AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2004
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MINUTES


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

*1. Homeless Coalition Meeting (Newman)
2. Internal Liquor Committee Meeting (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda)- CANCELLED
3. PRT Meeting (Newman)
4. Citizens’ Meeting (Newman)
5. Downtown Lincoln BID Association Board Meeting (Werner)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. We have been asked if Council Members would like to have a meeting with the Music Director of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Ed Polochick. Mr. Polochick lives in Baltimore and comes in to Lincoln to conduct performances by the orchestra. He will be in Lincoln Tuesday evening, Nov. 17th thru Friday, Nov. 19th. The Symphony, in an effort to help Mr. Polochick feel at home in Lincoln and better acclimated to our City, has introduced him to the County Commissioners and wondered if Council Members would like an opportunity to meet and greet him. (See e-mail)

2. Discussion on Council Members’ scheduled Retreat. (Requested by Terry Werner)

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS -

1. Lincoln Composite Squadron-Civil Air Patrol Fall Open House and Membership Recognition on Sunday, November 7, 2004 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Nebraska Air National Guard Base in Lincoln - (Carol A. Marxsen, Major–423-1098 – (See Invitation)

2. In Appreciation, The Seniors Foundation Board of Directors invites you to be their guest at a reception celebrating Seniors Foundation Achievements and Activities on Friday, November 19, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Nebraska Club, 233 S. 13th Street, 20th Floor - RSVP by Nov. 12th - (See Invitation)

3. Updowntowners Membership Luncheon on Thursday, November 4, 2004 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Spaghetti Works, 228 N. 12th Street - Cost $12.00 - RSVP to Rachael Svoboda at 434-6507 by Nov. 2nd - No Shows will be billed - (See Invitation)

4. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce - Business After Hours-Sponsormania on Thursday, November 18, 2004 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Cornhusker Hotel - Cost is $10.00 per person - RSVP by Nov. 16th to Jaime Henning at 436-2360 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)

5. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce - Face the Chamber with Chief Tom Casady for Lunch on Wednesday, November 3, 2004 - Registration begins at 11:45 a.m. - Noon to 1:00 p.m. at The Country Club of Lincoln, 3200 S. 24th Street - Admission is $13.00 ($18.00 at the door) and includes lunch - RSVP by Nov. 1st to Jaime Henning at 436-2360 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)

6. Neighborhood Open House - Airport West Subarea Plan - Tuesday, November 16, 2004 - Presentation at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Army Airfield Regimental Chapel - 4601 N.W. 48th Street. (New Information)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
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Council Members Present: Terry Werner, Chair; Ken Svoboda, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Glenn Friendt, Annette McRoy, Patte Newman; ABSENT: None

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Corrie Kielty, Mayor’s Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Steve Hubka, City Budget Officer; Joan Ross, City Clerk; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda

I. MINUTES


Mr. Werner requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes as presented. Jon Camp seconded the motion which carried by unanimous consent of the Council Members.

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

1. HOMELESS COALITION (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that she had missed it to go on the Stevens Creek Tour. She noted that the trip had been very interesting, adding that many of the Planning Commissioners, a couple of County Board Members as well as several Council Members had gone. She reported that they had seen examples of how the ditches have been cut away and heard recommendations that will be brought forward. We’ll hear more about the whole Stevens Creek area once the recommendations are submitted.

2. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda)- CANCELLED

3. PRT (Newman) Ms. McRoy had volunteered to cover this meeting for Ms. Newman, who was indisposed due to family obligations, but Ms. McRoy was unable to attend because an emergency meeting of the Keno Advisory Committee had been called. (See that report below under “Other Meetings”).
4. CITIZENS' MEETING (Newman) Mr. Werner had covered this meeting for Ms. Newman. He commented that he was very happy to have been able to attend, reporting that there had been a presentation on the Multi-Modal issues by Kent Morgan, followed with good discussion. After that presentation, there had been discussion on gambling and a few other miscellaneous issues that came up. There had been about seventeen people in attendance. Mr. Werner commented that Mr. Morgan did a nice job of presentation, as always.

5. DOWNTOWN LINCOLN BID ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING (Werner) Mr. Werner reported that he had attended this meeting. The new owners of the Gold’s Building were very optimistic and excited. They have had good success in leasing, including one retail base. They have a philosophy of “never selling” - so they’re here for the long run on this property. Mr. Werner noted that it was very interesting - they are optimistic and interesting people.

Mr. Werner continued his report, stating that Debbie Brehm had reported on the Mega-Plex which is on schedule. We’ll all be receiving party invitations to the opening on the 19th of November. A week prior, there will be a lot of events that they’re doing. It’s on schedule, which is a good thing.

He added that they had also talked a little about the Master Plan and a little bit about the Parking, but there had been no significant discussion on those issues.

OTHER MEETINGS - Mr. Svoboda reported that he and Mr. Werner were invited to attend a meeting with a few of the members of the Executive Board of the Humane Society with the Mayor’s Office, the Health Department, and Animal Control. This was to discuss the issue of the contract with the Humane Society. The decision that came from the meeting was that their staff was going to ask the City Attorney’s Office for clarification on a couple of the Living Wage Ordinance issues that the Board felt dealt directly with them. Once they got that clarification, they would adjust their contract if they felt it was necessary. The other option was going forward with a discussion of unit cost contracting, which is a more long-range concept. We hope we can get some clarity from the Board and from the Attorney’s Office as to what they’re responsible for.

Mr. Svoboda stated that what he recognized at the meeting was that both sides were digging in their heels. Mr. Werner stated that they were also going to provide us with some wage information. Have they done that yet? Ms. Kielty answered that they had not. She reported that they had originally stated that they would, then they said they didn’t want to....so she was not sure if we would actually be receiving that information.

Mr. Svoboda added that, from what he had heard (and this is only hear-say), the Board acted on Thursday night to not provide any information unless there was a formal request. And that was maybe only after they got information back from the City Attorney’s Office as to what their legal responsibilities and liabilities were. Ms. Kielty noted that they have not asked for that, but only for clarification on those two questions. When she has asked for the information they’ve replied that they haven’t gotten a response yet. But, they have not asked for anything further.

Ms. McRoy reported that she had gone to a Special Keno Advisory Meeting last week. There had been some questions at the Commons meeting that needed to be clarified as to how we spend the money and how much money is in reserve. They’ve made some recommendations that will go to the JBC this coming Friday morning. She thought that it is a revised amount of 35% of the City-County proceeds that will go into the reserve. They’re looking at making it an endowment, sort of
like CHE’s. That’s the report from the Keno Advisory Committee. We’ll find out next week what the JBC does with it. That information will, Ms. McRoy assumed, come back to a Commons Meeting at some point.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - Nothing New

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL, FROM MAYOR - Mr. Bowen stated that there were a few things to review. He introduced Mr. Steve Hubka to discuss dates for the Budget Retreat. After some discussion and calendar checking, the date was scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th between 2 - 5 p.m. with location to be announced. Council Members agreed that they would like no exercises or presentations, but just the projections and then discussion. Mr. Hubka stated that that format would work best for his office as well. Mr. Bowen noted that the format would follow the same as was utilized at last years retreat, which would include some philosophic discussion.

The next item Mr. Bowen wanted to bring forward was the next Joint Omaha/Lincoln City Council Meeting. He noted that he had had a couple of conversations with Omaha. The Omaha City Council suggested that maybe we postpone the meeting until after the new year. They were looking at February sometime. Mr. Bowen noted that it would put a little bit of a strain on trying to have an organized effort for the Legislature. But, Omaha’s thought was that with the meeting being held here, they could also spend some time with the Legislature. Council agreed that February would be fine with them - with a luncheon venue being proposed and a date to be determined.

It was suggested that if Lincoln is hosting the meeting, it might be fun to post a sign on the meeting door to signify the room as `Ernie “Chambers”’. [Laughter]

Mr. Bowen reminded Council Members that they should send their money to PBC on the $30.00 deposit for the AVI Readers. Mr. Camp and Ms. Newman gave Staff the money, which was picked up by PBC employee Jeanne Sayers after the “Noon” Meeting. Mr. Diegel will get the Readers to Council Members upon confirmation of payment.

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. We have been asked if Council Members would like to have a meeting with the Music Director of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Ed Polochick. Mr. Polochick lives in Baltimore and comes in to Lincoln to conduct performances by the orchestra. He will be in Lincoln Tuesday evening, Nov. 17th thru Friday, Nov. 19th - performing on Saturday, November 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Paul United Methodist Church. The Symphony, in an effort to help Mr. Polochick feel at home in Lincoln and better acclimated to our City, has introduced him to the County Commissioners and wondered if Council Members would like an opportunity to meet and greet him. Council proposed that they could, if given complimentary tickets to a performance, meet with Ed Polochick at a reception prior to his performance. Ms. Susan L. Rodenburg with the Lincoln Symphony is scheduling a meeting on Saturday, November 20th prior to the 7:30 performance, possibly at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Ms. Rodenburg is working on the details of the meeting and will notify Staff when the meeting time and location are finalized.
2. Discussion on Council Members’ scheduled Retreat. (Requested by Terry Werner) Mr. Werner noted that the Retreat will be held from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Apothecary on November 18th. He stated the objective as being to discuss the organization of Staff in the Council Office [to better accommodate the needs of the Council Members]. Is there anything that anyone else would like to bring up?

Mr. Friendt asked about discussing the idea of what we all see as the strategic issues that we [the Council] think are priorities for the City next year and maybe beyond. His thought would be to do that in a facilitated priority setting method that we use for other community events where we would actually have an independent, objective facilitator to lead us through that process. Perhaps we could get to the point where, maybe, we can all agree on a list of priorities that we could all work together towards achieving. It would be good if we had a program of work that had some consensus to it.

Mr. Werner commented, on that note, that he had invited Deane Finnegan to be at our meeting to sort of work through the office discussion. He noted that he had already made that arrangement and hoped that it was alright with everybody. He explained that she’ll be acting as an official facilitator for discussion on the Staffing issue. He stated that he could call her up and extended her services to this issue, too. She’s charging $200.00. Mr. Werner, noting that Mr. Friendt’s issue might require a great deal of time, wondered if we have enough time for both issues at this meeting. Council discussed adding this issue to the Retreat Agenda. It was agreed to limit the meeting to these two topics, focusing on the Staffing issue - with Mr. Friendt’s prioritization item being brought forward with the idea of just getting a basic start on that issue with further meetings to be scheduled as Council deemed necessary.

Mr. Werner believed that the meeting would be going into Executive Session when the personnel issues were discussed. It was agreed that the Staffing issue would be the first on the meeting Agenda. It was agreed that there would be 10 people in attendance - Council Members, Mark Bowen, Dana Roper and Don Taute - plus Ms. Finnegan, making eleven participants in all. This was in response to Mr. Camp’s inquiry as to how many he should plan on accommodating in the meeting room. Mr. Werner noted that the press would be entitled to attend if they so chose, so planning on 10-15 persons would be appropriate.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - Ms. McRoy asked if there would be a Special Meeting of the Council if the citizens passed any of the Gambling Amendments on the November 2nd Ballot. Mr. Bowen commented that the Mayor wanted to make sure that there was some public notice. She may be asking for a Special Meeting. Mr. Werner asked, then, if they were leaving it in the hands of the Mayor’s Office. Mr. Bowen affirmed that statement. Mr. Werner asked then if Mr. Bowen would contact everyone if we’re meeting Wednesday morning. Mr. Bowen stated that he would contact everyone - after they’ve learned the outcome of the election. After some discussion, Mr. Cook
moved to have a Special Meeting of the Council at Wednesday, November 3rd at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the gambling items, contingent upon those issues being passed by the electorate. Mr. Friendt seconded the motion. Mr. Camp requested a friendly amendment revising the time to 1:15 p.m. This motion, with the amendment, was carried by the following vote: AYES: Camp, Cook, Friendt, McRoy, Newman, Svoboda, Werner; NAYS: None. This decision would be announced at the Council Meeting today.

The City Clerk prepared an Agenda for public notice that there would be a Special Meeting of the Council, in the Council Chambers at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3rd - depending upon the outcome of the Gambling Issues on the November 2nd Election ballot.

PATTE NEWMAN - Ms. Newman commented that a constituent had contacted her with a concern that, since the constituent is on disability, she thought it was unfair that she had to pay full price for an animal license when Senior Citizens, who are also on a fixed income, get a reduction in price. She had talked to the Health Department where she was told that if the City Council wanted to change it that Council has the power to do that, but they [Health Department] were not going to do it. Ms. Newman told the constituent that she would bring the issue forward for discussion with her colleagues on the Council and see if there were four votes of interest for pursuing this issue.

Council discussed the issue briefly, deciding that since cost difference would be so small, the bureaucratic costs would be so high, and that a precedent of exceptions would not be in the best interest of the City, they would not pursue the issue. They agreed to leave the decision in the hands of the Board of Health’s Animal Control Advisory Committee.

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - Mr. Werner asked Mr. Roper if they needed to discuss the B.I.D. in reference to the letter they had received. Mr. Roper stated that he would take a look at it, but he was not aware of anything that needed to be done. Mr. Werner asked, then, for now we just move forward? Mr. Roper confirmed that the City was now just waiting to see what they had to say.

Mr. Werner asked if Council wanted to have a pre-council on the philosophy of closing streets during construction. Council determined that they did not.

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

CORRIE KIELTY - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 12:34 p.m

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