



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Council Session

Item E3

**Public Hearing on Annexation of Property Located South of US
Highway 34 and West of South Blaine Street - Annexation Area 8b
(includes Rainbow Lake Area) (First Reading)**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

Council Agenda Memo

From: Hall County Regional Planning Department

Meeting: February 14, 2012

Subject: Annexation Area Identified as 8b

Item #'s: E-3 & F-3

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.

Eight areas were identified as eligible for annexation into the Grand Island municipal limits. Council has acted on 6 of the 8 areas. An annexation plan is available for annexation area 8b the 7th of 8 areas.

The annexation plan for area 8b (Rainbow Lake) is complete and was considered by the Regional Planning Commission after a public hearing at their meeting held January 4, 2012. The annexation plans for the area identified as 8b is attached are available from the Grand Island City Clerk, the Hall County Regional Planning Department and on the Grand Island Website at www.grand-island.com.

Council approved Resolution #2012-13 on January 10, 2012. This resolution set a public hearing date for annexation of this area and approved the attached annexation plan. Proper notifications have been made to the school districts and the public and it is for Council to hold a public hearing and consider this annexation on first reading.

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 second action in this process is for Council to pass a resolution stating their intent to annex, approve annexation plans and set public hearings for comment on the annexations before council.

Alternatives

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

1. Approve the ordinance to annex on first reading,
2. Choose not to approve the ordinance to annex,
3. Modify the ordinance to annex, or
4. Postpone the issue

Recommendation

At the January 4, 2012 meeting of the Hall County Regional Planning Commission a public hearing was held to take comment on the annexation plans for area 8b. Two members of the public spoke in opposition to the annexation of area 8b. One, a resident of Rainbow Lake and the other representing the owner of a 40+ acre parcel with a single house located between Rainbow Lake and U.S. Highway 34. The minutes of the Planning Commission Meeting pertaining to this item are attached. Planning Commission took separate votes on each area and recommended approval of all of the areas.

City staff also recommends that the Council approve the ordinance to annex this area on first reading following the public hearing to be held this same day.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Ordinance to annex Area 8b on first reading.

From the January 4, 2012 Planning Commission Minutes

4. Public Hearing – Public Hearing – Annexation - (C-04-2012GI)

Annexation Area 8b - This property is located in the southwest part of the city. It is south of US Hwy 34 and east of south Blaine Street. This property includes the Rainbow Lake area. Part of the SW ¼ of Section 28, Township 11 North, Range 9 and Part of the NW ¼ of Section 33, Township 11 North, Range 9 West of the 6th P.M.

O'Neill opened the Public Hearing.

Nabity explained to the Planning Commission and to the members of the audience that annexation was first talked about back in January of 2011 at the City Council retreat. Council then decided on potential area for Annexation and how this is part of the Comprehensive Plan for Grand Island. The Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2004. On March 22, 2011, Council gave the go ahead to Planning to state the annexation process. Last fall there were five areas annexed into the City of Grand Island.

The City provides police, EMS and Fire protection. This area is also within the city's two mile jurisdiction and is subject to the current City building codes. With the annexation this would allow access to the City library without having to pay the Hall County fee.

Nabity noted that privately owned lakes within the City limits would still be privately owned lakes with no public access.

Vi Sheeks, 3623 S Blaine spoke against the annexation, she commented a few years ago when the Rainbow Lake area had issues with the sewer and came to the City for help they were refused. Homeowners then gathered together and paid to fix the issue themselves. She asked about Northwest High School and how they would be affected? She noted that those wanting sewer and water should be the ones to pay for this not the homeowner who already has functioning service and like the way things are now.

John Niedfelt, 1515 W Husker Hwy., spoke against the annexation. His mother owns 40+ acres and this would be an extreme expense to install sewer and water to the house. Niedfelt said this property will not become a developed property. He also questioned the upfront costs or future costs.

Nabity stated public works has formulated a plan to eliminate the lift station that is currently serving Rainbow Lake. A gravity main could be extended from the Knot subdivision northeast of Rainbow across the Robb property east of Catfish Avenue. The cost to run a gravity sewer line to the Rainbow Lake area is estimated at \$410,000.

O'Neill closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Eriksen to not recommend Annexation of Area 8b, Rainbow Lakes to City Council and was seconded by Connelly. The motion failed with 5 members present voting in favor of not recommending Annexation to City Council (Hayes, Reynolds, Eriksen, Connelly and Snodgrass) and 6 voting against (McCarty, O'Neill, Ruge, Monter, Haskins and Bredthauer).

O'Neill looked for a new motion.

A motion was made by Bredthauer to approve the Annexation of Area 8b, Rainbow Lakes and recommend Annexation to City Council. Bredthauer noted some findings of facts were the City will assume the sewer responsibility, city sewer and water could be readily available and this area is surrounded by the City Limits and this does meet the guidelines as set forth in the Grand Island Comprehensive Plan. This was seconded by Haskins. The motion carried with 7 members present voting in favor of recommending the Annexation of Area 8b to City Council (McCarty, O'Neill, Ruge, Monter, Haskins, Bredthauer, and Snodgrass) and 4 voting no (Hayes, Reynolds, Eriksen and Connelly).

