



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, February 09, 2010**

**Council Session**

## **Item G2**

**Approving Minutes of February 2, 2010 City Council Study Session**

**Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards**

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

February 2, 2010

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 February 2, 2010. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on January 27, 2010.

Mayor Hornady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmember's were present: Gericke, Nickerson, Zapata, Ramsey, Dugan, Carney, Gilbert, Niemann, and Meyer. Councilmember Haase was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Jeff Pederson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, City Attorney Dale Shotkoski, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, and Finance Director Mary Lou Brown.

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

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Hornady introduced CYC members Audie Aguilar, Alisia Rivera, Danielle Jim, Andres Gamboa, and Miranda Baxter.

Presentation of Statements of Interest for City Owned Property Located at 2204 Bellwood Drive Know as the Racquet Center. City Administrator Jeff Pederson reported that at the January 19, 2010 Study Session, City Council discussed future options for the Racquet Center building. It was decided to bring this item back to council to allow individuals to state an interest in the use of the facility. Request for Proposals would then be issued to those interested parties.

Matt Westfall, 2003 West Division Street, President of the Grand Island Tennis Association presented interest for a tennis facility.

Mark Galvan, 584 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street representing the Central Nebraska Girls Softball Association presented interest for the west half of facility for baseball/softball and east side for tennis.

Presentation Concerning College Street Closing. Dr. Steve Joel, Superintendent of Schools reported that the Grand Island School Board had developed a Plan for site improvements around Grand Island Senior High (GISH). Proposed was to close College Street between Custer Street and Lafayette Avenues. Mr. Joel commented on the growth of GISH. Safety and expansion of the school was mentioned for the need to close College Street. Mr. Joel stated to his knowledge GISH was the only school in the State of Nebraska where a street divided the campus.

Mr. Joel stated the school wanted to work with the City by doing a study of closing College Street from Custer Street to Lafayette Avenue for two months during the school year and then opening the street before school closes to see where traffic flow issues were.

Bonnie Hinkle, 1603 Spruce Road, School Board Member spoke in support of closing College Street.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Terry Brown, 503 Fleetwood Circle and representative of Olsson & Associates outlining the College Street Closing Plan. Maps of the area showing the closing of College Street, roundabouts, pick up and drop off points were presented.

Andres Gamboa, 4019 Boston Circle representing the Community Youth Council spoke in opposition of closing College Street. Safety issues were mentioned along with alternatives to closing the street permanently such as gates, walkway built over College Street, tunnel, or traffic lights.

The following people spoke:

- Douglas Lamfear, 2128 North Custer wanted more information from the school concerning the closing
- Jim O'Neill, 2426 North Custer commented on open campus
- Leo Tylkowski, 1916 North Sheridan commented on the traffic study, safety issues, and traffic flow problems

Steve Riehle, Public Works Director commented on the traffic study. This issue along with traffic safety had been looked at since 1978. Mr. Riehle commented on gates and the importance of the study and the impact on surrounding streets. Traffic studies were recommended for at least five weeks.

Discussion was held regarding the increased parking area, approximately 50 additional stalls. Mr. Riehle answered questions concerning the closing of Division Street in front of St. Mary's Cathedral and traffic studies.

Diverting traffic to Capital Avenue was discussed with concerns of safety and road conditions. Emergency personnel using College Street were mentioned. Comments were made concerning parking problems around GISH. Additional traffic flow at the intersections of State Street, Custer Street, and Lafayette Avenue were mentioned as a concern.

Mr. Joel commented that the only place to expand GISH would be to the south of the current building across College Street.

Increased traffic on Capital Avenue due to the new softball complex at Eagle Scout Lake was mentioned along with the intersection at Capital Avenue and Broadwell Avenue. Fire Chief Troy Hughes commented that closing College Street would not be a problem for the Fire Department as they unusually use State Street.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk