



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Council Session

Item G7

#2010-212 - Approving Nebraska Power Association Mutual Aid Agreement Among Nebraska Utilities

Staff Contact: Gary R. Mader

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director
Dale Shotkoski, City Attorney

Meeting: August 10, 2010

Subject: Nebraska Power Association (NPA) Mutual Aid Agreement

Item #'s: G-7

Presenter(s): Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Background

For decades, there was an unwritten rule in the electric business that required each utility to assist others in the event that other utility was severely damaged as a result of storms. In our region, ice storms and tornadoes are the primary causes of the type of widespread destruction that would require outside assistance to accomplish electric system restorations in a timely manner. Of particular note for Grand Island, were the 1980 tornadoes. At that time, electric utilities from across the region responded with personnel, equipment and materials to assist in the rebuilding of the City's electric system. Over the years, Grand Island Electric too has responded to requests for assistance from several other utilities in the region to repair severe storm damage.

Discussion

As the electric business and society as a whole have become more complex, and at times more litigious, Nebraska's public power utilities deemed it prudent to set the previously unwritten rules for emergency assistance into a formal written agreement. The intent of the agreement is to avoid any disputes as to the responsibilities of the various parties in addressing requests for emergency assistance and storm repair activities. To that end, the Nebraska Power Association (NPA) has developed the attached Mutual Aid Agreement.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the NPA Mutual Aid Agreement and that the Utilities Director be authorized to execute that agreement on behalf of the City.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the NPA Mutual Aid Agreement.

RESOLUTION 2010-212

WHEREAS, area electric utilities provide emergency assistance to one another; and

WHEREAS, Grand Island Utilities has assisted with emergencies in the past, and has responded to requests for emergency assistance in the past; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's public power utilities deem it prudent to set the previously unwritten rules for emergency assistance into a formal written agreement, and have developed a Mutual Aid Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the NPA Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Grand Island and other area electric utilities, is hereby approved, and the Utilities Director is authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Grand Island..

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 10, 2010.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

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| Approved as to Form | ☐ _____ |
| August 6, 2010 | ☐ City Attorney |