
City of Grand Island



Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Study Session Packet

City Council:

Larry Carney
Linna Dee Donaldson
Scott Dugan
Randy Gard
John Gericke
Peg Gilbert
Chuck Haase
Mitchell Nickerson
Bob Niemann
Kirk Ramsey

Mayor:

Jay Vavricek

Interim City Administrator:

Mary Lou Brown

City Clerk:

RaNae Edwards

7:00:00 PM
Council Chambers - City Hall
100 East First Street

Call to Order

This is an open meeting of the Grand Island City Council. The City of Grand Island abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is displayed in the back of this room as required by state law.

The City Council may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by state law.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

A - SUBMITTAL OF REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

Individuals who have appropriate items for City Council consideration should complete the Request for Future Agenda Items form located at the Information Booth. If the issue can be handled administratively without Council action, notification will be provided. If the item is scheduled for a meeting or study session, notification of the date will be given.

B - RESERVE TIME TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

This is an opportunity for individuals wishing to provide input on any of tonight's agenda items to reserve time to speak. Please come forward, state your name and address, and the Agenda topic on which you will be speaking.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION

This is an opportunity for the Mayor to comment on current events, activities, and issues of interest to the community.



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Study Session

Item -1

Discussion Concerning Concession Operations at the Veteran's Athletic Field Complex

Staff Contact: Steve Paustian

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting: January 18, 2011

Subject: Discussion Concerning Concession Operations at the Veterans Athletic Field Complex

Item #'s: 1

Presenter(s): Steve Paustian, Parks & Recreation Director

Background

This spring marks the beginning of play at the Veterans Athletic Field Complex. As part of the operation of the facility and as a convenience to participants and spectators, a concession operation will be available. With the relocation of the athletic fields to the new Veterans Athletic Field Complex an operational plan for concession sales must be developed.

Discussion

It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Department to lease out the concession rights for the 4-field adult softball complex. As many different groups will be using the Vets Complex Softball field, City staff feels a leased concession is optimal for a seamless operation. This lease would not include the concession rights to the soccer fields or future ball field developments at the complex. One of the elements that must be addressed before the development of the RFP is whether the sale of alcohol will be permitted at the complex.

The Grand Island Softball Association Board of Directors has requested alcohol be sold as part of the concession operation. Alcohol has been available for purchase at the Fonner Park location since play began 10 years ago. As part of the agreement to develop the softball fields on their property, Fonner Park reserved the concession rights at the softball fields. They were able to use their existing liquor license to sell alcohol at the softball fields. In conversation with the Grand Island Police Department the availability of alcohol at the Fonner site had not lead to any complaints being filed.

If Council allows the sale of alcohol at the Veterans Athletic Field Complex, staff would recommend that the alcohol be confined to an area between the fields and not allowed

beyond the outfield fence foul lines (see attached drawings). Staff would further recommend that alcohol sales be allowed only during adult league and adult tournament play, for consumption on site with no carryout allowed. Finally, staff would recommend that the sale of alcohol be prohibited during any youth games or youth tournaments.

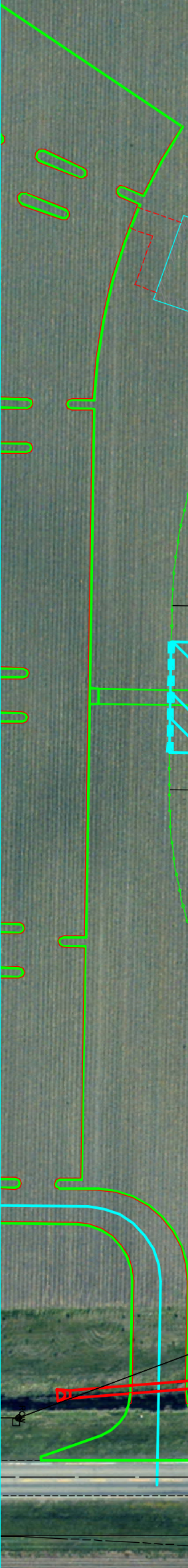
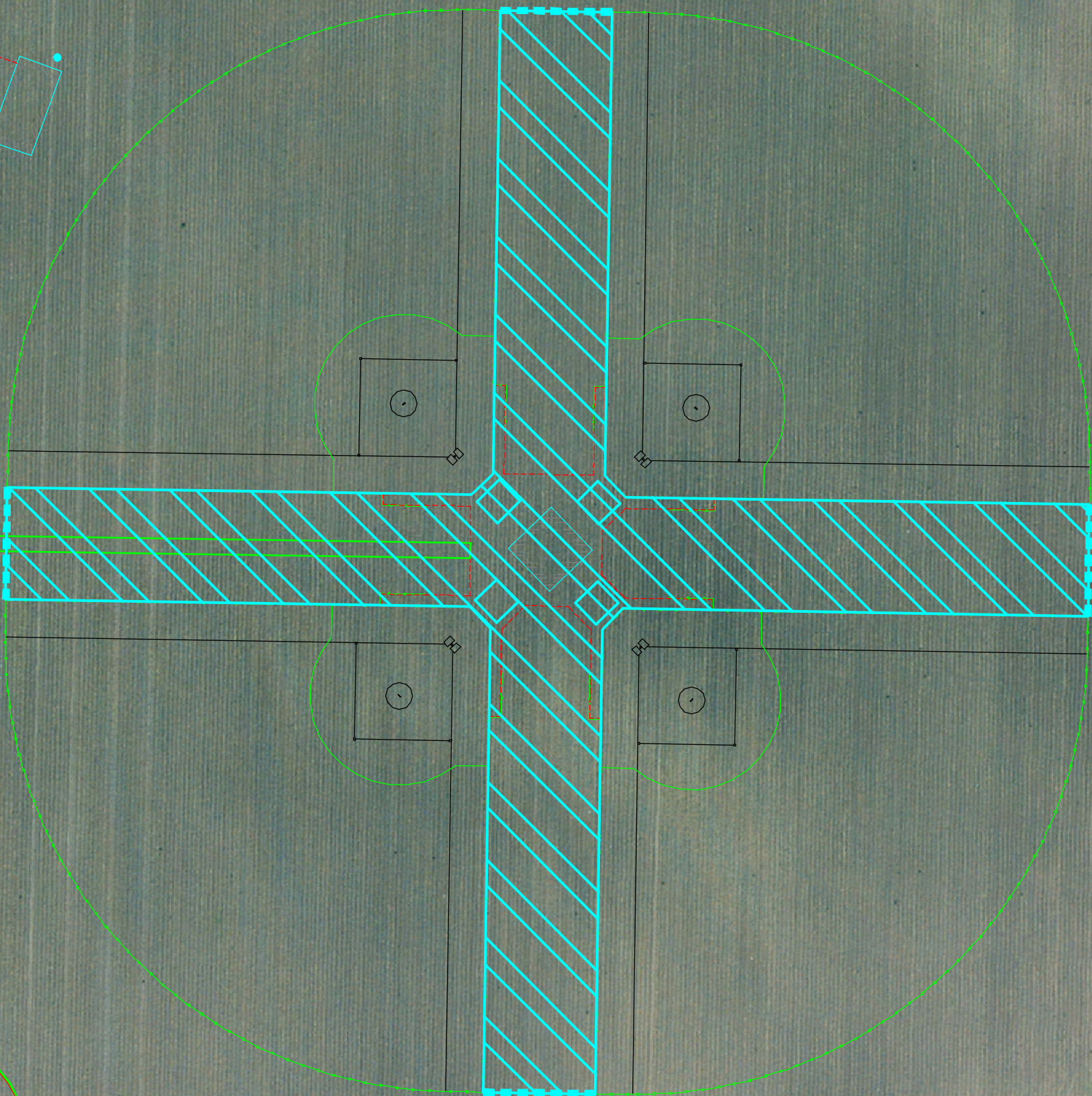
If Council allows for the sale of alcohol at the Veterans Athletic Field Complex a modification to the City Code will be required.

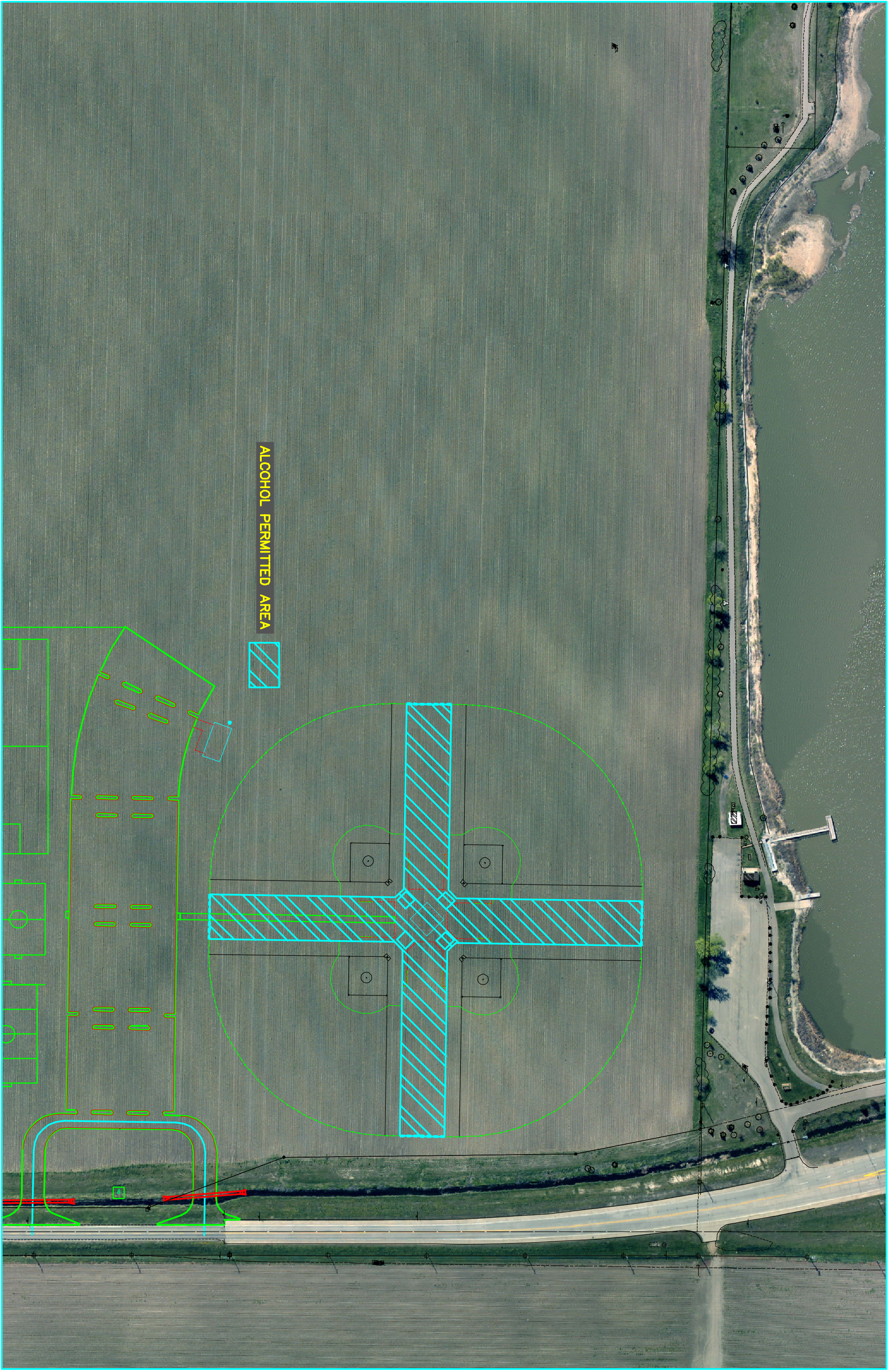
Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.

It is the intent of City Administration to bring this issue to a future council meeting for modification of the City Code if alcohol sales are allowed and for the awarding of a lease agreement with the vendor selected.

ALCOHOL PERMITTED AREA





ALCOHOL PERMITTED AREA





City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Study Session

Item -2

**Presentation by HDR Engineering - Uranium Removal Process at
the Platte River Well Field**

Staff Contact: Gary R. Mader

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Meeting: January 18, 2011

Subject: Municipal Water System Uranium Removal

Item #'s: 2

Presenter(s): Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Background

In 2003, the new regulation placing a Maximum Containment Level (MCL) on uranium in drinking water became effective. Uranium is a naturally occurring element in the aquifers of Nebraska and other states across the nation. Implementation of the new MCL began with the sampling of the state's municipal water systems in accordance with the EPA specified testing protocol. Samples of the Grand Island water supply for regulatory compliance were first taken in 2004. The sampling protocol requires testing for four consecutive quarters, with the average of the year long sampling results being the level by which system compliance is established.

Sampling and testing of the Grand Island water system thus far show full compliance with the EPA regulation. Uranium is naturally occurring in the aquifer in central Nebraska. Uranium is not an acute concern but rather is a concern over a lifetime of exposure. According to the *Neb-Guide from the University of Nebraska*, "*....uranium in water supplies produces very little radioactivity, the health effects from exposure to uranium are primarily thought to be associated with the chemical properties of soluble uranium. Studies suggest that ingestion of high levels of uranium may be associated with an increased risk of kidney damage...Exposure to soluble uranium in drinking water has not been shown to increase the risk of developing cancer.*"

The City's municipal water system is supplied primarily from its Platte River Well Field. This well field is comprised of 21 wells and a pumping station. Recent testing for State regulatory requirements has indicated composite uranium levels to be approaching the Maximum Containment Level (MCL) established by the EPA. Testing of individual wells for uranium has indicated most wells exceed this MCL. To allow use of these wells during high water system demand periods, additional piping was installed in the past year for blending with lower uranium concentration wells.

As a proactive measure, in case uranium levels cannot be controlled below the new MCL by well blending, the Department, with our consultant for this project, HDR Engineering of Lincoln, has undertaken a more detailed investigation to determine uranium removal methods and evaluate those best suited for the Grand Island system. Factors in the evaluation included; the review of available technologies; amount of uranium removal; capital costs; operational costs; and waste disposal.

HDR recently completed this evaluation of treatment options. The evaluation screened known water treatment methods and focused on coagulation/filtration, ion exchange, and adsorptive media as the most viable options for radionuclide removal. The recommendation of the evaluation was an adsorptive media system, and was presented at a meeting with Nebraska Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, HDR, and City Utilities staff in attendance. The use of this type of technology has been shown to be very effective in radionuclide removal, but its use has not been used in an application as large as would be required to treat Grand Island's water demand. The consensus at the meeting was that it may be useful to perform a large scale pilot program on selected wells at the Platte River Well Field. It is anticipated that a full capacity treatment system would be comprised of several modules the size of a pilot plant, therefore, utilization of the pilot plant could be incorporated into the final design solution. Based on the multiple phase structure of the uranium engineering services RFP, HDR was requested to provide a proposal for preparing specifications to issue for bids for an adsorptive media pilot plant. These specifications are for the components and accessories of an integrated treatment system. The suppliers for these systems are very specialized and details for the systems are not standard, therefore, the bidders may be required as part of the bidding process to perform small pilot demonstrations of their system's effectiveness in radionuclide removal from Grand Island's water. It is anticipated that the next phase would be to design facilities and infrastructure modifications for installing the removal system and prepare specifications to issue for bids for installation contractors.

Discussion

A presentation of the background of this project and projected costs and rate impacts will be discussed at the Study Session. The presentation will include recommended implementation steps for the uranium removal system including future action items for consideration by the Council.