



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 08, 2011

Council Session

Item G3

#2011-322 - Approving Greater Nebraska Cities Membership

Staff Contact: Mary Lou Brown

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mary Lou Brown, City Administrator
Meeting: November 8, 2011
Subject: Greater Nebraska Cities Membership
Item #'s: G-3
Presenter(s): Mary Lou Brown, City Administrator

Background

The Quad Cities of Grand Island, Hastings, North Platte and Kearney have met on a periodic basis for at least twelve years. These meetings have typically included the respective Mayors and City Administrators/Managers and have consisted of topic discussions common to the four cities.

Earlier this year, Council had discussions regarding the City's legislative efforts. At that time, Council comments indicated a willingness to continue with the existing approach and not implement any changes such as hiring a lobbyist. The proposal before Council represents a continuation of the existing approach: continued membership and participation in the League, collaboration with our neighboring cities and no additional professional services. The alliance will serve as an extension of views expressed to the League on an individual basis.

Discussion

It is clear that on a combined basis the cities have a unique opportunity to collectively impact legislation when speaking with one voice. As a result, the Quad Cities are proposing an increase to the group to five members with the addition of Lexington. The plan is to continue to communicate and collaborate for the furtherance of our common interests. In addition, the group is proposing a revision of the name to the Greater Nebraska Cities (GNC). When appropriate, the GNC will evaluate and respond to legislative issues of mutual concern in a timely manner and with a unified voice. This will give the legislators a greater understanding of our needs.

The cities of Hastings, Lexington and Kearney have already brought this item to their Councils for action; each has approved their cities to participate in the alliance.

This effort will not impact our membership in the League; in fact, the belief is that it will help the League in more fully understanding the issues of out-state Nebraskans. There may be several other regions within the State that will also be proposing such alliances.

There will be no membership fees associated with the GNC.

Alternatives

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

1. Move to approve the City of Grand Island's membership in the Greater Nebraska Cities and authorizing the Mayor to represent the City
2. Postpone the issue to a future meeting.
3. Take no action.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the City of Grand Island's membership in the Greater Nebraska Cities and authorize the Mayor to represent the City.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the City of Grand Island's membership in the Greater Nebraska Cities and authorize the Mayor to represent the City.

RESOLUTION 2011-322

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska desires to establish and further communication and collaboration with similar cities in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska desires to preserve local control and represent the interests of and improve the quality of life of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska desires to share and evaluate best practices in city management and strategies for addressing issues of common concern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska desires to monitor, evaluate and respond to legislative issues of mutual concern to similar cities in a timely manner with a unified voice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska wishes to join with the cities of Lexington, Kearney, Hastings and North Platte to form the Greater Nebraska Cities to take such actions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the Mayor be authorized and directed to proceed with the formulation of any and all guidelines, documents or other memoranda between the City of Grand Island and the Greater Nebraska Cities so as to effect acceptance of membership to the organization.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, November 8, 2011.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form ☐ _____
November 2, 2011 ☐ City Attorney