I. MINUTES


II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

1. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investors’ Meeting (Camp)
2. RTSD Meeting (Cook/Friendt/Seng)
3. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - NONE

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. You’re Invited To Come Join Us For A Grand Celebration The Grand Opening Of Lincoln’s Newest Wal-Mart SuperCenter - Special Recognition For Those Who Have Helped Make Wal-Mart Successful - on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 - 8:00 a.m. until approx. 8:45 a.m. - At the New Wal-Mart SuperCenter, 8700 Andermatt Drive, 91st & Hwy 2) - Please come in the north doors where there will be a guest table set up for registration – RSVP to Sue McCauley at 484-6166 before February 8th 421-2363. (See Invitation)

2. The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce would like to invite Mayor Wesely & the Lincoln City Council to attend the following Ribbon Cutting: Nelnet, 121 S. 13th Street on Tuesday, April 29, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. - Please RSVP to Tera Pugh at 436-2355. (See E-Mail Invitation)
3. Updowntowners Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Sheldon Art Gallery, 12th & R Streets - Cost: $7.50 – RSVP to Heather Stewart at 434-6507 - (Cancellations must be made by March 17th - No Shows will be charged $7.50) - Tour the newly remodeled Sheldon Art Gallery! - (See Invitation)

4. 2003 Mayor’s Interfaith Prayer Breakfast - “Let There Be Peace On Earth, And Let It Begin With Me” - on Thursday, May 1, 2003 at the Cornhusker Hotel at 7:30 a.m. [Doors open at 7:00 a.m.] - $15.00 per person or Tables-of-Ten at $150.00 per Table - RSVP by April 15th. (See Invitation)

5. Join Olsson Associates for an Irish Toast to the City of Lincoln - You are invited to an OA Pre-St. Patrick’s Day Party to Toast the City of Lincoln on Thursday, March 13, 2003 at the Brazen Head Irish Pub, 301 N. 8th Street, in the Haymarket - from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Appetizers and Drinks will be provided - RSVP to Dena at 458-5992. (See Invitation)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS


2. Discussion on Council Salaries from Pending to the ballot. – HELD OVER FROM THE MARCH 3RD “NOON” AGENDA

3. Discussion on the City Council Budget.

VII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Council Members Present: Jonathan Cook, Chair; Jon Camp, Vice Chair; Glenn Friendt; Annette McRoy; Coleen Seng; Ken Svoboda; Terry Werner.

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Corrie Kielty, Mayor’s Office; Don Killeen, Public Building Commission; John Kay, Sinclair-Hille Architects; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda; Nate Jenkins, Journal Star representative.

I. MINUTES


Chair Jonathan Cook requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Annette McRoy and the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consensus of the Council.

Prior to the Council’s Reports presentations, Chair Cook called for discussion on Miscellaneous Item #1: Discussion with Don Killeen, PBC and John Kay from Sinclair Hille, on the Floor Plan for Joint Position in Council/Commissioners offices - Review for Council Feedback

Mr. Killeen gave a brief overview of the process thus far. He explained the four options that had been considered over the past few months regarding the build-out of the Council Office space into the main lobby which would eventually house a joint City-County Receptionist position.

Option 4 was the one discussed most specifically. Mr. Kay stated that this option showed a more secure shared entry into the Council/Commission office areas. The County Board has stated a preference for this option. The reception desk is positioned so that it confronts the visitor and acts as a kind of “roadblock”. We will try to salvage the existing metal frame door-wall as much as possible. The double door entry would be left open as a pass-through for staff convenience; a single door would be installed to the east of the reception counter, which would be the control point for public entry into the office areas and into the conference room.

The visitor meeting room is dedicated for Commission/Council use and would not be shared with other departments throughout the First Floor. The door to this room would be off the inner corridor. The room would have windows on the interior wall adjoining the reception area which was done to avoid an enclosed room (as a security factor). The outer walls around the conference room would be solid to afford privacy. The corridor wall in the reception area would be glassed to offer a feeling of spaciousness through the lobby area which Council agreed would be desirable.

The Council discussed, at great length, the various options and how certain aspects of Options 3 and 4 might be integrated. The final thrust of the discussion was that the build-out, with glass window-walls along the main lobby, would be done without the conference room at this time, thus leaving the configuration options open for future uses as the needs become more fully understood, while the reception area would be extended for security purposes.

The possibility of Mr. Camp donating a desk for the information booth in the main lobby was also commented upon, though no final decision was made on that issue.
II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES -

1. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS’ MEETING (Camp) Mr. Camp reported that he was able to attend only 20 minutes of that meeting because the Commons meeting was being held at the same time. He reported that during his attendance they had started a report on the job development and the new website decision. That was all he was able to report on at this time.

2. RTSD (Cook/Friendt/Seng) Mr. Cook reported that the budget had been discussed, but no action was taken because it was just an introductory and preliminary review. Ms. Seng reported that the next meeting for RTSD would be held on Monday, June 16th at 8:00 a.m. It was noted that there may be new Council Members on the RTSD at that time. Ms. Seng stated that the answer to Mr. Friendt’s question of how much of RTSD funds had been spent on the Antelope Valley projects was $5,000,000 of the $17,000,000 budget.

The RTSD members had authorized Roger [Figard] to testify to the legislature in regard to the RTSDs payment of sales tax. Mr. Cook noted that he thought that was the strangest thing adding that he did not realize that the RTSD was not tax exempt. Ms. Kielty asked to update the Council on that issue.

Ms. Kielty stated that the Administration had planned to introduce that as an amendment to another bill. Senator Raikes was sponsoring the other bill, and after talking to committee counsel, (who did not think it should be amended onto that bill), Senator Raikes didn’t want to have it amended on to his bill. Ms. Kielty stated that she didn’t think the other bill would probably have “a lot of legs” this year. So, she had told Mr. Figard to tell -in December- whomever is in her position next December, to get that introduced. It was not introduced in time to be submitted as an actual bill this year.

Mr. Friendt reported that they had approved $1.4 million for additional planning and process for the Antelope project. That will eventually come through the City Council for approval.

3. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that it had been a fairly simple agenda. One of the main items had been the SDL issue which was passed. Discussion still continues regarding the larger alcohol issue, but at this time, that is something that has a lot of complexities and needs to be looked at very carefully. Whether there will be support from a future administration is yet to be seen.

OTHER MEETINGS - Mr. Camp asked if there was anything from the Hometown Security Committee? Mr. Svoboda stated that there will be a meeting on Wednesday. Ms. Kielty commented that there were nominations for the four sub-committees which Mr. Svoboda had mentioned last week. A brief discussion regarding these nominations resulted in the Council agreeing by consensus to offer approval to the Committee (which will have final approval rights, prior to the vote by Council) of the list of nominees presented to them by the Mayor’s Office.
III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - Mr. Bowen passed out a list of the upcoming legislation which he felt would be of interest to Council. [Copies on file in Council Office and the Mayor’s Office] Mr. Bowen noted the following legislative bills and the Administrations Support or Opposition to each:

- LB109 - [TIF Local Option Sales Tax] - OPPOSE
- LB440 - [Changes cigarette tax distribution (eliminating MIRF funds)] - OPPOSE (Ms. McRoy was in concurrence to the Administration’s opposition on this bill)
- LB555 - [Increases County/City fuel tax by $.02] - SUPPORT
- LB790 - [Regulation of natural gas by Public Service Commission (With Amendment)] - SUPPORT
- LB385 - [Limits receipt of grants from the Local, Civic, Cultural & Convention Center Financing Act -(minimum $20,000/Maximum $500,000)] - OPPOSE
  (The County had discussed offering LB330 to expand the Visitor’s Bureau Board by two...and are trying to attach that to LB385, but at this point have not been successful)
- LB614 - [Recording all Interrogations] - OPPOSE

Mr. Bowen also passed out to Council Members a copy of the monthly EMS report.

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion with Don Killeen, PBC and John Kay from Sinclair Hille, Floor Plan for Joint Position and Council/Commissioners offices - Review for Council Feedback. - See Discussion Above prior to Council Reports in these minutes.

2. Discussion on Council Salaries from the Pending List to the Ballot. – Held over from the March 3rd “Noon” Agenda. Council held a brief discussion on this issue. Mr. Roper informed Council that a better time for this issue would be on next years ballot because the City Charter is where this would be changed. That change needs to be in place before the election that would put it into effect. He commented that if Council was thinking about placing this on the ballot, the “off” election year would probably be the better way to go. With this information, and after a brief discussion, Council decided that it would be good to have two-three strong community organizations backing this prior to placement on the ballot. The issue would be left on Pending until the next election year.

3. Discussion on the City Council Office Budget. The City Council Office budget had been distributed to the Council for consideration prior to this review and input session.

   Mr. Camp asked the two mayoral candidates if they would support a $100,000 increase in the Council budget for funding to be added to the members’ Discretionary
Funds. He noted that the City has grown into a metropolitan area and the needs of Council Members, in order to best serve that growing constituency, requires more expenditure for research and staff support. Both candidates indicated that they would not support such an increase. Mr. Werner noted that he agreed with Mr. Camp. He felt Council Members needed more individual staff funding. Mr. Friendt noted that the fact that Mr. Werner and Mr. Camp both agreed would add weight to the proposal. [Laughter]

Ms. Seng stated that she would be allocating her sizable discretionary fund amount in May. It was agreed that if this caused a budgetary crises, the Council could transfer an emergency appropriation from the City’s Contingency Fund into the Council Office budget.

After discussion, it was moved by Coleen Seng and seconded by Ken Svoboda to approve the City Council Budget, as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote: AYES: Coleen Seng, Glenn Friendt, Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy, Ken Svoboda (agreed with the concept); NAYS: Terry Werner (in support of Mr. Camp’s concerns for additional discretionary funding); ABSENT FOR VOTE: Jon Camp.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - Absent for this portion of the meeting.

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments.

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

COLEEN SENG - Ms. Seng informed Council Members that her discretionary funds would be approximately $28,000.00 which will be dedicated to funding for a fountain in the City of Lincoln.

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

CORRIE KIELTY - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - Mr. Roper reminded all of the Council Members - unless one has Federal Bankruptcy protection - one’s campaign signs need to be behind the sidewalks [not in the public right-of-way].

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 1:02 p.m.