



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 26, 2002

Joint Mtg/Council Session

Item -1

Review, Discussion, and Consideration of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Joint City/County Facilities

For over two years, the City and County have been working collaboratively on the development of a long term city-county facilities plan. This comprehensive assessment and the resulting plan were the result of many meetings with city and county staff, the joint city county facilities committee, and updates to the City Council and County Boards. We believe the Strategic Plan addresses current and future space needs for the next 5-10 years. The effort was predicated on a belief by both the city and county that efficiencies can be realized, and public funding best utilized when government entities work cooperatively to identify ways of saving dollars. Building and maintaining buildings is expensive. Both the City and County identified early on, the importance of co-location for services that “make sense”.

During the course of the last two years, the Joint City and County Facilities committee has analyzed the current facility needs and uses and developed projections. The results of the Plan indicate that, for the most part, the City is in relatively good shape when it comes to sufficient space. Of noticeable exception are the Police Department and Fire Station #1. The City and County discussed at great length the potential of relocating the joint Police/Sheriff facilities to a property outside of the downtown area. Ultimately the City and County agreed that collocation of these services was more important than locating outside the governmental center area. The issue of relocating Fire Station #1 is a city issue only and has not been solved at this time.

Another cooperative effort of the City and County is the Health Department. The placement of the Health Department has been a source of great concern to the County, City and Health Department. The City and County agree that public health is critical to the well being of the community and are working toward an acceptable solution for all.

A memorandum of understanding supporting the work of the Joint City and County Facility Committee has been prepared and reviewed by the City and County Attorneys.

It is expected that the Strategic Facilities Plan will be available for presentation at the special City Council/County Board meeting on November 26 at 6 p.m.

Staff Contact: Marlan Ferguson

Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Board of Supervisors of the County of Hall
&
The Council of the City of Grand Island

WHEREAS, representatives of the Board of Supervisors of Hall County and the City Council of Grand Island and their respective staffs have worked over the last two years to develop a comprehensive needs assessment and facilities program for their respective governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the constituents of both the city and county are most economically and appropriately met through efficient use, including cooperative use, of appropriate facilities; and

WHEREAS, a significant area of cooperation in the public interest rests in the area of public safety facilities; and

WHEREAS, the well-being of the county's and city's constituents increasingly depends upon combined efforts to provide high quality and efficient public safety services to the county and its communities; and

WHEREAS, joint location of offices of the Grand Island Police Department and Hall County Sheriff promotes cooperative work between the two agencies, maximizing the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of safety services; and

WHEREAS, Hall County and the City of Grand Island further recognize the importance of public health functions to their citizens and, as a result, cooperate to maintain the operations of the Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors and the Grand Island City Council are charged with fiduciary responsibility to their respective taxpaying constituencies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council find that the Hall County/Grand Island Joint Strategic Facilities Plan, developed with the efforts of public employees and elected officials and ably assisted and benefiting from advice and counsel offered by the planning consultants and by the members of individual Strategic Facilities Planning Subcommittees, does provide the foundation for achieving these purposes;

We the undersigned hereby accept the said Strategic Facilities Plan and, inasmuch as it affects our mutual facilities planning direction, join together through this Memorandum of Understanding to initiate those steps necessary to the further planning and development of an expanded Joint Public Safety Facility, which will provide additional operating facilities for our Police and Sheriffs departments, while taking advantage of cost- and resource-sharing opportunities.

We further agree that the successful implementation of our plans will require strong, visible, and effective leadership and cooperation between us and also between our Public Safety Organizations to ensure a continued positive environment through construction of a new Public Safety Facility and beyond to its operation.

In furtherance thereof, we the undersigned understand the following:

1. The County, as owner of the current and future building desires to provide space for operations of the City Police Department. The space for the Police Department shall be determined through the cooperative efforts of the county and the city with the assistance of subsequent architectural programming and design.
2. The City and the County will cooperate towards the development of a campus plan based generally on the recommendations of the Strategic Facilities Plan and designed to provide additional parking, improve traffic circulation and public convenience, and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the County/City government complex.

3. The County, as lessor to the City of office space currently used by the Grand Island Police Department, desires to continue to work with the City in order to lease adequate space in a new facility based upon a cooperatively determined lease rate. The City desires to work cooperatively with the County in arriving at a suitable, long term arrangement for space in the building.
4. The City and County desire to cooperate in determining the space needs of both agencies in order to allow for a more accurate estimate of the size and cost of the new facility.
5. The City and the County together will cause to be established an oversight committee formed of an equal number of representatives from both city and county. Such committee shall be responsible for reporting to the City Council and Hall County Board of Supervisors, initial plans for facility design, progress of the construction, ongoing operations, maintenance, and other issues concerning the facility.
6. The City and County will actively participate in and support the development of any Interlocal Cooperation Agreements that may be necessary for the parties to reach its desired goals along the guidelines of the plan, anticipating that changes in the Plan may be necessary from time to time.
7. The City and the county recognize the importance of public health functions to the well-being of their constituencies and shall work cooperatively to promote the relocation of the Health Department to suitable accommodations.

Agreed to by each of us as set forth below on this the ____ day of _____ in the year 2002.

Mayor of Grand Island

Chairperson of the Hall County Board of Supervisors

Hall County Supervisor

Hall County Supervisor

Hall County Supervisor

Hall County Supervisor

Hall County Supervisor

Hall County Supervisor