



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Council Session

Item C2

Proclamation “Train Town USA” from the Union Pacific Railroad, August 30, 2012

In July of 1866 the Union Pacific Railroad reached Grand Island as part of the original transcontinental railroad. Today more than 90 trains travel through the city every 24 hours. The Mayor has proclaimed, August 30, 2012 as "Train Town USA". See attached PROCLAMATION.

Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Grand Island
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

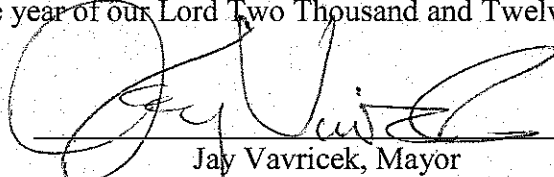
- WHEREAS, Grand Island has been a railroad center since the Union Pacific Railroad first reached here in July 1866, building westward as part of the original transcontinental railroad; and
- WHEREAS, one-hundred and forty-six miles west of the starting point of the Union Pacific at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Grand Island became a major engine and crew change point; and
- WHEREAS, a depot and locomotive maintenance shops were erected and enlarged over time as the city steadily prospered from the commerce and convenient transportation provided by the railroad; and
- WHEREAS, in 1885, the UP locomotive shop in Grand Island was converted to freight car construction and maintenance, a role it maintained for many years and
- WHEREAS, UP's Grand Island roundhouse at its peak in the 1920s consisted of 40 stalls where engines could be serviced; and
- WHEREAS, despite the loss of much of the public's everyday interaction with the railroad industry, freight service has continued as freight trains are organized and dispatched from Grand Island; and
- WHEREAS, today, Grand Island continues to have a wealth of railroad activity 24 hours a day as the Union Pacific Railroad cuts through the heart of the city with 90 trains every 24 hours; and
- WHEREAS, the Union Pacific Railroad is a strong partner...and its willingness to reduce noise in the downtown business district and its plans for greater safety along that corridor indicate its ongoing commitment to Grand Island's history but also its future. Grand Island says "Thank you" we look forward to another 150 years of progress together.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Vavricek, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska,
do hereby proclaim August 30, 2012 as


"TRAIN TOWN USA"

in the City of Grand Island, and encourage all citizens to
remember the history of the Union Pacific Railroad and its
importance to the City of Grand Island.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of
the City of Grand Island to be affixed this twenty-eighth day of
August in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twelve.


Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:


RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

