

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“New City Planner”

As a city grows and progresses, its needs change. In light of Norfolk’s growth in industry and its need for housing, the Norfolk City Council voted earlier this year to hire a City Planner. Valerie Grimes has since been hired and is learning all she can about the community of Norfolk.



Grimes is originally from Lacon, Illinois, a small town north of Peoria where she and her brother still own the family farm. She has a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture and has worked in the Denver/Metro area for a private planning and architecture firm. More recently she had been working in fundraising and human resources but said she was glad to get back into planning and closer to Illinois.

“In the midwest, you have the nicest, down to earth people. I’m already enjoying working with the staff and citizens of Norfolk,” Grimes said.

Her office is near those of the City’s economic development division in the City Administration Building but she will also be working closely with the City’s zoning division and Public Works Department.

“I want to help the City grow in a sustainable way and build on the sound planning that the City has in place. We can always work to improve on that,” Grimes said.