



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Study Session

Item -2

Discussion Concerning Annexation

When people live, work and play in close proximity to one another, municipalities are created to provide the services essential for the protection of the health, safety and well being of residents.

Many factors drive annexation of urban and suburban areas adjacent to existing city boundaries. Expansion of municipalities should not be based on a short-term economic analysis but should be based on a long-term plan to achieve the necessary expansion of services in the most economical manner. This requires sound planning. Annexation of the proposed areas makes sense. It is the right thing to do if services are to be provided and growth planned for.

Municipalities have historically been charged with meeting the needs of the expanded community. The City will inherit these areas of the community at some point. It is best to acquire and plan for improvements in infrastructure.

Main trunk lines, lift stations, etc are already in place in many areas (paid for by customers at that time). Extending the infrastructure provides for growth opportunities in these areas. All subsequent customers benefit from this baseline infrastructure investment.

Municipalities are created to provide the governmental services essential for sound urban development. They provide for the protection of health, safety and well being of property owners in areas that are used primarily for residential, industrial, and commercial purposes.

Municipalities provide for orderly growth pursuant to land use, building, streets, sidewalks, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water, electrical service, parks, libraries, fire protection, and police protection. It is incumbent upon cities to anticipate and allocate resources for existing and future infrastructure improvements. A case in point, changes in October, 1999 to Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Regulation Title 124 concerning on site waste water treatment systems impacts new and replacement private septic systems.

Progressive, growing municipalities provide long term visioning for growth and expansion of essential services. In ten years do we want a city with 42,940 people and a “surrounding area”_

Staff Contact: Marlan Ferguson