



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Council Session

Item E5

**Public Hearing on Annexation for Property Located South of
Airport Road/US Highway 281 and the West Side of Broadwell
Avenue North of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Tracks
Including Eagle Scout Park and the Veterans Field (Annexation
Area 3a)**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

Council Agenda Memo

From: Hall County Regional Planning Department

Meeting: October 25, 2011

Subject: Annexation Areas Identified as 3a, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14

Item #'s: E-5, E-6, E-7, E-8, E-9, and E-10
F-3, F-4, F-5, F-6, F-7, and F-8

Presenter(s): Chad Nabity, AICP Hall County Regional Planning Director

Background

At the March 22, 2011 meeting of the Grand Island City Council a resolution was passed that directed the planning department and other city staff as follows:

- to proceed with preparing annexation plans (as required and defined by statute),
- to notify property owners and school districts as required by law, and
- to forward the annexation plans to the Regional Planning Commission for review

The annexation plans for 6 of the 8 eight identified areas are complete and were considered by the Regional Planning Commission after a public hearing at their meeting held July 6, 2011. The attached map identifies those areas under consideration at this meeting. Annexation plans are attached for areas identified as 3a, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14. On October 11, 2011 The Grand Island City Council passed a resolution of intent to annex these areas, approving the annexation plans as presented and setting public hearings regarding annexation of these areas for October 25, 2011.

Discussion

Nebraska Revised Statute §16-117 provides for the process of annexation. In following the process approved by Council on March 22nd, 2011 annexation plans have been prepared by staff and referred to the Regional Planning Commission for recommendation. The Planning Commission has made their recommendation and Council has passed a resolution of intent to annex these areas. The next step is for Council to hold the public

hearings and consider approval of the ordinances to annex the property. Annexation ordinances must be read on three separate occasions.

Alternatives

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

1. Approve the Ordinances on First Reading
2. Choose not to approve the Ordinances.
3. Modify the ordinance to change the areas under consideration for annexation.
4. Postpone the issue

Recommendation

That Council approve the ordinances for annexation of Areas 3a, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14 as presented.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the resolution of intent to annex, the attached annexation plan, and set public hearings on annexation of Areas 3a, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14.

From the July 6th 2011 Planning Commission Minutes

4. **Public Hearing – Concerning annexation of properties identified as:**
Annexation Area 3a south of Airport Road/U.S. Highway 281 and on the west side of Broadwell Avenue north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks. Eagle Scout Park and the Veterans Field Complex are in this area. **Annexation Area 6** located north of Bismark Road to the east side of Stuhr Road. **Annexation Area 7** located north of U.S. Highway 34 on the east side of South Locust Street. **Annexation Area 12** located north of Husker Highway to the west side of U.S. Highway 281 and Prairieview Street. **Annexation Area 13** located south of Old Potash Highway on the west side of North Road. **Annexation Area 14** located south of 13th Street on the east and west sides of North Road and north of Faidley Avenue (C-05-2011GI).

O'Neill opened the Public Hearing.

Nabity briefly talked about the process of annexation; he explained City Council had charged Regional Planning to look at eligible areas for Annexation. City Council had selected eight areas and six of those plans were brought forward to Regional Planning. The remaining two may be brought forward for the August meeting.

Annexation Area 3a - U.S. Highway 281 and Broadwell Ave

This property is located in the north central part of the community. It is south of Airport Road/U.S. Highway 281 the west side of Broadwell Avenue north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 210 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are no houses and no businesses included in this area. Eagle Scout Park and the Veterans Field Complex are in this area and maintained by the City Parks Department.

Annexation Area 6 - Bismark Road and Stuhr Road

This property is located in the southeast part of the community. It is mostly north of Bismark Road the east side of Stuhr Road. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 50 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are no houses and no businesses included in this area.

Nabity stated he had received a call from Tom Pirnie who owns the majority of the land in this area and he was in support of the annexation.

Annexation Area 7 - U.S. Highway 34 and South Locust Street (Vanosdal Fields)

This property is located in the southeast part of the community. It is north of U.S. Highway 34 on the east side of Locust Street. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There are about 65 acres of property included in the area. The property is currently used for agricultural and residential purposes. There are 3 houses included in this area.

Nabity stated one homeowner Heidi Aken and she was in favor of this annexation.

Janel Laub, 380 E. Highway 34, said she and her husband bought land there in 1996 to farm next to his parents. If the land were annexed into city limits, their children would no longer be eligible for school driving permits, could not have more numerous flocks of ducklings and they would be subject to higher taxes on farm equipment they purchase.

Their land would also eventually cease to be part of the Northwest School District, which has a more rural focus. Two of their children want to be farmers, and a third wants to be a veterinarian, Laub said.

If their land were to be annexed, "our whole way of life changes," she told the commission.

Evie Laub, 450 E Hwy 34, said the annexation would also separate the farm homestead from the farm ground, which runs to the east to Stuhr Road.

Commissioner John Amick of Doniphan concurred. He moved to annex just the western half of the proposed area, which includes the former ball fields and the Heidi Aken house that fronts onto Highway 34. Aken had previously spoken in favor of annexation.

Amick said water and sewer is available to the western portion of Area 7, (Aken property) but not to the Laub farmsteads on the east. The entire 65 acres is also not surrounded completely by city limits and the annexation, as originally proposed by the city, would substantially change the rural lifestyle the Laubs have, he said.

Annexation Area 12 - U.S. Highway 281 and Husker Highway

This property is located in the southwest part of the community. It is north of Husker Highway the west side of U.S. Highway 281 and Prairieview Street. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 200 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There is one house and

no businesses included in this area.

Annexation Area 13 - Old Potash Highway and North Road

This property is located in the northwest part of the community. It is south of Old Potash Highway on the west side of North Road. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 120 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are no houses and no businesses included in this area.

Eric Pollock owns this property and was questioning what exactly this meant. Naby explained his property was surrounded by the city limits and Council is looking to get rid of the "islands" that have been formed. Sewer and water are available. Pollock questioned if there was a utility plan for the drainage because in the northwest quarter there is a drainage issue.

Annexation Area 14 - 13th and North Road

This property is located in the northwest part of the community. It is south of 13th Street on the east and west sides of North Road and north of Faidley Avenue. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 100 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are 3 houses and no businesses included in this area.

Landowners Ray Stander, 1104 N. North Road, and Floyd Leiser, 3550 N. Engleman Road, both objected, saying the land is being used for agricultural purposes.

"Farm ground is not necessary for city use," Leiser said. "They're not going to develop it as long as I'm alive," he added.

Northwest school Superintendent Bill Mowinkel also objected to the annexation of ag land from Areas 12, 13, 14 and the Laub ground in Area 7. He said the annexation results in a loss of tax base and property tax revenue for the Northwest School District.

Planning Commission Chairman Pat O'Neill said the commission is charged with evaluating current and future land use, not school finance.

Commissioner Les Ruge said because Grand Island has grown up around those areas, there is confusion on whether city or county forces have jurisdiction when it comes to road issues, drainage and emergency response. Annexation will clarify that.

O'Neill closed the Public Hearing.

Area 3a: U.S. Highway 281 and Broadwell Ave

This has 210 acres located south of Airport Road/U.S. Highway 281 and on the west side of Broadwell Avenue north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks. City sewer and water is available. It includes the Veterans Athletic Field Complex and Eagle Scout Park and is mostly city-owned so there is no property valuation and no property tax revenue. City annexation would clarify that city police have jurisdiction at the Athletic Complex, which is on ground leased by the city from the state.

A motion was made by Hayes to approve the Area 3a Annexation plan as submitted and seconded by Amick.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 9 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Ruge, Hayes, Reynolds, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and no member present abstaining.

Area 6: Bismark Road and Stuhr Road

This has 50 acres located north of Bismark Road to the east side of Stuhr Road. City sewer and water is available. Estimated tax base is \$100,053. Estimated annual property tax for all political subdivisions is \$2,181.

A motion was made by Reynolds to approve the Area 6 Annexation plan as submitted and seconded by Brethauer.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 9 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Ruge, Hayes, Reynolds, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and no member present abstaining.

Area 7: U.S. Highway 34 and South Locust Street (Vanosdal Fields)

This property is located in the southeast part of the community. It is north of U.S. Highway 34 the east side of Locust Street. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There are about 65 acres of property included in the area. The property is currently used for agricultural and residential purposes. There are 3 houses included in this area.

A motion was made by Amick to approve the Area 7 Annexation plan with the changes made to the annexation area to remove the Laub properties and to just include the Vanosdal property and the Aken property. This was seconded by Haskins.

Finding of Facts noted by Amick were this proposed annexation did not have sewer and water services available. This homestead was used as an ag use home property. Annexation of this property would adversely affect the families. Haskins agreed with Amick's findings.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 9 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Ruge, Hayes, Reynolds, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and no member present abstaining.

Area 12: U.S. Highway 281 and Husker Highway

This is about 200 acres of farmland located north of Husker Highway and to the west side of U.S. Highway 281 and Prairieview Street. City sewer and water is available. Estimated tax base is \$481,334 and estimated property tax revenue is \$10,495 a year.

A motion was made by Bredthauer to approve the Area 12 Annexation plan as presented and was seconded by Reynolds.

Findings of fact noted by Bredthauer were water and sewer service is available and annexing of this property would have little or no impact to the owners.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 8 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Hayes, Reynolds, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and 1 member present voting against (Ruge) and no members abstaining.

Area 13: Old Potash Highway and North Road

This property is located in the northwest part of the community. It is south of Old Potash Highway on the west side of North Road. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 120 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are no houses and no businesses included in this area.

A motion was made by Bredthauer to approve the Area 13 Annexation plan as presented and was seconded by Amick.

Findings of fact noted by Bredthauer were water and sewer service is available and annexing of this property would have little or no impact to the owners.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 7 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Ruge, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and 2 members present voting against (Reynolds, Hayes) and no members abstaining.

Area 14: 13th and North Road

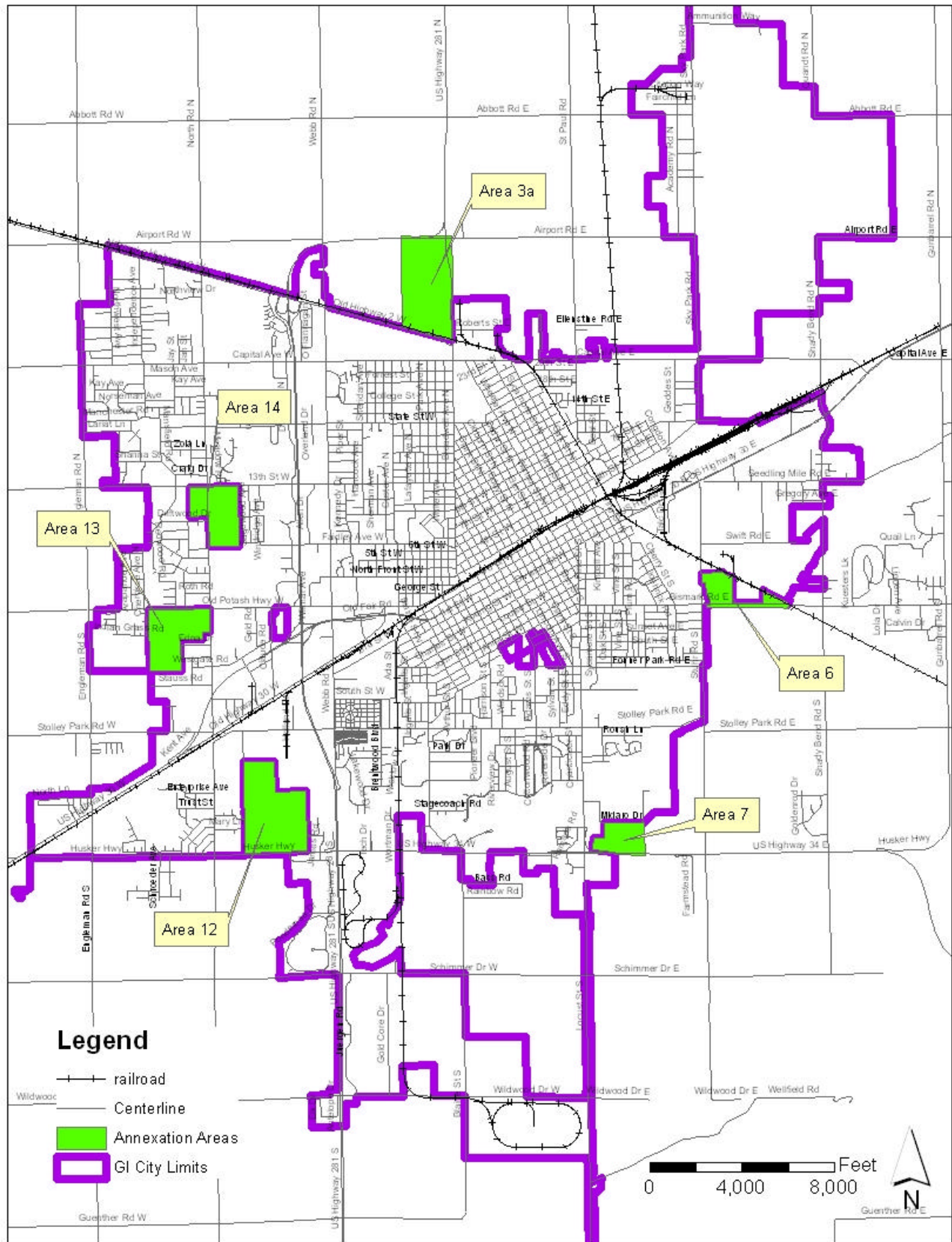
This property is located in the northwest part of the community. It is south of 13th Street on the east and west sides of North Road and north of Faidley Avenue. The City of Grand Island provides electric services to the area. Sewer and water are both available to this property. There is about 100 acres of property included in the area that is currently used for agricultural purposes. There are 3 houses and no businesses include in this area.

This is about 100 acres of farmland south of 13th street and west of Sagewood Avenue. City sewer and water is available. Estimated tax base is \$687,081 with estimated property tax revenue of \$14,981 a year. Planning commission voted 7-2 in favor. Commissioners Bill Hayes and Deb Reynolds objected.

A motion was made by Ruge to approve the Area 14 Annexation plan as presented and was seconded by Bredthauer.

Findings of fact noted by Ruge were water and sewer service is available and annexing of this property would have little or no impact to the owners also this clears up who needs to provide services to the area, between City and County.

The motion carried with 9 members present and 7 voting in favor (Amick, O'Neill, Ruge, Haskins, Bredthauer, Connelly and Snodgrass) and 2 members present voting against (Reynolds, Hayes) and no member abstaining.



Area 7 has been modified to include fewer properties than shown on this map, but the general area of town remains the same.

