



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Council Session

## Item G2

**Approving Minutes of April 21, 2009 City Council Study Session**

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

April 21, 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 April 21, 2009. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on April 15, 2009.

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

INVOCATION was given by Mayor Margaret Hornady followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Presentation by SCORE Group. Brian Gallagher, Chairman of the Greater Grand Island Sports Council presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the benefits of recruiting, organizing, and hosting sporting events in our community. Economic benefits as well as quality of life enhancements were mentioned. Also mentioned was the 2010 and 2011 NSAA State Volleyball Championships to be hosted by Hastings and Grand Island.

The following events had been hosted by Grand Island:

- National 4-H Shooting Invitational
- NE Cheer & Dance Championship
- Soccer Showcase

Other possible events that could be hosted were:

- Bowling
- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Darts/Pool
- Cycling
- Tennis
- Dog Agility
- Remote Controlled Cars
- Other NSAA Championships

Requested were funds from the city to help host these events. Discussion was held on the amount of assistance. Mr. Gallagher stated an annual support of \$100,000 handled through the Convention Visitors Bureau was requested. Orv Qualsett commented on the importance of recognition Grand Island was receiving through these events.

Transmission Line and Substation Engineering Study; Northern Interconnection Route Analysis. Gary Mader, Utilities Director reported that Advantage Engineering, Inc. had been hired to do a

Route Study for new 115 kV Line – Substation F to St. Libory Junction. Mr. Mader stated electric distribution substations loop were along the outer edge of the urban area. With the continued growth of the City, future transmission lines would improve the reliability of interconnections with other substations.

Barry Smith with Advantage Engineering, Inc. presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the study. The objective of the study was to find a route most advantageous to the City for the Grand Island Utilities Department (GIUD) Substation F to NPPD St. Libory Junction 115 kV regional transmission line interconnection.

The route recommended was Alternate Route 5 for the following reasons:

1. The route is slightly shorter and more direct than the other alternate routes.
2. This route requires the least number of angle structures.
3. This route passes near the least number of homes of any other route.
4. This route is estimated to cost less than the other four routes evaluated.

The following four phases were explained in the analysis of recommending the most suitable transmission line route:

1. Phase 1 – Identification of the study area and exclusion areas within the study area, and a general characterization of the major land uses within the study area.
2. Phase 2 – identification of the project technical requirements including the safety requirements, line configuration, right-of-way requirements, radio and TV interference, audible noise, and electric and magnetic field information.
3. Phase 3 – Development of alternate transmission line routes in accordance with project requirements, considering the exclusion areas and routing criteria.
4. Phase 4 – Evaluation of alternate routes leading to the identification of a preferred line route.

Estimated easement costs for Route 5 was \$127,554 with a total of 31.89 acres and 26 new easements required. Total construction for Route 5 was \$6,975,914 which was less than the other 4 routes evaluated.

Discussion was held regarding the vulnerability of the current loops. Underground versus overhead lines were discussed. Mr. Smith stated cost of underground was not cost effective. Mr. Mader answered questions regarding the process of notifying property owners in the area. Wes Nespor, Assistant City Attorney stated Council would have to decide which route would be approved before notification could be given.

David Springer, Finance Director answered questions concerning the payment of the project. Currently there was enough cash to proceed with the project or the City could bond. Mr. Mader pointed out those lines that interconnected with NPPD. Distribution feeders were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk