



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of March 17, 2009 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

March 17, 2009

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 17, 2009. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on March 11, 2009.

Mayor Margaret Hornady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmember's were present: Nickerson, Ramsey, Carney, Haase, Gilbert, and Niemann. Councilmember's Gericke, Zapata, Dugan and Meyer 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 Mayor Margaret Hornady followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Discussion Concerning Groundwater. Steve Riehle, Public Works Director updated the council on the following water issues:

- Historical Ground Water Elevations: reviewed were historical ground water elevations from 39 observation wells from 1998 to the present. Charts showed rainfall amounts in relation to ground water elevations.
- Well Drawdown: information was presented to show the theoretical and actual drawdown curves of operating city wells.

Discussion was held concerning the results of the drawdown from wells in the Stolley Park and Parkview areas.

- Contamination Plume: Kevin Prior representing Olsson Associates presented a model showing movement of the plume from the operation of the Stolley Park drinking water well and the Parkview drinking water wells #1 and #2.

Mr. Prior stated the groundwater would eventually flow to the Platte River, he also commented on the width and direction of the plume. Paul Wicht, 319 Cardinal Drive commented on the locations of decontamination wells to be put in by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Gary Mader, Utilities Director answered questions concerning private wells being used in the Parkview area. Mr. Mader also commented on discussions with the EPA and work being done by each entity. He cautioned the Council that the decontamination wells would not alleviate the groundwater problem especially during heavy rains.

Tim White, 1709 Rio Grande Circle asked how long the wells had been turned off. Mr. Mader answered they had been turned off for the last eight years. Periodically they are turned on for testing.

- Stolley Drainage: information was presented on a 24” storm drainage pipe under Stolley Park Road west of Blaine Street. Also presented was a drainage system from north of Central Community College to the Wood River.

The following findings and recommendations were presented:

- Existing storm system is operating similar to planned system
- Need additional detention in the system similar to planned system with future development
- Adding an additional 24” into the Stolley system will have some adverse effects:
 - Raise hydraulic grade line in Stolley Drainage system
 - More flooding issues created in other areas with the basin area
 - Hinder future development of drainage areas presently undeveloped
 - Potentially add to groundwater problems in Stolley Park area
- Recommend to develop drainway to Wood River as called for in 1978 drainage study

Detention cells west of Highway 281 were discussed along with outlets to move the water to the Wood River. Mr. Riehle stated the NRD and the City would need to enter into an interlocal to dump the water into the Wood River. Estimated costs were stated at \$420,000 to \$430,000. It was stated currently there was \$250,000 in the budget.

Discussion was held concerning cleaning out the detention cells.

Vern Rempe, 1739 South Arthur asked questions concerning sewer backups and what had happened to people dewatering directly into the city sanitary sewer system. Mr. Riehle recommended an out-of-town consultant be used to find those people who are illegally pumping water into the city sanitary sewer system. Dave Goedeken, Engineer with the Public Works Department commented on his experience working with the City of Columbus regarding this issue.

Lewis Kent, 624 East Meves Avenue spoke in support of spending money to fix the water problems within the city instead of spending money on the State Fair.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk