

**AGENDA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008**  
**(Immediately Following Directors' Meeting)**  
**COUNTY/CITY BUILDING**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**I. MINUTES**

- \*1. Minutes from Directors' Meeting of March 3, 2008.
- \*2. Minutes from City Council Members' "Noon" Meeting of March 3, 2008.

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

- 1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
- 2. Joint Budget Committee Meeting (Emery/Eschliman)
- 3. Railroad Transportation Safety District Meeting (Eschliman/Marvin/Svoboda)
- 4. Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting (Marvin)
- 5. Board of Health Meeting (Svoboda)

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced**

**IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS -**

- 1. Gift for Dana Roper - (Dan Marvin)
- 2. Council Decorum - (Doug Emery)

**VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

- 1. Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Curtis Center, People's City Mission's transitional housing facility for men on Friday, April 25, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 110 "Q" Street - (See Invitation)

2. State Senator Appreciation Lunch hosted by Mayor Chris Beutler and J. Robert Duncan on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at the Duncan home (Upon adjournment at Noon, a bus will be waiting on the west side of the State Capitol to transport you to and from the event.) - Please RSVP by March 26<sup>th</sup> to Traci Carlson at 540-8207 or by email - (See Invitation)
3. Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Health Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. at BryanLGH Medical Plaza East, 1600 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room - Cost: \$15/person - RSVP by April 2<sup>nd</sup> enclosed card - (See Invitation)
4. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the following Ribbon Cuttings:  
- Please RSVP to Kathy Hale at 436-2385 or E-Mail: -
  - A.) Z-Wireless/Verizon Premium Retailer, 4451 N. 29<sup>th</sup> Street on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
  - B.) Snap Fitness, 4010 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street (Old Rod Kush Building-East side of road) on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
  - C.) Lason Spa, 5955 S. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4 on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.
  - D.) Medical Practice Solutions, Inc., 7120 S. 29<sup>th</sup> Street on Friday, April 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
  - E.) Huntington Learning Center, 2801 Pine Lake Road on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
  - F.) Z-Wireless/Verizon Premium Retailer, 2525 Pine Lake Road, Suite 210 on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
  - G.) Community Service Fund, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 509 on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
  - H.) Z-Wireless/Verizon Premium Retailer, 5505 O Street on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**\*HELD OVER FROM MARCH 10, 2008.**

**CITY COUNCIL “NOON” MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008  
COUNTY/CITY BUILDING  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**Members Present:** Dan Marvin, Chair, Robin Eschliman, Vice-Chair, Jon Camp, Doug Emery, John Spatz, and Ken Svoboda.

**Members Absent:** Jonathan Cook

**Others Present:** Rick Hoppe, Administrative Aide to the Mayor  
Denise Pearce, Administrative Aide to the Mayor  
Trish Owen, Administrative Aide to the Mayor

The Nebraska Open Meetings Act posted on the rear wall of Room 113.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Marvin at 11:26 a.m.

**I. MINUTES**

\*1. Minutes from Directors’ Meeting of March 3, 2008.

\*2. Minutes from City Council “Noon” Meeting of March 3, 2008.

Chairman Marvin called for approval of above minutes. With no corrections or discussion minutes approved by acclamation.

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

**1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)**

No report.

**2. Joint Budget Committee Meeting (Emery/Eschliman)**

Emery stated discussion was on changes coming in mental health, and Fresh Start, and how the changes would effect funding. Eschliman added they also talked about organizations whose problems were found through systems and procedures, and are now improving.

**3. Railroad Transportation Safety District Meeting (Eschliman/Marvin/Svoboda)**

Svoboda stated they received a quiet zones update, which will be complete by the end of the year, except for one. The Service Transportation Board will then make sure the horns can be stopped. We will be adjusting the criteria for requesting quiet zones and the amended interlocal agreement for the S.W. 40<sup>th</sup> Bridge/BNSF Overpass project was unanimously approved.

Eschliman said a problem exists with smaller towns requesting quiet zones, as language is within the criteria saying Public Works can decide. Svoboda added the larger problems have been tackled, such as Cornhusker Highway, 33<sup>rd</sup> to 70<sup>th</sup>; and now dealing with South Salt Creek. The state is recommending two crossing closures, but we are trying to reach a compromise to keep one crossing open. In response to a question Svoboda stated the RTSD covers the geographical area of Lancaster County. Discussion continued of the railroad in the county and in our smaller towns.

**4. Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting (Marvin)**

Marvin stated the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) initiated changes to their By-Laws on the attendance policy and meeting time. Merwick presented a report that safety and building rules, particularly the Three Unrelated Rule, could be used for discrimination purposes. He stated Building and Safety receives complaints on the Three Unrelated issue, and 90% of the time it turns out to be students and does not believe there are any racial elements to the complaints, just more than three unrelated persons living together.

Pearce added MAC is interested in a number of bills going to the legislature, and they were given an update of where the bills were in the process.

**5. Board of Health Meeting (Svoboda)**

Svoboda stated an issue coming before the Council will be proposed revisions to the Air Pollution Control Program, construction permits and fees, and clarification as the construction industry has not voiced opposition.

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

Pearce reported no new appointments or reappointments.

**IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR**

Hoppe reported no requests.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**1. Gift for Dana Roper (Marvin)**

Marvin requested Council members meet with Grammer if they have not done so.

**2. Council Decorum (Emery) (Handouts: Marvin and Eschliman)**

Marvin (Handout A) compared meeting lengths of the Lincoln and Omaha City Councils, with Lincoln's average length of 3.15 hours to Omaha's meeting length of 1.5 hours. Also, heard people want to testify and sit down, and not take questions.

Emery added constituents called stating they would not testify because of their perception with Council asking combative questions of the speaker. He is concerned Council may be driving away constituents who want to testify, as sometimes Council is combative. He addressed the concerns saying he would do his part not to be combative, and would bring forward to the Council. This also applies to City employees, as his perception is the Council does not address them well. It is all right to ask questions, another to belittle, and this should not be our position.

Marvin agreed, adding he does ask questions. Eschliman thought the meetings may be longer due to fewer pre-councils and possibly adding to Council being curt, and maybe discuss in advance at pre-councils. Camp stated Council has swung one way avoiding too many pre-councils to too few. Appreciate communication but should not have as many informal Mayor/City Council meetings but do pre-councils. Would have the Mayor's stand on issues helping to advise Council earlier, as it seems we are usually advised in the eleventh hour. Hoppe replied many times the eleventh hour is when they are notified, and is when the Council is notified, but will try to communicate as soon as possible.

Camp added to possibly put meeting time limits. With an end in sight people may hasten their testimony. Marvin replied everyone gets 5 minutes. If someone is kept for an additional half hour it is not the result of them testifying but us asking questions.

Svoboda added Omaha puts time limits on specific topics. The chair identifies the time allotted on an issue. Lincoln is more pro-active, allowing everyone to speak. He stated he didn't know if there should be a pre-council on issues which could be controversial and before the Council within a week or two. The pre-councils are for informational purposes, working out preliminaries. Could have on the dias if we alter the ordinance or resolution coming forward.

Marvin added this could be an issue of open government, letting the people know what's going on. Sometimes we have a pre-council and other times extra time at the dias, believing the community ultimately weighs in both ways. A reason for fewer pre-councils is the fact of more public disclosure having the meeting on the dias, rather than before.

Svoboda said he would visit with Omaha City Council members and have a discussion on their schedule as possibly they meet through the week, similar to our pre-councils. Camp wondered if there could be a brainstorming session with someone like Omaha's Chief of Staff, Weaver. Marvin suggested going earlier to the yearly meeting. Svoboda thought some Lincoln Council members could go to Omaha to meet. Hoppe commented he drove to Omaha during his vacation time to brief Omaha on Amendment 1, and they were very pleased to have Omaha and Lincoln working together, and Weaver offered to meet here.

## **VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Eschliman	(Handout B) distributed handout, "Regional Comparisons" from Manpower, showing construction down but transportation and public utilities up. In the summary, 13% expect to reduce headcount, but 19% anticipate adding to their payroll.
Emery	No comment.
Svoboda	No comment.
Spatz	No comment.
Marvin	No comment.
Camp	Asked if Council took position on state legislation, #371 and #372, on the defined benefit plan? Pearce stated police officers are excluded in #371.

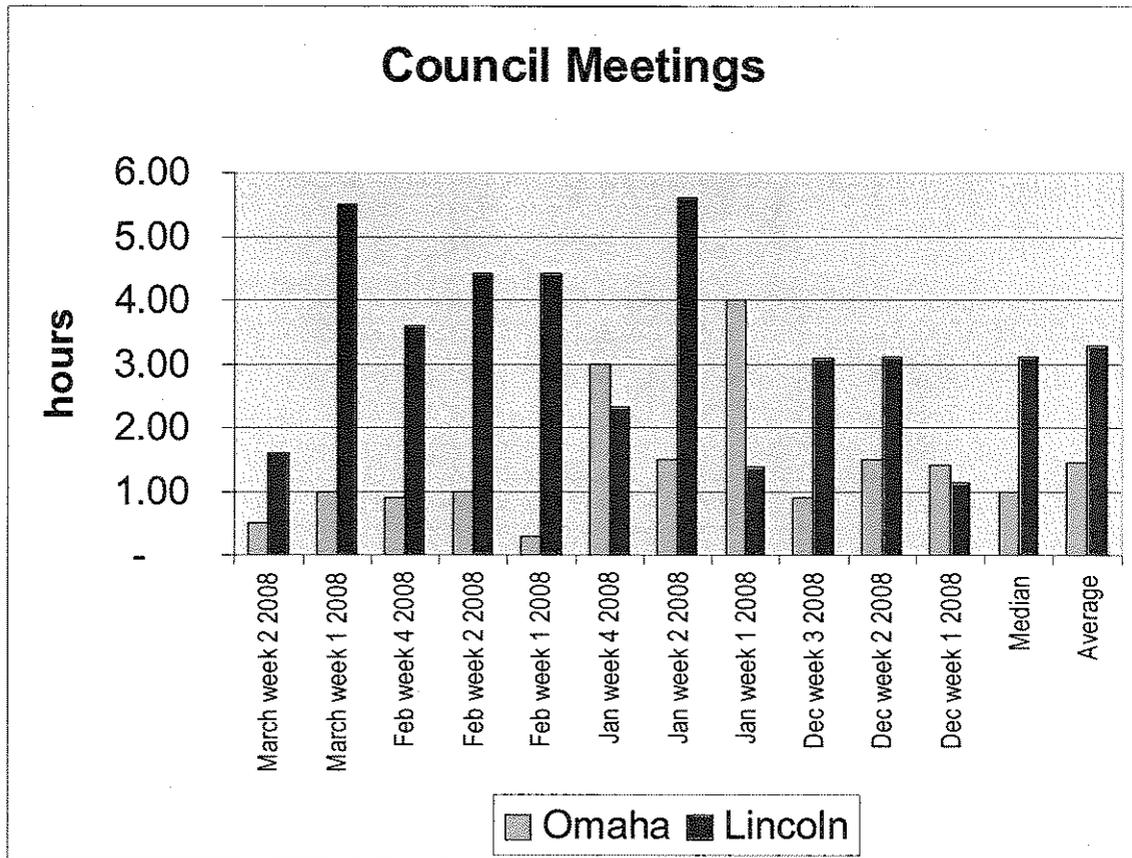
## **VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

See invitation list.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Marvin adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Mary Meyer  
Clerk



<i>Meeting date</i>	<i>Omaha</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>March week 2 2008</i>	0.50	1.60	1.10
<i>March week 1 2008</i>	1.00	5.50	4.50
<i>Feb week 4 2008</i>	0.90	3.58	2.68
<i>Feb week 2 2008</i>	1.00	4.40	3.40
<i>Feb week 1 2008</i>	0.30	4.42	4.12
<i>Jan week 4 2008</i>	3.00	2.32	(0.68)
<i>Jan week 2 2008</i>	1.50	5.58	4.08
<i>Jan week 1 2008</i>	4.00	1.38	(2.62)
<i>Dec week 3 2008</i>	0.90	3.08	2.18
<i>Dec week 2 2008</i>	1.50	3.10	1.60
<i>Dec week 1 2008</i>	1.40	1.13	(0.27)
<i>Median</i>	1.00	3.10	2.10
<i>Average</i>	1.45	3.28	1.83

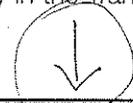
This is a comparison of the meeting length of the Omaha and Lincoln City Councils since December 2007. Lincoln's meetings have averaged about 1 hour and 45 minutes longer over that period of time.

## Regional Comparisons

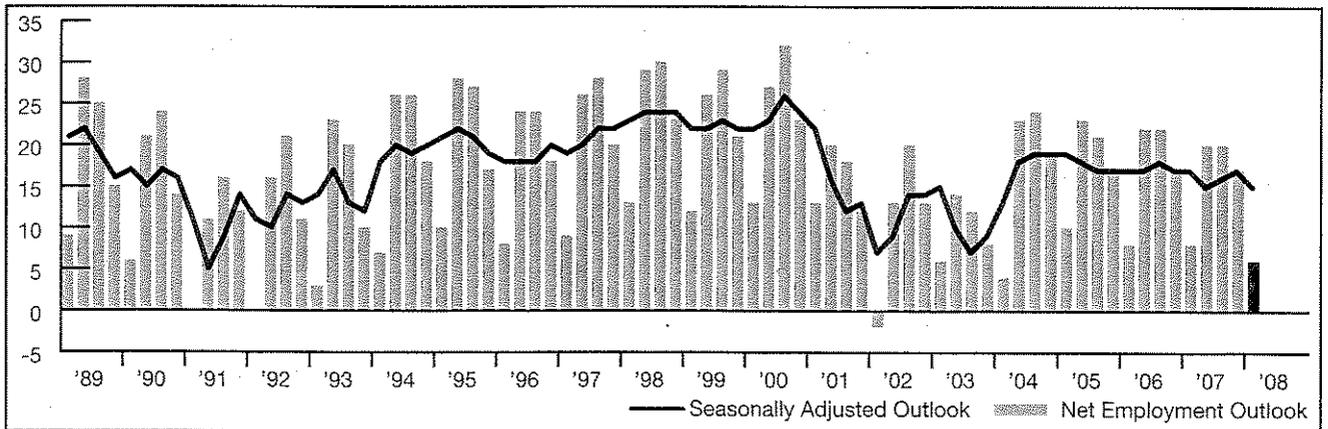
### Midwest +6 (15)%

Of the employers surveyed in the Midwest, 19% anticipate adding to their payrolls for the first quarter of 2008, and 13% expect to reduce headcount. This yields a Net Employment Outlook of +6%. On a seasonally adjusted basis, Midwest employers foresee a decrease in the hiring pace compared to Quarter 4 2007 and a year ago at this time.

In a quarter-over-quarter comparison, employers in seven of the 10 industry sectors surveyed report decreased hiring plans compared to Quarter 4 2007, including Construction, Public Administration, Durable and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate, Education and Services. Mining and Wholesale/Retail Trade employers expect little change in hiring pace, while the employment picture is expected to improve slightly in the Transportation/Public Utilities sector.



	Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Net Employment Outlook	Seasonally Adjusted
	%	%	%	%	%	%
All Industries	19	13	63	5	6	15
Construction	10	31	57	2	-21	3
Education	9	6	80	5	3	-7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	16	8	69	7	8	9
Manufacturing - Durables	22	14	58	6	8	13
Manufacturing - Non-Durables	18	9	67	6	9	15
Mining	0	0	100	0	0	5
Public Administration	10	11	73	6	-1	1
Services	22	9	65	4	13	17
Transportation & Public Utilities	22	7	64	7	15	17
Wholesale & Retail Trade	19	20	56	5	-1	19



The Midwest Region comprises the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.