



City of Grand Island

Monday, March 26, 2012

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of March 20, 2012 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

March 20, 2012

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 March 20, 2012. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on March 14, 2012.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Chuck Haase, Larry Carney, Bob Niemann, Kirk Ramsey, Mitch Nickerson, Linna Dee Donaldson, Scott Dugan, and John Gericke. Councilmembers Peg Gilbert and Randy Gard were absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Mary Lou Brown, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, City Attorney Bob Sivick, Public Works Manager of Engineering Services Terry Brown and Finance Director Jaye Monter.

INVOCATION was given by Community Youth Council member Ashley Bykerk followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Vavricek introduced Community Youth Council members Ashley Bykerk and Kuulei Hose.

OTHER ITEMS:

Update Concerning the US Highway 30 Drainage Improvement Project. Public Works Project Manager Scott Gripenstroh reported that construction of a new storm sewer to improve drainage of the recently reconstructed US-Highway 30 (Second Street) from Tilden Street to Jefferson Street was being planned with the Nebraska Department of Roads. The current project total estimate was \$1,464,702 with the City's share estimated at \$534,431. Construction was not expected to begin before the spring of 2013.

The following history was presented of the Wasmer Detention Cell Project:

- May 2003 – City entered into contract with Kirkham Michael to perform study for drainage improvement for the Second Street and Broadwell Avenue area
- March 2005 – City approved agreement for acquisition of former Wasmer School property
- July 2006 – City entered into contract with Kirkham Michael to begin design for the Wasmer Detention Cell Project
- March 2007 – project programmed to receive Federal Transportation Aid
- March 2008 – start of Second Street Widening project
- October 2008 – NDOR announced significant changes for Federally funded LPA projects
- April 2009 – City informed that the project is to go through the State's bid letting system
- June 2009 – Council approved supplemental agreement with Kirkham Michael to address increased requirements for delivery of a Federal Aid Project
- July 2010 – Eligibility of project for Federal Aid questioned

- December 2010 – Council approved supplemental agreement with Kirkham Michael for required study
- February 2010 – FHWA and NDOR determination
 - ◊ 77% waters eligible (61.6%/38.4% funding split)
 - ◊ Wasmer Detention Cell project killed
 - ◊ New Project to be programmed
- April 2011 – US-30 Drainage Improvement project agreement with NDOR fully executed
- August 2011 – Agreement with Kirkham Michael to perform engineering/environmental clearance fully executed

Mentioned were the following design changes: reduced impact to Water Utilities, reduced impact to neighborhood trees, and temporary easements required for water services and some ADA sidewalk ramps.

The benefits of the Wasmer Detention Cell project were: improved drainage on Second Street; improved drainage in neighborhood; some relief for drainage on Third Street; new concrete pavement and driveways; and ADA accessible sidewalks.

Kirkham Michael was currently completing plans and acquiring Environmental Clearance. The City of Grand Island would develop documents and perform acquisitions for temporary easements. Construction would begin no sooner than the spring of 2013 and would take 6 months to complete.

Tom Halstrom, 1609 West Koenig Street questioned what the cell would look like after the project was completed and recommended the development of a park. Mr. Brown commented this detention cell was designed as a dry cell. In the future a neighborhood meeting would be warranted to discuss playground equipment, benches, etc.

Dennis Hatfield, 1611 West Koenig Street spoke in support of the comments from Mr. Halstrom.

Discussion was held regarding the capacity of the detention cell. Sprinkler systems in the right-of-way would possibly be damaged during construction at a cost of approximately \$20,000. The cost would be the responsibility of the property owners. Green space was mentioned for future discussion with the Council.

Request to Lease City Owned Property. Parks and Recreation Director Steve Paustian reported that a request had been made by the G. I. Riverdogs Baseball Program to lease the ball field located at Ashton and Oak Streets.

The Pros were: the City would receive back an improved facility, reduce staff maintenance and capital costs, and provide an opportunity for an interest group to help themselves. The Cons were: as a lease facility it is controlled by the lessee and would restrict the use of the facility by others during the term of the lease and conflict resolution may be required.

Discussion was held regarding the use of this field by other teams. Mr. Paustian stated he checked with other groups and they did not have a problem with leasing this field. Comments were made concerning setting precedence for other facilities to be leased.

Tino Martinez, 4183 Indianhead Road representing G. I. Riverdogs Baseball answered questions regarding the number of games played each season.

Mr. Paustian stated with Council approval an RFP would be issued to allow other groups the opportunity to lease this field. Improvements would be required in the RFP. Removing the Webb Road ball fields were mentioned with regards to the use of this property. Mr. Paustian stated there was plenty of room at the Veterans Athletic Field Complex for expansion of more fields. Parking concerns were mentioned at the Ashton and Oak Streets location.

Monte Hehnke, 4019 Norseman Avenue commented on the G. I. Riverdogs Baseball team who were 14 years and older. Practice was two to three times a week with games on week-ends.

Update Concerning Lincoln Swimming Pool Construction. Parks and Recreation Director Steve Paustian reported that council authorized the construction of a new swimming pool to replace the existing pool at Lincoln Park. JEO Consulting was hired to develop the design and construction documents of the new swimming pool. A PowerPoint was presented updating the Council with regards to the progress of the project.

A 165 linear foot flume slide, 25 foot tall was planned. A one of a kind ladder with platform for the 3 meter diving stand and shade shelter were presented along with pictures of the exterior elevation. An early August construction was planned.

Discussion was held regarding the use of the old pool area. Mr. Paustian stated as of right now there were no plans for this area. The school may have a need for this area.

Update Concerning Park and Recreation Department Financials. Parks and Recreation Director Steve Paustian reported that Council had requested a financial update on all Park and Recreation Department facilities and programming. A PowerPoint was given with actual 2011 financials and the 2012 adopted budget.

The following Parks & Recreation Department Inventory was given:

5 – Lakes – 94 acres	32 – Parks and mini parks – 382 acres
Trails – 17 miles	18 – Tennis courts – indoor and outdoor
Soccer Fields – 20 acres	4 – Wading pools
23 – Ball diamonds	1 – Neighborhood pool
16 – Flower beds	1 – Water Park
42 – Playgrounds	1 – Shooting Park – 417 acres
1 – Skate Park	1 – Golf Course – 175 acres
1 – Cemetery – 80 acres	1 - Fieldhouse

Financials for each division were presented. All divisions, except the Golf Course were supported by General Funds.

Discussion was held regarding the City owned cemetery and other cemeteries in the City. The cemetery trust fund was mentioned. Mr. Paustian stated the maintenance of the cemetery would always have to be subsidized because the fees received over the years do not cover today's expenses.

Comments were made regarding a policy for subsidizing the Parks programs in the next budget. The Community Fieldhouse was complimented on the activities provided. A suggestion was made regarding advertising at the Heartland Public Shooting Park.

Mayor Vavricek commented on the number of recreation opportunities throughout the City which brings people in from outside Grand Island.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk