I. MAYOR
1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler and Deb Johnson, Star City Parade Director, Announcement on Status of Parade at City Council Meeting on Monday, December 3, 2007. (Delivered to Council Members on 12/003/07 before Formal Meeting)
4. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler to Speak to High School Students on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at LPS District Office on “For the Youth: A Mayoral Forum.”
5. NEWS RELEASE. City Wastewater Treatment Facility Recognized for Quality Service.

II. DIRECTORS

PLANNING
1. North Forty Golf 1st Addition. Final Plat #07058. Generally Located at No. 84th Street and Adams Street.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES
1. Memorandum from Steven Masters, Public Utilities Administrator. Answer to Question Raised on Wastewater facilities Plan.

III. CITY CLERK
1. Letter from Danelle Catlett Regarding Special Permit #07049. Application of D. J.’s Bartending to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises located at 710 Hill Street.

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

V. MISCELLANEOUS
1. Email from Julie Himmelberg. Praise for Work on Mural, with Website Address.
2. Email from Russell Miller. Comments and Article on how Update of Floodplain will Affect Hundreds in Omaha.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Mayor Chris Beutler and Deb Johnson, Executive Director of the Star City Holiday Parade, will announce the status of this year’s parade at the beginning of the City Council meeting at 1:30 p.m. TODAY, Monday, December 3 in the City Council Chambers, 555 S. 10th St. All Council meetings are aired live on 5 CITY-TV, channel 5 on Time Warner Cable. The media will have the opportunity to ask questions outside the Chambers after the announcement.

The 23rd annual parade was canceled Saturday December 1 due to icy conditions.
The 23rd annual Star City Holiday Parade has been rescheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, December 8 in downtown Lincoln. Mayor Chris Beutler and Parade Executive Director Deb Johnson made the announcement at the beginning of today’s City Council meeting. The parade was originally scheduled for December 1, but was cancelled due to icy conditions. The parade is presented by Verizon Wireless and produced by Updowntowners, Inc. and the City of Lincoln.

“The Updowntowners and the City started looking at the possibility of rescheduling the parade already Saturday morning,” said Beutler. “What has happened since then is remarkable. From the presenting sponsor, Verizon Wireless, to the balloon companies to the City agencies involved, everyone was enthusiastic. In short, too many people have worked too hard to give up now. And too many kids of all ages have been looking forward to the parade.”

Johnson said many details still need to be worked out. The latest information will be posted on the parade Web site, www.starcityholidayparade.org. The site can also be reached through the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov. The Parade office number is 434-6902.

Johnson said the public can help the parade be successful in three ways:

- Donations will be accepted to help cover additional parade expenses. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Downtown Lincoln Foundation, 206 S. 13th St., Suite 101, Lincoln, NE 68508.
- Volunteers will be needed, especially to serve as parade marshals. Volunteers can sign up on the parade Web site.
- Support the parade with your attendance!

“Because this was the first time we’ve ever had to cancel the parade, we really did not know if it was possible to reschedule, but the response we’ve received has been great,” said Johnson. “I think we could have the largest attendance in parade history.”

Free parking will be available to those entering City-owned garages marked with the green “P” logo from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 10 a.m. The parade begins at 10th and “O” streets and ends at 13th and “M” streets. An awards ceremony will begin immediately after the parade in the Lancaster Ballroom at the Cornhusker Marriott.
Johnson said parade organizers are still checking with entries to see who is available on the new date. She expects the parade to last about one hour instead of the original 90 minutes. Officials are not recruiting new entries at this time.

The theme for this year’s event is “Tis the Season.” The parade will again be televised live statewide by KOLN-KGIN-TV. Johnson said highlights will include giant balloons, a new float for parade mascot Major Drummond sponsored by Verizon Wireless and a new Santa float sponsored by the Community Blood Bank.
CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Recycling Office, 2400 Theresa Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, 441-7043

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 4, 2007
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator, 441-7043
Dan Kurtzer, Lincoln Solid Waste Management, 423-3708

SEPARATION OF GRASS AND LEAVES ENDED DECEMBER 1

Lincoln and Lancaster County residents are no longer required to separate grass and leaves from
their household trash.

The Nebraska Integrated Solid Waste Management Act requires that grass and leaves be
separated from household trash from April 1 through November 30 of each year. During these
months, the grass and leaves are diverted to the City’s compost facility, and local waste haulers
charge a separate fee for the yard waste collection.

Residents can place their grass and leaves with their household trash from December 1 through
March 31, however additional fees may be charged for their regular waste collection based on
volume and weight of the leaves and grass collected.

More information on the City’s recycling program is available on the City Web site at
lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: recycling).

- 30 -
DATE: December 4, 2007
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831
                    Pete Ferguson, Leadership Lincoln, 441-4664

Mayor Chris Beutler will speak to area middle and high school students from 6:30 to 7:40 p.m. Wednesday, December 5 as part of “For the Youth: A Mayoral Forum.” The meeting is hosted by the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) and will take place in the board room at the LPS District Offices, 5901 “O” Street. The event includes a reception with City officials from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and a discussion on getting involved in government from 7:40 to 8 p.m.

The MYAC is a youth program component of Leadership Lincoln, Inc.
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
Wastewater, 2400 Theresa Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, 441-7961, fax 441-8735

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 4, 2007  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Randy Wilson, Water Pollution Control, 441-7970

CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
RECOGNIZED FOR QUALITY SERVICE

The City's Northeast Wastewater Treatment Facility was awarded the Scott Wilbur Award in November at the annual Nebraska Water Environment Association Fall Conference in Kearney. The award is presented to municipalities and industries across the state which demonstrate excellence in wastewater operation and treatment.

Randy Wilson, superintendent of Water Pollution Control for the City Public Works and Utilities Department, said facilities are honored for providing the highest quality service to the communities they serve. He said the Northeast facility at 7000 N. 70th St. has demonstrated a proactive operational philosophy with respect to technological advancements in the wastewater industry and is a leader in the field of automation and nutrient removal.

- 30 -

(Photo available on request.)
CITY OF LINCOLN  
SNOW/TRAFFIC CONDITION REPORT

A COMPLETE VOICE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT 441-7783. THIS NUMBER IS FOR NEWS MEDIA USE ONLY.

For more information:
Public Works Snow Center -- 441-7644
Citizen Information Center -- 441-7547

Date: Thursday, December 6, 2007
Time: 10:30 a.m.

As the steady snowfall continues in Lincoln, City street crews hit the streets at 10 a.m. in a full plowing operation. Seventy-six plows are tackling the city’s bus routes, snow emergency routes and major arterials. They will be working through the evening hours in anticipation of the forecasted three to four inches of accumulation. Parking bans are not in effect.

Lincoln Police Department (LPD) reports a sharp increase in weather-related accidents with about 50 incidents reported between 7 and 10:20 a.m. LPD reports that all city streets are snow-packed and icy, and that motorists are experiencing difficulty making it up inclines. All drivers are advised to go slow, allow plenty of following distance and be especially careful at intersections, bridges and turn lanes. StarTran reports that buses are running 10 to 25 minutes late, depending on the specific route.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and on pages 49 and 50 in the blue pages of your Windstream phone directory. If you have questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
CITY OF LINCOLN
SNOW/TRAFFIC CONDITION REPORT

A COMPLETE VOICE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT 441-7783. THIS NUMBER IS FOR NEWS MEDIA USE ONLY.

For more information:
Public Works Snow Center -- 441-7644
Citizen Information Center -- 441-7547

Date: Thursday, December 6, 2007
Time: 3 p.m.

City street crews continue their full-scale plowing operation that began at 10 a.m. today. Seventy-six City and contracted plows are clearing more than 1,050 lane miles of snow emergency routes and major arterials. Street crews began a snow blowing operation – the actual removal of accumulated, plowed snow – from the downtown area, specifically “O” Street, at 2 p.m. this afternoon. Crews will stop the snow blowing operation at 3:30 p.m. to allow for the late afternoon commute from the downtown area, then continue the snow blowing operation at about midnight.

Parking bans are not in effect. On average, a City snow emergency route and major arterial plowing operation takes about 12 hours to complete, once the snow has stopped falling.

Lincoln Police Department (LPD) reports a sharp increase in weather-related accidents with about 80 incidents responded to by LPD between 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. LPD urges all drivers to go slow, allow plenty of following distance and be especially careful at intersections, bridges and turn lanes. StarTran reports that buses are running 10 to 25 minutes late, depending on the specific route.

Residents are asked to make sure sidewalks are clear, especially at crosswalks and curb cuts, and to clear snow from fire hydrants. It is illegal to push or blow snow into or on any street, alley or sidewalk.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and on pages 49 and 50 in the blue pages of your Windstream phone directory. If you have questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
December 3, 2007

Mike Johnson
Olsson Associates
1111 Lincoln Mall
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: North Forty Golf 1st Addition
Final Plat #07058
Generally located at N. 84th Street and Adams Street

Dear Mike:

North Forty Golf 1st Addition generally located at the southwest corner of N. 84th Street and Adams Street was approved by the Planning Director on November 30, 2007. The plat and the subdivision agreement must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The fee is determined at $.50 per existing lot and per new lot and $20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and $.50 per new lot and $5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds. Please make check payable to the Lancaster County Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds requests a list of all new lots and blocks created by the plat be attached to the subdivision agreement so the agreement can be recorded on each new lot.

Pursuant to § 26.11.060(d) of the Lincoln Municipal Code, this approval may be appealed to the Planning Commission and any decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a letter of appeal within 14 days of the action being appealed. The plat will be recorded with the Register of Deeds after the appeal period has lapsed (date + 14 days), and the recording fee and signed subdivision agreement have been received.

Sincerely,

Brandon Garrett, AICP
Planner

CC: William E. Langdon, Apples Way LLC
James C. Tomasek, Trainwreck's LLC
City Council
Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities
Terry Kathe, Building & Safety
Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric
Jean Walker, Planning
File
PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION

TO :    Mayor Chris Beutler
         Lincoln City Council

FROM :   Jean Walker, Planning

DATE :   December 6, 2007

RE :    Special Permit No. 07051
         (On-sale alcohol - 5501 Holdrege Street)
         Resolution No. PC-01088

The Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission took the following action at their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2007:

Motion made by Taylor, seconded by Sunderman, to approve Special Permit No. 07051, with conditions, requested by B&J Partnership d/b/a Speedway Properties, for authority to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises of Super Taco generally located at 5501 Holdrege Street.

Motion for conditional approval carried 8-0: Moline, Esseks, Sunderman, Taylor, Larson, Gaylord-Baird, Francis and Carroll voting ‘yes’ (Cornelius absent).

The Planning Commission’s action is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a Letter of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days of the date of the action by the Planning Commission.

Attachment

cc:     Building & Safety
        Rick Peo, City Attorney
        Public Works
        Rogelio Arias, 5211 London Road, 68516
        Speedway Properties, P.O. Box 81906, 68501
        Gail Anderson, UPCO, 1930 N. 60th Street, 68505
        Janelle Schmale, UPCO, 4930 Cleveland Avenue, #1, 68504
        Sharon Doll, UPCO, 2909 N. 56th Street, 68504
        Lois Haupt, UPCO, 4212 Knox Street, 68504

i:\shared\wp\jlu\2007 ccnotice.sp\SP.07051
RESOLUTION NO. PC- 01088

SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 07051

WHEREAS, B&J Partnership dba Speedway Properties has submitted an application designated as Special Permit No. 07051 for authority to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises of Super Taco generally located at 5501 Holdrege Street, legally described as:

Lot 1 and the west 30 feet of vacated N. 56th Street, Block 1, Barnes Addition to University Place, Lincoln, Nebraska;

and

WHEREAS, the real property adjacent to the area included within the site plan for this permit to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises will not be adversely affected; and

WHEREAS, said site plan together with the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth are consistent with the intent and purpose of Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission of Lincoln, Nebraska:

That the application of B&J Partnership dba Speedway Properties, hereinafter referred to as "Permittee", to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on
the premises of Super Taco on property legally described above be and the same is hereby granted under the provisions of Section 27.63.680 of the Lincoln Municipal Code upon condition that operation of said licensed premises be in strict compliance with said application, the site plan, and the following additional express terms, conditions, and requirements:

1. This permit approves the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises as designated by the cross-hatched shading on the site plan labeled "Applicant's Premises".

2. Before commencing the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises:
   a. The Permittee must submit five copies of a revised site plan correcting the floor area/parking calculation table to show 15 spaces required for the licensed premises.
   b. The construction plans must comply with the approved plan.

3. The site plan approved by this permit shall be the basis for all interpretations of setbacks, yards, locations of buildings, location of parking and circulation elements, and similar matters.

4. The terms, conditions, and requirements of this resolution shall be binding and obligatory upon the Permittee, its successors, and assigns. The building official shall report violations to the City Council which may revoke the special permit or take such other action as may be necessary to gain compliance.

5. The Permittee shall sign and return the City's letter of acceptance to the City Clerk within 60 days following approval of the special permit, provided, however, said 60-day period may be extended up to six months by administrative amendment. The City Clerk shall file a copy of the resolution approving the special permit and the
letter of acceptance with the Register of Deeds, filing fees therefor to be paid in
advance by the Permittee.

The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Lincoln City-Lancaster
County Planning Commission on this 5th day of December, 2007.

Approved as to Form & Legality:

Chair

Chief Assistant City Attorney
Special Permit #07051
N 56th & Holdrege St

Zoning:

- R-1 to R-4 Residential District
- AG Agricultural District
- AGR Agricultural Residential District
- O-1 Office District
- O-2 Suburban Office District
- O-3 Office Park District
- R-T Residential Transition District
- B-1 Local Business District
- B-2 Planned Neighborhood Business District
- B-3 Commercial District
- B-4 Lincoln Center Business District
- B-6 Planned Regional Business District
- H-1 Interstate Commercial District
- H-2 Highway Business District
- H-3 Highway Commercial District
- H-4 General Commercial District
- I-1 Industrial District
- I-2 Industrial Park District
- I-3 Employment Center District
- P Public Use District

One Square Mile
Sec. 20 T10N R07E

2005 aerial
MEMORANDUM

To: Lincoln City Council Members
From: Steve Masters, Public Utilities Administrator
CC: Mayor Beutler, Trish Owen, Roger Figard, Marvin Krout
Date: December 5, 2007
Subject: Wastewater Facilities Plan—What is Different, Now?

Questions were raised to Roger Figard by Council Members, John Spats, Jonathan Cook, and John Camp, about the Wastewater Facilities Plan and the previous Plan. Roger asked that I reply to their questions. Thinking that all Council Members are similarly interested, I am sending this response to your packets. Please let me know if you have further information needs.

Question:
What has changed with this Plan in comparison to our 2003 version?

Response. The 2007 version:
• Applies new updated ‘dynamic’ flow modeling of the wastewater collection system. Time of travel for trunk system flows and flow storage are better evaluated today than was possible at the time of the 2003 study.
• Identifies the use of future “peak flow storage facilities” at key locations in the collection system to manage higher flow rates that might occur during heavier rain events. These peak storage facilities assist in maximizing the life of existing collection system pipeline infrastructure and postponing the timing for future treatment facilities improvements.

Public Process:
Our Wastewater Division will soon list the steps of an information process that leads to review by the Planning Commission and City Council. The process will begin in January 2008. Once the process is complete and any revisions are made, we seek the Council’s approval to include the Wastewater Facilities Plan within the Comprehensive Plan. Please let us know if you would like to schedule a pre-Council or other meetings with constituent groups to discuss the 2007 Wastewater Facilities Plan.

The Plan in its current form will be posted on the City’s web page by the end of December. We will make certain that Council members are given a CD copy of the document.
RE: Special Permit # 07049

My basic arguments and main concerns
  future implications
  parking – address in dept a little later
  amount of children coming and going from both facilities
  increased potential for accidents/law suits
  property values

It is my understanding that all parties will be happy if permit denied
  > Danelle Catlett's happy
  > D Lesoings happy, he can continue w/ SDL's, unlimited
  > Officer Fossler/ police depts happy, he has made applicant go through the process.

I was told, the applicant has to do this process, if denied then he'll be allowed unlimited SDL’s. The applicant has said, that he would rescind the application if he can have unlimited SDL's, but that officer Fossler is requiring him to proceed.

I have no objections to weddings, parties, etc in the banquet hall having alcohol. The space is limited to 7000 square feet. To date these parties have been of a manageable size.

What I object to is the potential for parties/events to become unmanageable. For attendees of events in 29,000 square feet to buy and consume alcohol in the banquet hall portion and then attend activities in the rear portion. This creates the potential for 500 – 600 people with access to alcohol.

I do not object to the applicant having his own “supervised team” practices in the gym while an event is occurring in the banquet hall, but I do not think you can add an amendment that is so activity specific that it will be ineffective for a future tenant. The permit must either be denied and everyone can go on doing business as we have, or an amendment must prohibit the sale of alcohol when the portion of the building that is 29,000 square feet is in use.

Further comments or responses in regards to notes or statements about this permit;
  > The Resolution states the surrounding neighborhood, and the real property adjacent to the area will not be adversely affected ?? I do not believe this to be a true statement.
  > The fact sheet notes that the applicant states that events involving alcohol at the banquet hall do not occur at the same time as events in the gymnasium. All I want is to keep it that way with the staff proposed amendment.
  > The fact Sheet notes that the applicant states he would agree that no liquor is sold during sports events. While that addresses sporting activities specifically it does not address the many other activities that could be held in the gym such as such as school dances or carnivals, a craft fairs, or other non sporting or non competitive events.
  > The fact sheet states that the City Law Dept discourages placing special conditions on this type of permit, but it already has at the Hinky Dinky. Staff indicated this was allowed because the Hinky Dinky had residential concerns. This area has residential concerns, as well as, 2 youth sporting centers within 50 feet. Bison and Solid Rock
  > The fact Sheet states that the license will give the applicant more control for safety and consumption purposes. That the owner will be able to better monitor the situation, including serving time, etc. I disagree with this argument. As the owner, these
things can be written into the terms and conditions of use contract or rental agreement. When I rent Solid Rock, I have total control on what goes on.

> Staff suggested that this would be better handled by a private agreement between the two business owners. That is a little silly when I cannot enter into an agreement with an unknown future tenant.

I did suggest that a solution to the whole problem would for the property owner, Steve Mier, to agree in writing that he would rescind the permit in the event of a tenant change and/or land ownership change, but the applicant tells me the landlord would not agree to do that. THIS SENDS UP A RED FLAG. While I cannot speak to his character because I do not know him, this tells me that Mr Meir would be more concerned with getting the building leased than with what type of business goes in. He obviously wants the liquor license as an asset to release the building.

I support the amendment which states “but only in conjunction with the use of the premises as a social hall and then only in the event that the adjoining area described on the site plan as the “gym” is not being used at the same time.”

I am not in support of adding “for competitive events”, the term “competitive” becomes problematic. Whether there is judging or scoring is not relevant. What about sports clinics where 200 + kids can come to listen and learn from clinicians. At many levels of gymnastics, we have events,”competitions” if you will, where the focus is on participation and everyone receives a participation gift. There is no winner or loser. Is that a competition?? Bottom line is there is no way to keep adding descriptions of what is and isn't allowed in the back 29,000 square feet when alcohol is being sold in the front 7,000.

> One commissioner stated that this special permit is for one section of building only and you cant dictate what they do with the other section. He stated you cant take this right away, BUT the city does. The city dictates to someone who wants a license within a certain distance to a school.. The whole concept of zones and allowable uses dictates what can and cannot be done with a building. This is one big building, that allows the flow from one area to the other freely. If they want to operate two separate businesses at one time than maybe they should be required to permanently separate the two sides. If they want to sell liquor in one section of the building at the same time they rent or use the back portion then the two should be permanently divided..

> The size & potential occupancy of this building is an issue. Is there another business in town that has a liquor license and access to 36,000 square feet that is not a arena or stadium or does not only operate as a social hall?? This situation is unique.

> Staff noted that it should be remembered that the I-1 zone is a permissive zone and the health department often raises question and concern about locating a athletic club or private school in an industrial district. That was a little dig about Solid Rock going into the I-1 zone.

Now I'm going to step on my soap box. I have already discussed, in my letters, the issues of affordable land, building size, type of building required and desirable zones for this type of building. The issue is the discrimination between sports.
The health dept only takes issue with the sports that they have for some reason defined as private schools (gymnastics, dance, karate and music). Basketball, volleyball, baseball, bowling, football, etc., none of these sports are titled private schools but recreational facilities. They don't require a special permit. Bison was not required to get a special permit or have health related requirements placed upon them like a master ventilation shut off switch, or hazardous waste evacuation plan, etc. Neither did Lincoln Sports Center, where my son goes for baseball lessons in the I-1 zone. One city entity titles me a private school and another does not?? I'm a private school in one case but I'm not a school when it comes to being within a certain distance to a liquor establishment. Why are GYMNASTICS, DANCE & KARATE businesses private schools and all the other sports are enclosed recreational facilities?? Is there a difference between a practice and a lesson? THIS MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE,, and IT IS DISCRIMINATORY. After 12 years in business and having to go through 3 special permit process and now this appeal process which says I'm not a school. I am obviously frustrated with the situation. If I am a school than this liquor permit process would not be allowed.

The difference between being a school and a recreational facility is that I had stricter, more costly, requirements placed upon me. Why am I required, with 16,000 square feet, to have 58 parking stalls and next door, with 36,000 square feet only needs 107??

> Now, let me address the parking. Staff states that this facility meets the requirements of the ordinance. The site plan meets the 1 per 1000 square feet for industrial, 1 per 500 for liquor and 4 per court for court games, or whatever it is but.. in the ordinance relating to court games it says, “Plus spaces required for affiliated uses” as determined by the city. Have you ever been down there during a tournament? Parking and traffic is a nightmare and safety issue in my opinion. Did anybody in building and safety considered affiliated uses when allowing Bison to go in. Did the city know they would run tournaments with several hundred people in the building yet only require 4 stalls per court?? Section 27.03.500 states that recreational facilities shall not include arenas or stadia used primarily for spectators to watch athletic events. WHAT DEFINES PRIMARY? The income generating portion of a business. Hours of operation for each use?? I maintain that the primary use of the gym portion of this building is for spectator events or place of assembly.

I have been told that the parking issue can not be resolved at this time because the city cannot now place additional requirements upon Bison. However, if you approve the permit with the amendment, you can at least help the situation not get worse.

> Parking aside, I am obviously concerned about the future ramifications with regards to this permit. It just opens the door for unwanted businesses such as a sexually oriented live entertainment establishment which are allowed in the I-1 zone. The ordinance does prohibit one of these establishments within the same block or within 1,000 feet of a private school, BUT...(here again is the discrimination).....in this section of the ordinance it has a narrower definition of a private school and says the private school must have a curriculum equivalent to a public elementary or high school. Therefore, according to the ordinance, I assume this type of establishment might be allowed to go in next to me.
I wasn't sure who to contact, but thought this person's work was phenomenal and wanted to pass along the info in the event the City of Lincoln would ever contract someone to paint a mural. I have no idea of the cost, but certainly thought it might be worth looking into further should the need arise.

http://www.ericgrohemurals.com
info@ericgrohemurals.com

Thanks,
Julie Himmelberg
From: Russell Miller  
341 S. 52  
LINCOLN, NE. 68510  

To: Mayor Beutler and Lincoln City Council  

Subject: Omaha Floodplain  

Attachment: 3 December 2007 Omaha World Herald article “Update of floodplain will affect hundreds in Omaha”  

Hello,  

Since some persons like to compare Omaha’s “good life” to Lincoln’s supposed “bureaucratic” life, I think this 3 December 2007 Omaha World Herald article is appropriate for your review.  

To me the main points are:  
1. 700 - 900 properties were added to floodplain  (paragraph 4)  
2. the maps have not been updated for about 30 years  (paragraph 2)  
3. the requirement of flood insurance and its cost can be $2,000 for $200,000 home and its contents (paragraphs 8 to 10)  
4. their existing maps were outdated because development has changed the amount of stormwater runoff  (paragraph 13, close to the bottom)  

Based on insurance cost alone Omaha’s economy is going to take a hit of $700,000 to $1,000,000 (one million) dollars because that much money will be sent to FEMA. That hit will be conservative because of the multiplier effect that economists like to use. Plus it will be a yearly expense unless Omaha can figure out how to retrofit the area and store the flood water in some manner that allows the stormwater to be released slowly and in a manner that the creeks’ banks can contain.  

Floodplain creep exists wherever governments will allow it.  

This situation would not exist today if the developers had complied with the principles of “zero net rise” and “compensatory storage.”  

Please learn from past and current mistakes.  

Russell Miller  

ATTACHMENT:

Published Monday | December 3, 2007
Update of flood plain will affect hundreds in Omaha

BY NANCY GAARDER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of Omaha-area property owners who received the bad news in the mail about their properties' changing flood risk will have a chance Thursday to learn more in person.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and local flood officials will meet with people whose properties have been affected by the first systematic updating of flood potential in the metropolitan area in about 30 years.

About 2,600 properties are affected by the remapping of the West Papillion Creek and its tributaries.

Of those, between about 700 and 900 properties were newly added to the 100-year flood plain, said Paul Woodward, water resources engineer for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

The rest were already in the flood plain. Woodward said an estimate isn't available of the number of properties being taken out of the flood plain.

A 100-year flood plain is an area that has about a 1 percent risk of flooding in any given year.

NRD officials say they hope that Realtors, insurance agents, public officials and local emergency management officials attend the meeting to learn more about the changing maps.

Those being placed in the flood plain are learning not only that their property is at greater risk than previously thought, but that they may have to buy flood insurance — properties with a federally insured mortgage must have the insurance if they're in a flood plain.

Additionally, being in the flood plain can make it harder for an owner to further develop property.

Mike Glaser, a partner with Marcotte Insurance Agency, said a fully-insured $200,000 home with contents valued at $100,000 would cost about $2,000 a year to insure in a 100-year flood plain.

Glaser said these property owners have a window of opportunity to reduce their costs. If they buy flood insurance before the maps become official, they'll be grandfathered in at the price given to property owners outside the 100-year flood plain.

The hardest hit by insurance costs, Glaser said, will be commercial property owners because of the high value of their properties.

The existing maps date to the 1970s and have become outdated either because of improved mapping technology or because development has changed the amount of runoff in an area.

Thursday's meeting will trigger a 90-day public comment and appeals process.
Brian Bowman, spokesman for FEMA, said property owners will have to demonstrate with technical data that the maps are in error if they want to be exempted.

Officials will review the appeals and finalize the maps in late 2008.

**To learn more**

**Open house:** 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, 8901 S. 154th St. (Chalco Hills Recreation Area)
**Online:** Douglas County map: dogis.org
**Sarpy County map:** sarpy.com/gisviewer/
Contact the Omaha World-Herald newsroom
To: Planning Commission, City Council  
From: Pat Anderson-Sifuentes  
        Everett Neighborhood Assoc., Secr.  
Date: November 30, 2007  
Re: 9 South Grill application for change to ordinance

Dear Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Everett Neighborhood Association (ENA) Board in support of Brett Richardson's application for a change to ordinance 27.63.680 in regards to liquor sales at 9 South Grill. The ENA board discussed and voted on November 17, 2007 to support the application for 9 South Grill.

The ENA board is confident 9 South Grill will operate within the ordinance guidelines and that there will be no problems. The original intent of this ordinance was to halt 'bar' type operations and potentially related problems within close proximity to residential areas. 9 South Grill is clearly operated as a restaurant and if people want to enjoy a glass of wine with a fine dinner, they should be able to do so. The ENA board anticipates no problems related to the change in ordinance and operations of 9 South Grill.

Pat Anderson-Sifuentes  
ENA, Secretary

Jeff Tangeman  
ENA, President
AD D E N D U M
T O
D I R E C T O R S’ A G E N D A
M O N D A Y, D E C E M B E R 1 0, 2 0 0 7

I. M A Y O R -

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Says Early Retirement Incentive And Hiring Freeze Part Of Budget Overhaul.
2. City Of Lincoln Snow/Traffic Condition Report - Friday, December 7, 2007 - 10:20 a.m.
3. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of December 8 through 14, 2007 - Schedule subject to change.
4. City Of Lincoln Snow/Traffic Condition Report - Saturday, December 8, 2007 - 4:30 p.m.

II. C I T Y C L E R K -

1. E-Mail from Dan Lesoing - RE: Item #8, 07R-240 on today’s agenda-12/10/07 - Special Permit 07049.

III. C O R R E S P O N D E N C E -


B. D I R E C T O R S A N D D E P A R T M E N T H E A D S -

PLANNING
1. E-Mail from Joan Spiry - RE: Item 4, 07-176, Change of Zone 04075A-In Favor of the proposed Village Gardens Marriott Residence Inn Project.
2. E-Mail from Michelle Derr - RE: Item 4, 07-176, Change of Zone 04075A - In Support of the Village Gardens PUD Amendment.

C. M I S C E L L A N E O U S -

1. E-Mail from Sgt. Todd Beam, Lincoln Police Department - RE: Enough is Enough.
2. E-Mail - RE: Street Conditions after the Snow.
Mayor Chris Beutler today announced two early decisions in the 2008-2009 City budget process: a hiring freeze effective immediately and implementation of a new retirement incentive program for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Beutler said the steps are necessary as part of his two-year plan to right the budget. Upon taking office earlier this year, the Mayor cut millions of dollars in City spending and signed a budget for the current fiscal year that ultimately eliminated 63 positions. He said the success of last year’s hiring freeze and retirement incentive program convinced him that the steps were necessary to complete his overhaul of the City budget. Last year’s early retirement incentive program led to the retirement of 47 people and a net savings of $1.2 million per year.

“The retirement incentive and the hiring freeze help us reduce expenses and create re-organization opportunities for a more efficient City government,” said Beutler. “These efforts save taxpayer dollars and help us avoid lay-offs of City workers. It’s the right thing to do.”

City employees are eligible to retire if they are age 62 or if they are age 55 with 20 years of service. Under the retirement incentive program for the current fiscal year, eligible employees received $15,000 into their Post-Employment Health Plan (PEHP) and an additional 15 percent of their accrued sick leave. The new plan for those retiring by October 15, 2008 offers two tiers of benefits, depending on when eligible employees decide to retire:

- February 1 deadline: $7,500 to $17,500 to PEHP and 15 percent to 35 percent of additional accrued sick leave (depending on years of service).
- May 2 deadline: $5,000 to $10,000 to PEHP and 10 to 30 percent of additional accrued sick leave (depending on years of service).

“Receiving early retirement commitments is essential to my re-organization plans. The earlier we know someone is leaving, the better prepared we are to take advantage of the resulting savings,” Mayor Beutler said.

- more -
Mayor Beutler cautioned City employees that the 2008-2009 retirement incentive program would be the last opportunity for additional retirement payouts during his administration. “We cannot be in the situation where retirement incentive programs become an annual event. This opportunity will not be offered again during my administration.”

The hiring freeze means vacant positions are on hold until reviewed by a Hiring Review Committee. Only positions that impact public safety or are essential to City operations will likely be filled.

City employment is about 2,163 FTEs (full-time equivalents). About 95 percent of City employees are represented by one of six unions: Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1293; Lincoln City Employees Association; Lincoln Firefighters Association, Local 644; Lincoln “M” Class Employees Association; Lincoln Police Union; and the Public Association of Government Employees, Local R9-38.
CITY OF LINCOLN
SNOW/TRAFFIC CONDITION REPORT

A COMPLETE VOICE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT 441-7783. THIS NUMBER IS FOR NEWS MEDIA USE ONLY.

For more information:
Public Works Snow Center -- 441-7644
Citizen Information Center -- 441-7547

Date: Friday, December 7, 2007
Time: 10:20 a.m.

City street crews worked through the night and continued to put the finishing touches on yesterday’s snow removal effort.

Crews completed the snow blowing operation – the actual removal and hauling of the accumulated, plowed snow – from the downtown area. In addition, street crews have plowed and sanded around schools and are currently spreading sand in residential districts, as well as various stop signs, hills and intersections.

Salt-spreading continues along the various snow emergency routes, major arterials and bus routes. Crews will also be spreading salt along the parade route in anticipation of tomorrow’s Star City Holiday Parade.

Lincoln Police Department (LPD) reported a sharp increase in weather-related accidents. One hundred and sixty one accidents were reported between midnight Thursday and 11:59 p.m. Thursday. Of the 161 reported accidents, 11 involved an injury and 16 were hit-and-run incidents. Between midnight Friday and 10 a.m. today, a total of 7 accidents have been reported. StarTran reports that buses are running about 20 minutes late today due to some slick snow routes and the general street conditions calling for slower speeds.

Residents are asked to make sure sidewalks are clear, especially at crosswalks and curb cuts, and to clear snow from fire hydrants. It is illegal to push or blow snow into or on any street, alley or sidewalk.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and on pages 49 and 50 in the blue pages of your Windstream phone directory. If you have questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of December 8 through 14, 2007
Schedule subject to change

Saturday, December 8
• Star City Holiday Parade - 10:20 a.m. Executive Clown Photo, Cornhusker Marriott, 333 S. 13th St.; 11 a.m. parade begins at 10th and “O” streets; awards ceremony immediately after parade, Cornhusker Marriott Lancaster Room, lower level

Sunday, December 9
• Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem’s Christmas Reception - 6 p.m., 1425 “H” Street

Monday, December 10
• Mayor’s Award of Excellence - 1:30 p.m., Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

Tuesday, December 11
• Havelock Business Association breakfast - 8 a.m., Isles Reception Hall, 6232 Havelock Ave.
• Mayor’s Multicultural Advisory Committee - 3:30 p.m., Mayor’s Conference Room, County-City Building, second floor
• Downtown Lincoln Association open house/Polly McMullen retirement, remarks and presentation - 5:30 p.m., Chez Hay, 14th and “P” streets

Wednesday, December 12
• Lincoln Police Department Academy graduation and awards ceremony, remarks and certificate presentations for 30 officers - 7 p.m., Holiday Inn, Lincoln Ballroom, 141 N. 9th St.

Thursday, December 13
• KFOR - 12:30 p.m., Three Eagles Communications, 3800 Cornhusker Hwy.
• Human Rights Commission, presentation to retiring board members - 4 p.m., City Council Chambers, 555 South 10th St.
• Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable - 5:30 p.m., Mayor’s Conference Room, County-City Building, second floor

Friday, December 14
• Legislature’s Agriculture Committee hearing on State Fair - 9 a.m., State Capitol
CITY OF LINCOLN SNOW/TRAFFIC CONDITIONS REPORT

A complete voice report is available at 441-7783. This number is for news media use only.

For more information: Diane Gonzolas - 525-1520
Public Works Snow Center - 441-7644

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007
Time: 4:30 p.m.

A combination of freezing rain and light snow began falling in Lincoln about 2 this afternoon, making City streets slick. The Lincoln Police Department reports about 25 accidents between 2 and 4 p.m. today. The City has had street crews working since 4:30 Friday afternoon. Nineteen material spreaders are now applying salt to arterials, bus routes and emergency routes to prepare for any precipitation that may be coming. If there is no more rain or snow, crews will be able to do more sanding in residential areas. StarTran reports that buses are running 5 to 10 minutes behind schedule this afternoon.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and in your Windsteam phone directory. If you have questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
How can I get the following attachment to city council members.

It proves a like business as mine operating under the same conditions.

Any news from Danelle on accepting the amendment?

Thanks,

Dan
Winter Soccer Training Program Ages U5-U10

DEVELOP SKILLS THROUGH BOTH PRACTICE AND GAMES • LOW PLAYER-TO-COACH RATIO
Saturday January 5, 12 & 26, February 16 & 23, March 1 & 15

PLACE: Indoors at Spike’s Volleyball Courts • 23rd & Judson (Just North of Cornhusker)
TIMES: 4 & 5 year olds 12-1pm, 1-2pm & 2-3pm • 6 year olds 3-4pm
7 year olds 4-5pm • 8-9 year olds 5-6pm (Subject to change)

FEATURING

MARTY EVERDING, current D.O.C. and former UNL Women’s Assistant Soccer Coach,
MICHELLE DEMKO, current UNL Women’s Assistant Soccer Coach and several former and current Husker soccer players

CAPITAL SOCCER ASSOCIATION • WINTER TRAINING 2008

Registration

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<th>U7 born 8/1/00 and 7/31/01</th>
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Registration Fee $60
I would like to donate $3 to the $________
Scholarship Program
Yes, I would like to order a $10 Soccer Ball $________
Family Discount-Subtract $5 $________
Friend (New to CSA) Discount-Subtract $10 $________
Friend’s name
Please make checks payable to Capital Soccer Association
Total amount enclosed $________
Credit Card Info Exp. __________

Post/Return Signature ________________________________

Remove and Mail To: Capital Soccer Association
1701 “K” St., Lincoln, NE 68508 • 464-KICK (5425) Fax: 464-5425

Registration Deadline December 17th
After 12/17 - $15 Late Fee

You will receive e-mail confirmation of your registration and time
Dear City Council Members,

My name is Joan (Jodi) Spiry. I live with my husband Daniel at 6053 Hidcote Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516 in the new Village Gardens development. I am not able to testify on Monday at the city council meeting. So, I am writing this email in favor of the proposed zoning line changes in Village Gardens that will allow the Marriott Residence Inn to be built where the Campell's have proposed.

We chose to live in Village Gardens because of the careful and unique planning the Campell's family has done for the community. We have lived there for nearly a year and have been very happy with our decision to build here. The idea that we will soon be able to walk to dining, shopping and entertainment is something we are looking forward to as the Village Center is developed. When we found out that Marriott was interested in becoming a part of this Village Center plan we were excited. We feel that it provides a unique opportunity for our out of town guests to stay near us...walking distance in fact from our home.

The economic impact of this Residence Inn should be a good one for this development. I imaging that the residence will choose to shop and dine in the Village Center. I also believe that the esthetic impact will be a favorable one in the neighborhood. It may well be a better choice than the apartment buildings proposed previously.

The Campbell's family are here to stay and have provided Lincoln with this unique living opportunity at quite an expense and commitment. They have made the neighbors feel welcome. The people who buy into this community are investing in more than a house. We are buying a lifestyle. We have been given the opportunity to have the small town flavor in Village Gardens. The design of the place has made the ideal come true for us. We know our neighbors and already consider them good friends...a kind of extended family. We visit with each other on our porches and know each others families and extended families. We feel that the Marriott Residence Inn will offer a unique amenity to our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and please know our family will appreciate your favorable vote for the Marriott Residence Inn zoning line changes. It will be a welcomed part of our Village!

Sincerely,
Joan Spiry
I live in the Village Garden area – My address is 6059 Hidcote Drive. The Campbells have kept us all informed of the changes in the zoning line for the Marriott Residence Inn. I am in complete support of this change. I am looking forward to having the Marriott Residence Inn project get under way. I have stayed in Residence Inn many times and the ones that I have stayed in are hidden in neighborhoods. I felt very safe and secure going out walking at night. They are very clean and keep the property looking like they are suppose to fit in with the neighborhood. It will be very nice having a place for company to stay within walking distance. Please consider to support the PUD Amendment changes at Village Gardens.

Thank you very much.

Michelle Derr
NETS, Inc.

800-735-6833
402-434-8205 (direct)
402-434-8299 (fax)
mderr@netseft.com

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City Council, Mayor Beutler,

I am a Sgt. with the Police Department and recent comments made by Council Person Eschliman have prompted me to contact you. This is my 22nd year with LPD and my job in simple terms is to manage our radio and computer resources, in particular our mobile data system. Over the years I have met some of you but generally keeping a low profile and working hard is my preference. I have always believed that our posture as an apolitical entity has been a good one. We exist to serve everyone. While I am perfectly capable of contributing to the collected works of Deena Winter or the Journal Star opinion page, I am taking this opportunity to communicate with all of you in a more private and direct manner. I want to talk about several things starting with two completely unrelated topics, my charitable contributions, and my compensation from the City.

I have always believed in giving back to my community and those in need. One opportunity I've had came in the form of sponsoring the cost of a child to Police Camp when they ran short on funding. I never met the child but I am told she had a good time. For many of these children this is a once in a lifetime experience. I have been an officer long enough to see these kids grow up. Its stunning how sometimes these relative small experiences can have huge impacts. I give to a wide range of charities and causes, some very well known like the United Way, others less so. I chose not to give to the United Way this last year because I had made a commitment to another equally worthy cause. I came very close and probably will contribute next year in part because of the poster campaign by Mayor Beutler. That campaign brought forward a sense of humor and a spirit that has been missing for a long time. That is positive leadership. To be sure the Police Department has its share of tight-wads but I can't tell you the number of times I have contributed to and witnessed the kind of on the spot giving that is common. Like the tank of gas you buy for the single mom, no money, who is desperately trying to hang on, stuck in the middle of Cornhusker Hwy and having a bad day. We are quite well known for our organized charitable endeavors. I am generous by nature, in fact have one less kidney to back up that assertion, didn't get United Way credit for that one though. I don't consider myself unique within the LPD ranks. In any event my charitable activities are a private matter.

Robin, in a recent council meeting you were quite incredulous when you felt that someone was questioning ("your dead wrong") your commitment to those with mental health challenges. In a real, direct, and quite public way you demonstrated what for some it is like to be unfairly characterized, real or perceived, about a highly personal subject. In the same way you have angered a great number of very dedicated city employees with your comments regarding our charitable practices. I am not sure what the goal of your comments was? What was the goal of your further comments during your appearance with Colby Mach? Were those comments what you feel your LIBA peers want to hear? If the goal was to increase contributions to United Way, I wonder what they think? They have to be pondering, like I am, if some will be unable to rise above this and when it comes time to make that commitment, will decide not to. Regardless of any aspects of the living-wage argument.

Concerning my compensation with the city, most days I feel fairly compensated by the city. I am one of those 110% kind of employees, also not unique within LPD. I am also one of those people who is constantly asked why I don't go to work in the private sector for more money. I have chosen to stay because I have been compensated such that I can raise my family, pay my taxes, and give to those who are less fortunate. I have also stayed because I can contribute to something that is greater than myself that directly impacts the safety and welfare of others. I work for a Chief who although insufferable truly gets the big picture (big picture racing!) and whose intellect and dedication is remarkable. About the only thing I will ever have in common with Warren Buffett is our love for Coke products. Warren Buffet will never know what it is like to attend the autopsy of an eight year old child, or have a stranger die in your arms and you know that there is nothing you can do. I doubt Warren has been kicked, punched,
hit, spit on, urinated on, damn near shot on Christmas day, on and on. Those are sacrifices you don't get compensated for, you just hope that in the end you don't pay too high a price or write a check you can't cash..... A choice I make!

Over the years I have experienced all sorts of mayors and council persons. In recent times I have learned to ignore Jon Camps acidity, you have to give him credit for moderating himself at times. Jon, your valid arguments regarding LFR are almost entirely lost in your approach and your delivery. This latest episodes with Robin are enough, and in the greater context, enough is enough. I have held up my end of the bargain, you have not.

Robin, maybe this City Council thing is not for you. A famous philosopher once said "A person has got to know his limitations". What struck me about your recent comments about my charitable contributions was how ill conceived they were and how in character for you these have become. I remember the petulant "remember who pays the bills" comment when the council was discussing electronic sign regulations. Pardon me, but as a taxpayer I pay some of those bills. Ironically it was shortly after that I passed by the Dr. Johns sign on N.48th. In my techie mind I could see how that sign could look at 1.21 gigawatts and full motion, and he would do it. It was not your position, it was your demeanor that was unacceptable to me. Just recently when the female citizen from the North Bottoms was testifying regarding the housing project, good thing she didn't understand your "how many" question. You were set to paste her but good right there if she had, to what end? This has become a pattern for you.

I ask all of you to consider this, WE ARE CITY GOVERNMENT, THE CITY OF LINCOLN, it makes little difference to the average citizen that we are in different branches. We are all are diminished when there is the kind of us vs. them attitude that was decried in the last election. If you portray me as some sort of over compensated, under performing, employee that can't manage to contribute to the United Way, we are all diminished. We negotiate my compensation, I am willing to discuss my performance with any of you, trust me you are getting 110%, and my charitable contributions are my business and always will be. The way you conduct yourselves reflects on me as a part of "the City" no different than the way my conduct as a Sgt. with the Lincoln Police Department CITY OF LINCOLN reflects on you. I have a vested interested in your success.

YOU ARE LETTING ME DOWN.

I have considered these comments for some time, they are not easily offered. In the coming days there will be bigger issues in the forefront. When the time is appropriate, I would certainly welcome a discussion. I'm not hard to find. I am convinced we can do better.

Sgt. Todd Beam
Lincoln Police Department
lpd692@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov
441-6012
I believe Mr. Beutler said that the city was very prepared to handle the winter conditions this year.

Thus, I will said that I drive into Lincoln on West Van Dorn, which has not been touch by a Road Grater nor most of the other streets that I travel on in Lincoln (Vine, 56th, etc.).

Just my observation on what I perceive as "the job not getting done".

Thank You.

****
This message may contain confidential information intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above and may contain information that is legally privileged. If you are not the addressee, or the person responsible for delivering it to the addressee, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, distributing or copying this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message by mistake, please immediately notify us by replying to the message and delete the original message immediately thereafter. Thank you.

****
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Lee Snyder
Address: 3335 South 17th Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 402 429 7920
Fax: 
Email: cornhuskerlee@alltel.net

Comment or Question:
Espilim can needs to step back from microphone
By Jeff Stump
Wednesday, Dec 05, 2007 - 12:11:35 am CST
We all know these sorts of people. The ones who are never happy, who are always looking for what is wrong. The ones who can’t stop with offhand jabs, or put their sarcasm on hold. When I was a boy and acting like this, eventually my mother would say: “I think it’s time for someone to go to bed.” And so I did, and I needed it.

Methinks someone on the City Council needs some input from her mother. Robin Espilim, who has been on the council for two short years now, has cemented her position and eased into her role: Insult the city and divide its people. Dismiss those who differ with her.

One thing we can count on from Robin: If you think Lincoln is a great city, if you enjoy living here, she will quickly straighten you out on that. We know from Espilim that the city’s senior residents are whiners. Its employees: greedy and lazy. Is Lincoln a lousy place to bring your business? Of course: Just ask Robin!

Consider her rhetoric for a moment, and ask yourself: Are these the words of a leader? Better yet: Are these the words of an adult?

In the last budget cycle, Lincoln’s senior community came to the City Council to make the case against shutting down the Belmont Aging Center. After glaring at one witness after another telling stories of how important the center is in their life, Espilim could not contain herself and felt the need to trivialize their views. She blurted out at one senior: “Does the government owe it to the citizens to raise property taxes to cut toenails?”

Now, Espilim has taken shots at city employees again, insulting them for no apparent reason. City employees have nothing to do with the mayor’s veto on the recent living wage dispute. Nevermind that. Another chance for Espilim to take a cheap shot at city employees.

Espilim criticized the employees for a 45 percent participation rate in a recent United Way campaign. Espilim suggested that the city coerce city employees to give to United Way, as though we just ignore the poor and underprivileged in our city. “Our city employees expect to receive union wages and benefits, but the majority are not willing to contribute any of their
union wages to these non-profit organizations whose budgets run on shoestrings and who are helping 'the least of these' in our city."

Hogwash. A 45 percent participation rate in the United Way campaign is something we are proud of. It is higher than the United Way participation of private-sector employees in the city as a whole. City employees are also cheerful givers to churches, volunteer across the city and give their money to help the underprivileged. One of our groups runs one of the most successful charity benefits in the city: Santa Cop.

Truth be told: Eschliman has absolutely no idea how much money city employees give to charity. But that doesn’t stop her. She has chosen her enemies, and she looks for every opportunity to take cynical shots at us.

And for some unexplainable reason, it is not enough for Eschliman to disagree with a point of view. She has a deep need to go further: to misrepresent viewpoints, to make cheap remarks, to just plain old insult people. It’s not only wrong, but it also has become weird. It’s something most of us give up in childhood, but it characterizes this adult.

Here is my advice to Councilperson Eschliman: Step back from the microphone for a moment. Think about what you say before you say it. Consider the people you scold; reflect on the real people you talk down to. All of us benefit from raising the quality of public debate. You should make it a personal goal to stop lowering it.

Jeff Stump is the president of the Public Association of Government Employees, which represents 493 city employees.

Lee Snyder wrote on December 7, 2007 9:03 am:
"I'd love to see Robin in the Mayors office. She know's how to be truthfull in the face of PC. If I didn't have family and friends in the area I wouldn't choose to live here. Between the taxes, regulations, and the high price of doing business I do not see why a business would come to Lincoln. Robin please do not let the sheep and the PC bullys of this city ever make you give in. Keep up the good work. Its too bad people do not go further and questioned the Lincoln Public School employee's, and I am not talking about the teachers. Why do we need a mall of administraters? They make the real money. Not the teachers The public schools are raping the property owners of this city. Respectfully Submitted, Lee Snyder"

rac wrote on December 7, 2007 12:28 pm:
"I have to agree with Lee Snyder, Robin doesn't take any BS from the local liberals, and cares about changing the environment to bring business in. Robin for Mayor! "