I. MAYOR
1. Mayor Presents November Award of Excellence to Police Sergeant Erin Sims.
2. Lincoln Named One of Nation’s Top Digital Cities.
3. State of Nebraska Drinking Water Test Results.

II. DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Gale Addition Final Plat #06108. Generally located at North 14th Street and Morton Street.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
1. Special Permit No. 04072, Muller Estates community Unit Plan. South 56th Street and Cumberland Drive. Resolution No. PC-01030.

PUBLIC WORKS

III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

PATTE NEWMAN
1. Letter from Capital Human Society agreeing to house stray animals picked up by Animal Control through August of 2008.

V. MISCELLANEOUS
1. Cooper Foundation awards over $765,000 in 2006.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2006
COUNTY/CITY BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

Council Members Present: Patte Newman, Chair; Dan Marvin, Vice-Chair; Ken Svoboda, Annette McRoy, Robin Eschliman, Jon Camp

Council Member Absent: Jonathan Cook

Others Present: Mayor Coleen Seng, Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Lin Quenzer, Rick Hoppe, Mayor’s Office; City Clerk Joan Ross; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Directors and Department Heads; Tammy Grammer, City Council Staff; Deena Winter, Lincoln Journal Star Representative; John Becker, Talent Plus; and Coby Mach, LIBA

Location Announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act: A Copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is Located on the Wall at the Rear of this Room

1. MAYOR -

Mayor Coleen Seng commented I want to make sure you received a mailing about the opening of the Legislature and their evening reception. Mr. Marvin replied yes, mine came from Diane. Mayor Seng stated the event is January 3rd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel. Mr. Svoboda commented I don’t remember seeing it. Mayor Seng commented I know it’s kind of an iffy thing sometimes you get those mailings and sometimes you don’t, so I thought I tell you about it.

Mayor Seng stated today I will be down at 1:30 p.m. to present some keys to some people which Patte (Newman) knows about.

Mayor Seng stated she is going to do a partial interim hiring freeze, there will be a letter coming out a little bit later. After we met last week and going through the budget, I reviewed the budget once again and looked at those job vacancies that are listed right now. So, today I’m announcing that I will impose a hiring freeze for the City and that’s going to be really helpful for all of us as we prepare the next budget. There are about 45 open positions and they are in different stages of being filled among those 45, so later you are going to get a memo and you will be able to see which ones that we need to proceed with filling in and those that we can hold up. There are about 10 positions I think probably need to stay on the list as made possible hiring positions because they deal with public safety and bus transit. The reason those are most likely going to stay on the list is because it’s going to be more expensive to fill them at a later time. We have gone through all of the positions and the freeze will be effective beginning this week.
Mayor Seng called on Directors. Karl Fredrickson (Public Works & Utilities Director) stated for Item 14 on their Agenda today, we have a request to move this item to January 8, 2007. We are still waiting for the paperwork on it. [#14, 06R-239, Ordering Joint Paving, Re-paving, Ornamental Lighting, Sidewalk, and Street Tree District No. 1 constructed in North 50th Street between O Street to approximately 800 feet north.]

Lynn Johnson (Parks & Recreation Director) reported on Friday evening or Friday night we had a break in at Belmont Recreation Center. Apparently from our perspective they broke into the back door and it appears they were trying to get into the school through the Recreational Center. They disabled the cameras as part of the process, they were not able to get into the school which is good news, and we did not lose anything out of the center which is good news. They did go around and break into the school from the front side and we don’t know what was taken and what damage there might have been in the school.

Fire Chief Dan Wright reported we had a fatality fire at 2800 Woods Blvd. which you guys are all aware of it. The cause of the fire was determined to be an electrical cord, did very little damage in relationship to fires although it was very tragic because the thought of fatality a mother and an unborn child.

We also had a fire this weekend at 4200 Cleveland a chimney fire did about $50,000 worth of damage. We’re not sure what the state of the chimney was but it apparently was college students burning their books after graduation. No injuries in this fire.

We are doing some public fire safety education on channel 5 right now.

Police Chief Casady reported we had an attempted abduction yesterday a 12 year old boy at 33rd & Stockwell. It appears to be legitimate, he found another adult that was driving her car and got help from her and she told us that he was very shaken and upset so we don’t have any reason to doubt it. We got the most incredible description of the suspect that I think I have ever seen. Ms. Newman asked was the description from the 12 year old? Chief Casady replied yes. Ms. Newman commented amazing. Mr. Camp commented with the yellow bumper you should be able to find that Kansas plate. Chief Casady responded you would think and I’m hopeful that we get some calls today from people that have at least seen the car that vehicle had to stand out some. I have a colleague in Kansas checking all the Kansas registered sex offenders, we already did that on all of the Nebraska registered sex offenders to see if we had anyone that matched up and so far no luck.

You probably read about this already last week we made a couple of arrests for violating the sex offender residency restriction and we made two more over the weekend so we have arrested four people now. I think we have done a really nice job with this ordinance and I think we have avoided the problems that Iowa is now facing with side
effects. I think there are plenty places in Lincoln where sex offenders can lawfully live. A lot of the sex offenders are just very disorganized in all aspects of their life, so things like how far away is a school are not even entering their thought process. Hopefully with a little bit of publicity about it more will be checking with us before they’ve rented a place. There were 11 people grand-fathered in, there were 16 total, 5 knew, and we’ve arrested four to five. Ms. Eschliman asked what happens if they’ve already moved into the apartment? Do they get evicted how does that work? Chief Casady stated it’s unlawful for them to live there, if they have taken up residence after July 1st in a place that’s within 500 feet of a school they are in violation. Ms. Newman asked do they pay their 12 month lease? Chief Casady stated that’s not a matter that we need to concern ourselves with that is between the resident and the landlord. What you find in a lot of these cases is that the sex offender is not even on the lease and the sex offender is living with someone else, in fact I think that was true of almost all these people.

The Salvage Permits became effective on December 1st, we’ve had 131 people apply, issued 126, and denied 5. The number of salvage thefts has gone down, but it’s a little too soon to say that’s caused an effect. I would like to see a few months go by so we’ve got some comparative data with last year. Mr. Camp asked why they denied the five? Chief Casady replied because they’ve got theft convictions that prohibit them from pertaining a salvage permit.

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Presents November Award of Excellence to Police Sergeant Erin Sims. — NO COMMENTS

2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Lincoln Named One of Nation’s Top Digital Cities. — NO COMMENTS

3. State of Nebraska Drinking Water Test Results. — NO COMMENTS


II. DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT -

1. Letter from Tom Cajka to Lyle Loth, ESP - RE: Gale Addition Final Plat #06108- Generally located at North 14th Street & Morton Street. — NO COMMENTS

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION .....

1. Special Permit #04072, Muller Estates community Unit Plan (South 56th Street & Cumberland Drive) Resolution No. PC-01030. — NO COMMENTS
2. Special Permit #06065 (Alltel wireless facility - Northwest of South 3rd Street & Garfield Street) Resolution No. PC-01029. — NO COMMENTS

3. Special Permit #06068, The Bridges Community Unit Plan (Southwest corner of Southwest 27th Street & West Denton Road) Resolution No. PC-01031. — NO COMMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES -


III. CITY CLERK -

City Clerk Joan Ross stated on their Agenda today, Items 2 & 3 will be called together. [2, Application of JTK, LLC dba JTK for a Class I liquor license at 201 N. 7th Street.; and #3, Manager application of Jason Kuhr for JTK, LLC dba JTK at 201 N. 7th Street.]

Items 4 & 5 will be called together. [4, Application of BNW Corporation dba South Street Liquor for a Class C liquor license at 1000 South Street.; and #5, Manager application of Fiseha Tesfatsion for BNW Corporation dba South Street Liquor at 1000 South Street.]

Items 6 & 7 will be called together. [6, Application of Nebraska Dining Holding LLC dba Noodles & Co. for a Class I liquor license at 210 N. 14th Street.; and #7, Manager application of Edward Lynch for Nebraska Dining Holding LLC dba Noodles & Co. at 210 N. 14th Street.]

For Item 10, I handed out a Motion-To-Amend. [#10, 06R-235, Accepting the report of new and pending claims against the City and approving disposition of claims set forth for the period of November 16-30, 2006.]

We already talked about Item 14. [#14, 06R-239, Ordering Joint Paving, Re-paving, Ornamental Lighting, Sidewalk, and Street Tree District No. 1 constructed in North 50th Street between O Street to approximately 800 feet north.]
For Item 43, I understand that there would be a request to remove this item and not introduce it on January 8, 2007. City Clerk Joan Ross commented Bruce Dart (Health Director) that’s confirmed. Mr. Dart replied that’s my understanding. Mr. Svoboda commented you need a motion to just remove it from the agenda. City Clerk Joan Ross replied yes so that it is not moved forward. [Item 43, 06R-242, Approving a two-year contract between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support System and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department for the Medicaid Access to Care Program.]

City Clerk Joan Ross noted it is open ‘mic’ today.

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE -

JON CAMP -

Mr. Camp stated to Karl Fredrickson (Public Works & Utilities Director) regarding 50th Street you wanted to delay that item, I’ve had some calls about it. On this petition this would basically just set up the district as I understand it for the 800 feet, now that’s not punching through North 50th Street. Mr. Fredrickson answered yes, it would fill in the piece that’s not there existing today between “O” Street and “R” Street to open that up. Mr. Camp asked if there’s a cost estimate for those property owners on how much they’re going to be assessed. Mr. Fredrickson replied yes, I don’t have that with me today, we can get that information for you. Mr. Camp responded if you would, I think there is some confusion out there among some of the property owners. Mr. Camp commented to Marc Wullschleger (Urban Development Director) with some of the current developments on Hy-Vee there is a rumor out there about a possible blight designation on 70th & “O” Street. Mr. Camp asked if there is anything happening on it? Marc Wullschleger replied not that I’m aware of.

Mr. Camp stated to Karl (Fredrickson) I had a call from a woman who wants to remain unanimous but she has had three close encounters with bicyclists and she’s very concerned about the bike lanes. She called me on Friday and said she really would like to see them change anything ... especially the one that’s in the centers because it’s so dangerous. She also asked and I wanted to clarify this, she said she had a verbal exchange with one bicyclist, he was in the car lane not the bicycle lane and she asked him to politely move over because he was slowing traffic down. The bicyclist said he had a right to be in the car lane and I told her that was true but I thought I would just check that bicyclists can be any where they want even if there is a bike lane next to the car lane. Mr. Fredrickson replied correct, they operate under the rules and roads just like any motor vehicle. Ms. Eschliman asked if we have had any accidents with bicyclists yet? Mr. Fredrickson commented none that I’m aware of. Police Chief Casady responded yes, one that I can tell you about, I know I looked it up for one of them who e-mailed me about it. Ms. Newman commented it could of been me, asking was it the one bicyclist doing something wrong and ran into a car. Chief Casady answered yes. Ms. McRoy commented I had a complaint last week about a State Patrol car driving in a bike lane. Mr. Camp commented she
feels they should not exist. Mr. Camp asked if we’re doing any type of a six months or one year study? Mr. Fredrickson replied if I recall we were supposed to look into it in some time frame, I don’t know what’s the status of it. Mr. Marvin stated Robin (Eschliman) put an amendment on the bicycle lanes that we were going to have a review after one year. So, I think that is where we are at and we’ll see how they work.

JONATHAN COOK - ABSENT

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN - NO COMMENTS

DAN MARVIN - NO COMMENTS

ANNETTE McROY - NO COMMENTS

KEN SVOBODA - NO COMMENTS

PATTE NEWMAN -

Ms. Newman stated she would like to speak with Dana Roper (City Attorney) after the Directors’ Meeting today.

1. Letter from Capital Human Society - RE: Agreeing to house stray animals picked up by Animal Control through August of 2008. — NO COMMENTS

V. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. E-Mail Release - RE: Cooper Foundation awards over $765,000 in 2006. — NO COMMENTS

Ms. Newman wished everyone Happy Holidays.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately at 11:20 a.m.