for a dewatering project paid by all including the 91% who do not currently have groundwater intrusion issues?

The following people spoke regarding the Groundwater Survey Report 2008:

- Randy Stueven, 233 South Gunbarrell Road
- Cyndie Larson, 2811 Circle Drive
- Kevin Ohlman representing Thrasher Dewatering Systems spoke on behalf of Cyndie Larson, 2811 Circle Drive
- Darrell Dey, 2404 Vandergrift Avenue
- Vern Rempe, 1739 South Arthur Street
- Gene Pletcher, 2805 Circle Drive
- Jayne Decker, 2018 Pioneer Blvd

Councilmember Zapata present at 7:55 p.m.

Comments were made by council concerning the quality of life and importance of this issue. Kevin Prior representing Olsson Associates commented on the study regarding the problems of relocating the ground water and the costs. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director commented on storm sewer issues. Milt Moravek, Central Platte Natural Resources District answered questions about pumping water to the river with possible reimbursement for some of the costs.

Craig Lewis, Building Department Director commented on safety hazards regarding water in basements. Short term solutions were discussed. Gary Mader, Utilities Director commented on wells no longer in use because of possible contamination to the city's drinking water.

Councilmember Nickerson recommended a phased approach to the dewatering problems within the city.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk