I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL

PRESENTATIONS:
Urban Development.

MAYOR
1. Drinking water samples tested for Total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.
2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will announce the City’s road construction package for the American Recovery and Reinvestment (stimulus) Act, Tuesday, March 17th, 10:00 a.m., at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 3140 “N” Street.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler announces City road stimulus package.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Media invited to attend a Nebraska Task Force 1 (NETF-1) training exercise, Wednesday, March 18th, 9 am to 11 am at Capital Towing, 101 Charleston Street.

DIRECTORS:

LIBRARIES
1. Letter from Jeff Kirkpatrick, Library Board of Trustees Vice President, explaining why the Bethany and South Branch Libraries may be closed due to budget restraints.

PLANNING
1. Maps for annexation ordinances 19208 - 19214.
   a) Ordinance No. 19208, effective March 17, 2009;
   b) Ordinance No. 19209, effective March 17, 2009;
   c) Ordinance No. 19210, effective March 17, 2009;
   d) Ordinance No. 19211, effective March 17, 2009;
   e) Ordinance No. 19212, effective March 17, 2009;
   f) Ordinance No. 19213, effective March 17, 2009; and
   g) Ordinance No. 19214, effective March 17, 2009.

PUBLIC WORKS/ADMINISTRATION
1. Reply to Mark Hunzeker in regard to requesting creation of special assessment districts.
   a) Resolution No. A-74015.
PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING
1. Requested special assessment district for water main in NW 19th Street from Q Street north for approximately 370 feet.

III. COUNCIL RFI'S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

JONATHAN COOK
1. Letter from June Perry Levine. Vote to keep the South Street Branch Library open. Consider other suggestions for saving money and not closing.
2. Letter from Laura J. Bettey. When moving to Lincoln delighted to have the South Street Branch Library in close proximity. Do not close as it would be a shame for the neighborhood to lose this resource.

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
1. Letter from Nola Mayhew, resident at the Cotner Center and 81 years old, who enjoys walking to the Bethany Library for services. Do not close completely, possibly have open part-time.
2. Article from Governing Magazine. “Shedding Assets”. As the severe national recession takes its toll, states may put up ‘for sale’ signs on premium items.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
1. Email from Jane Vander Broek. Please keep funding available for the Lincoln Arts Council, and in particular the Lincoln Municipal Band.
2. Email from Larry Schwartz. Salt brine was not needed on Lincoln public streets March 12th and 13th.
3. Correspondence through InterLinc from Rhonda Lange. Concerns on bully dog breeds and would appreciate feedback on the current laws and any plans for further ordinances.
4. Email from Julia McQuillan. Do find a way to keep the South Lincoln Public Library and the Irvingdale Pool open. Keeping open is a great short and long term crime prevention strategy providing options for youth.
5. InterLinc correspondence from Nicole Effle. Please vote to save the South Branch and Bethany Libraries. Both are vital pieces of the community.
6. Email from Howard and Mavis Olson. Asking for continued financial support for the Lincoln Municipal Band. The loss of concerts would affect hundreds of citizens.
7. Letter from Mel Bancroft. Thank you for the open-mindedness of a challenging decision to vote for the Early Child Development Center on South 29th Street. Outline of Center given.
8. Email from Aldie Johnson. Do not cut funding to the City’s fine art programs such as neighborhood libraries and the Lincoln Municipal Band.
9. Email from Mary Moyer. Do not close the Bethany Library. Mickle Middle School students, including my granddaughter, are able to walk to this library and do so.
10. Letter from Leland and Kay Hiatt. Continue to support the Lincoln Arts Council who provide Band Concerts during the summer. A very positive approach to entertainment for people who cannot afford the high prices of the Lied Center entertainment.
11. Email from Laura Wagner. Consider all options before going the drastic route of closing any library branches. Have enjoyed using the Bethany Library since 1988.
12. Email from Marcella Shortt. Continue to fund the Lincoln Arts Council which assists the Lincoln Municipal Band concerts.
13. Letter from Don and Betty Eacker. Do not close the Bethany Library. Live approximately one and one-half blocks away and use the library services often. Also, the library delivers books to people who cannot leave the Cotner Center condos.

14. Letter from Bernice M. Boilesen. Do not close the Bethany and South Street Branch Libraries. Live in the Cotner Center and appreciate the convenience of a short distance to the Bethany Library, who also brings large print books to our facility. The Bethany Library has been serving Lincoln since the 1950's.

15. Email from Lucy Boden. Do not close the Bethany Library. Think of the families surrounding the area.

V. ADJOURNMENT
March 10, 2009

The Honorable Mayor and City Council

All of the drinking water samples were tested for Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.

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Respectfully,

Sandra Irons
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory
Lab Manager

enc.
DATE: March 16, 2009  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will announce the City's road construction package for the American Recovery and Reinvestment (stimulus) Act at a news conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 3140 “N” Street. Use the “O” Street entrance and park in the lot east of the building. The news conference will be in the Director's conference room on the second floor.
MAYOR ANNOUNCES CITY ROADS STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mayor Chris Beutler today said the City will use its share of federal stimulus road funds for the rehabilitation of arterial streets. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law in February provides $9.3 million in road funding for Lincoln. Beutler has directed the City Public Works and Utilities Department to add $6.9 million in local street funds for a combined package of $16 million. (A list of street projects follows this release.)

“We have arterial streets in desperate need of improvement in every corner of the City,” Beutler said. “These are the streets we drive everyday, and they are critical to our neighborhoods, our businesses and our future. Combining our local funds and the stimulus dollars will create jobs quickly, provide the most bang for the buck and make our streets smoother and safer.”

The Mayor said the federal and local funds will allow the City to rehabilitate 310 blocks of 25 arterial street segments. In contrast, he said, Lincoln has resurfaced only one arterial street segment of 22 blocks in the last five years due to tight budgets. The City estimates the projects will create or save hundreds of jobs.

Beutler said new road construction projects not on the stimulus list are very important, and the City will continue to seek state and federal funds for them. But he said many of those projects are not eligible for stimulus funding because the funds cannot be obligated within one year. “We need to focus on what we can do, and what we can do is fix the roads we already have,” he said. The Public Works and Utilities Department said the City can rehabilitate 7.8 miles of streets for the same cost as building one mile of new four-lane road.

The City uses a pavement management system to identify which streets are most in need of repair and the most appropriate means of extending the useful life of the streets. Mayor Beutler directed the Public Works and Utilities Department to update the data last summer.

“As a result, we have current information that puts us ahead of the curve in identifying which streets are the best candidates for rehabilitation,” he said. “My proposal to couple local and federal funds will allow us to address most of the roads rated as 'poor' or 'fair.'”

- more -
Beutler thanked U.S. Senator Ben Nelson for his role in negotiating a bi-partisan solution that resulted in a bill that will stimulate the economy. “We can create jobs while protecting the largest asset our City has – our billion-dollar investment in our City streets and roads.”

More information on the City's stimulus package is available on the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: stimulus).

- 30 -

Building Lincoln's Future: Road Improvements 2009-2010

*American Recovery & Reinvestment Act:* $9.3 million
*Arterial Rehabilitation Fund:* $6.9 million
*Total:* $16.2 million

♦ A St from 17th to 27th, 63rd to Imperial Drive
♦ Adams from I-180 to 14th, 57th to 62nd
♦ Cornhusker from Russell to 70th
♦ Holdrege from 19th to 25th, N 33rd to 47th, N 70th to N 79th

♦ Old Cheney from Salt Valley View to Hunts
♦ O St from 15th to 44th, Wedgewood to 84th
♦ P from 17th to 27th
♦ Pioneers Blvd from 32nd to 54th

♦ Saltillo Road from US 77 to 70th (Lancaster County selection)
♦ Sheridan from South to Calvert
♦ Van Dorn from 33rd to 48th, Normal to 70th
♦ Vine from 70th to Sierra
♦ Y from 18th to 27th

♦ NW 1st from Highland to Fletcher
♦ S 27th from Alpha to A
♦ N 33rd from P to Holdrege
♦ 40th & Superior bridge deck

♦ S 56th from South to Randolph
♦ N 70th from Adams to Vine

310 blocks of street improved. Since 2004, only 22 blocks of Lincoln streets have been improved.

NOTE: A portion of the Antelope Valley project will be paid for with the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act in order to free local funds to complete the list above.
The media are invited to attend a Nebraska Task Force 1 (NETF-1) training exercise from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 18 at the Capital Towing facility, 101 Charleston St. NETF-1, the Urban Search and Rescue Team based at Lincoln Fire and Rescue, will conduct the exercise on vehicle and machinery extrication in conjunction with Capital Towing. NETF-1 members from Lincoln Fire & Rescue and the Omaha Fire Department will participate in the exercise.

“This exercise provides rescue personnel advanced technical rescue skills,” said Assistant Fire Chief John Huff, Program Manager for Lincoln Fire and Rescue Urban Search and Rescue. “Learning these invaluable skills prepares them to respond to both local and national emergencies.”
BUDGET

Senate clears FY 2009 spending bill for the President. The Senate this week approved the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill that will fund government operations through September 30, 2009. The President quickly signed the bill into law, ending a seemingly endless dance five months behind schedule at the same time that the White House and Congress are beginning the FY 2010 budget process.

The omnibus bill represented the first opportunity for the Obama Administration to address earmarking, in which Members of Congress direct federal spending in annual appropriations bills to specific projects in their districts. While only representing a fraction (less than 2 percent) of the annual federal budget, the practice has been under increasing scrutiny by those who believe that many of the projects funded are unworthy of federal assistance. While a candidate, President Obama pledged to curb earmarking, but decided to sign the “imperfect” FY 2009 budget bill containing projects, choosing to avoid a protracted fight with Congress so everyone could move on with the FY 2010 budget process.

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The President also indicated he would direct agencies to conduct competitive bidding for earmarks for to private companies but did not elaborate as to how that would work. In addition, he threatened to highlight earmarks considered inappropriate by asking Congress to revoke funding for such projects in what is called a “rescissions” package.

While it is unclear whether all of the President’s proposals would be enforced, it is clear that congressional Democratic leaders will be asking for increased disclosure and transparency in the earmarking system. The number of earmarks and their overall pricetag is also expected to decline, although disputes over what actually constitutes an earmark will make proving such pronouncements difficult.

CLEAN WATER

House approves wastewater infrastructure bill. By a vote of 312-101, the House passed legislation (HR 1262) that would authorize $18.8 billion through FY 2014 for wastewater infrastructure assistance to state and local governments. The bill also includes a provision, dubbed the Sewer Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act that would require sewer agencies to notify the public and regulators of all sanitary and combine sewer overflows. (See last week’s Washington Report for a detailed description of the bill.)

During floor debate, the House approved a manager’s amendment offered by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) that would:
- Authorize $100 million a year for pilot grants for “green technology” projects to control and mitigate stormwater runoff;
- Increase transparency and accountability for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program;
- Make construction of energy-efficient or renewable energy generation technologies at wastewater treatment plants eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funding;
- Set aside 20 percent of all funds for combined and sanitary sewer overflow grants authorized by the bill for “green infrastructure” projects, and
- Authorize an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study of pharmaceutical and personal care products in American waters.

The House also unanimously approved an amendment offered by Rep. Candace Miller (R-MI) that would direct the EPA to convene a task force to develop recommendations on the proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals and a strategy to educate the public on those recommendations.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has indicated an interest in taking up wastewater infrastructure legislation but has not committed to a timeline or to specific policy proposals.

**NATIONAL SERVICE**

House panel clears expansion bill for community service programs. By a vote of 34-3, the House Education and Labor Committee approved legislation (HR 1388) that would reauthorize and expand federally-supported national and community service programs.

The bill would authorize $479 million in FY 2010 and “such sums as may be necessary” for FY 2011 through FY 2015 for AmeriCorps and other national and community service programs run by the Corporation for National and Community Service, with a goal of increasing the number of program participants from 75,000 to 250,000. The bill would also increase the education benefit for college-aged program participants to $5,350, the same as a Pell Grant, and would peg future benefit levels to the size of the Pell Grant.

In addition to increased education benefits for college-aged volunteers, the bill would also authorize $500 education awards to encourage middle and high school students to participate in a new Summer of Service Program and would establish Youth Engagement Zones to engage high school students and out-of-school youth in learning-based community service in low-income neighborhood and other high-need neighborhoods.

HR 1388 would also create four new service corps that would focus on specific issues in low-income communities: Clean Energy Corps, Education Corps, Healthy Futures Corps and Veterans Service Corps.

As cleared by the Committee, the bill also includes a Social Innovation Fund that would provide seed money to individuals and nonprofit organizations that are developing innovative programs to address social problems. HR 1388 would also create three new programs, ServeAmerica Fellowships, Silver Scholarships and Encore Scholarships, to help people nearing retirement transition to new “careers” in community service.

The House will consider HR 1388 next week. President Obama has asked Congress quickly send him a bill to expand community service programs.

**ENVIRONMENT**

EPA releases proposed rule to impose reporting requirements on greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposed rule this week that would create a new national reporting system for industrial facilities that annually emit more than 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gases.

The agency estimates that the new rule would apply to approximately 13,000 sources over a wide range of sectors, including some landfills under the purview of local governments. Those sources are responsible for 85 to 90 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in the United States, according to EPA.

The 25,000 ton reporting threshold in the rule is the equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of 4,500 passenger vehicles. EPA believes that most small businesses would be exempt from the rule, but energy intensive sectors such as cement, iron, and steel production, as well as electricity generation, are likely to fall under the rule. Other sources include food production, petroleum refineries, coal suppliers and wastewater treatment at industrial facilities.

In the area of local government, landfills are included as a source covered under the rule. A brief EPA guide on the reporting rule and what it means to state and local governments can be found at: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads/GuideStateLocalAgencies.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads/GuideStateLocalAgencies.pdf)

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for 60 days after its publication in the Federal Register. A pre-publication copy of the proposed rule is available on the EPA website here: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html)

**TRANSPORTATION**

Bill to reduce greenhouse gases in transportation sector introduced. Last week, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced the “Clean, Low-Emission, Affordable, New Transportation Efficiency Act,” or “CLEAN TEA” (HR 1329), along with Reps. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) and Steven LaTourette (R-OH). According to Rep. Blumenauer, the bill is designed to help local and regional entities establish programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

HR 1329 would establish a new Low Greenhouse Gas Transportation Fund, which would receive 10 percent of any revenue resulting from the auction of emission allowances by the federal government. Emission auctions are a key part of the Obama Administration efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the United States.
Funds under this new program would be distributed via a formula to be developed by the Department of Transportation. States and eligible regional and local entities would be required to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation over a 10-year period, with the goal of increasing mobility options, reducing the number of miles traveled by motor vehicle, and reducing the use of petroleum-based fuel.

The types of projects eligible for these funds would include transit projects, intercity passenger rail, sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle paths, greenways, pedestrian signals, pavement marking, traffic calming, freight rail capacity, carpools, vanpools, congestion pricing, telecommuting incentives, intelligent transportation systems, and any other project certified by the program Administrator. The federal share of each project would be 80 percent.

HR 1329 has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where it is pending. No word has been given by Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) exactly when the Committee will consider the CLEAN TEA bill, but some form of it will likely be included in the transportation reauthorization bill that is expected to be reported out of the transportation committee in May.

STIMULUS WATCH
Weekly update on stimulus activities. An array of further details regarding available funding through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Department of Agriculture
The Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its first actions implementing the $28 billion provided by ARRA. See the press release at: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?u=ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_I0B?cotentidonly=true&contentid=2009/03/0051.xml.

Department of Commerce


Department of Energy
State allocations for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP): http://www.energy.gov/recovery/index.htm.

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Audio conference regarding how Emergency Shelter Grant funding can be used: http://www.endhomelessness.org/
Materials it discusses can be found at: http://www.endhomelessness.org/section /tools/prevention/.

Department of Justice


Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Training and Technical Assistance Grants:
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opplid=45873

Internet Crimes Against Children Research Grants:
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opplid=45879

National Internet Crimes Against Children Data System (NIDS):
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opplid=45882

Washington Report

Environmental Protection Agency
Brownfields Job Training Grants announcement: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/eparecovery/

Department of Transportation

Corporation for National and Community Service
Grant notice for the AmeriCorps State and National Recovery Act Assistance. Only current grantees of AmeriCorps programs are eligible to apply: http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/recovery/index.asp

GRANTS AND NOTICES

Department of Interior
The National Park Service announced availability of $10 million for Save America’s Treasures. These grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and collections and on nationally significant historic properties. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a 100 percent non-Federal match. Eligible applicants include federal, state, local, and tribal government entities, and nonprofit organizations. The deadline for applications is May 22, 2009. The full grant announcement is at: http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm
March 18, 2009

The Honorable Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln
555 So. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE  68508

Dear Mayor Beutler:

People love their local libraries. The public outcry in response to our forwarding a budget in which Bethany and South Branch Libraries are not included in the base budget is testimony to people’s attachment to their libraries.

Nationwide and locally, people are needing and using public libraries more due to the economic downturn. Ironically, that downturn is also responsible for our difficult task of shaping a library budget at a level of 91% of our current fiscal year’s budget.

The Lincoln City Libraries cannot absorb a budget cut of this magnitude and continue to provide library service at the level that Lincoln has come to expect.

In our conversations with concerned citizens, we have tried to convey that our proposed budget is not a reflection of our sense of the value of Bethany and South Branch Libraries. These libraries are well used; they are loved by their neighborhoods.

In crafting this budget, we kept the health of our overall library system in mind. We focused on choices that least restricted customer access to libraries. For years the libraries have run very efficiently on a tight budget. In meeting previous years’ budget cuts, we made many choices that created savings with the least amount of customer impact. At a 91% budgetary level, there seemed no choice but to propose closing libraries. We understand that this would be a significant loss and we made this choice reluctantly. It is disappointing to offer a base budget that reduces the level of services we have been able to offer for a number of years.
Mayor Chris Beutler  
March 18, 2009  
Page 2

We recognize that the city is facing a most difficult budget situation. As our budget document indicates, our first priority if additional funding becomes available is service at Bethany and South Branch Libraries. If such funding allows those libraries to be open in the new fiscal year, we will greatly appreciate that. We know that our library customers will also be happy.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kirkpatrick, Vice President  
Library Board of Trustees

cc: Lincoln City Council
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19208
Effective: March 17, 2009
105.4 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19209
Effective: March 17, 2009
22.2 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19210
Effective: March 17, 2009
145.2 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19211
Effective: March 17, 2009
117 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19212
Effective: March 17, 2009
32.2 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19213
Effective: March 17, 2009
6.8 Acres
Annexation by Ordinance
Ordinance No. 19214
Effective: March 17, 2009
133.8 Acres
Dear Mark:

Public Works and Utilities has had on-going informal discussions with Civil Design Group regarding this project over the last several months, including the time between the request for the formation of districts and the time of the official request from the City Council coming to Public Works and Utilities. Upon receipt of the official request from the City Council to form the six assessment districts, Public Works and Utilities initiated a meeting with Civil Design to begin the formal process. All of these discussions have acknowledged that the proposed designs and estimates are at the "concept level," and need to be further developed. City staff has met internally to review the layouts and to further evaluate the proposed districts. Listed below are items that we need additional information or clarification on.

1. The proposed water mains are shown located on private property. As you are aware, this is not a customary practice, so we need to evaluate if and how this can be accommodated.

2. Additional water mains will be needed to loop the systems to adequately serve Districts #1 and #5.

3. The proposed water districts located north of Arbor Road will technically be served by the 16-inch water main that is now under contract. Properties abutting this future main will have service without needing an assessment district. We are investigating the most appropriate way to serve the condominiums located on these properties.

4. Based upon staff review it may be beneficial to reduce the number of districts from five water districts to three, combining #1 & #5 and #3 & #4.

5. It is unlikely that all necessary easements will be donated. Until the City has secured written commitments for all necessary lands to construct the mains, we must assume a cost for acquiring the necessary easements. These assumed costs will increase the overall project costs.

6. Informing and gaining property owner concurrence as to their cost liabilities in advance of creating the districts is critical in assuring a successful project. Written concurrence from benefitted property owners will help sell the project to adjacent property owners and the City Council. Accurate cost projections for each ownership interest and confirmation of that property owners support will aid the process.

7. We are concerned with legal aspects of utilizing an "area assessment" method due to the condo regimes within the various proposed districts. We are currently working with the City Law Department to determine which is the most appropriate assessment method to protect both the developer and the City of Lincoln.

I can assure you that considerable effort by Public Works and Utilities has
been given to expanding service to the N.56th and I-80 Redevelopment area. The requested districts represent a complex process. In the past, even much simpler proposed assessment districts have been unsuccessful due to a lack of support from all the affected property owners, which resulted in the City Council not ordering the districts.

Notwithstanding all of these concerns, which have not been fully resolved, Public Works and Utilities is prepared to call a meeting of the SAR Committee to move this process ahead immediately. The SAR is currently scheduled to meet on March 25th to consider this request per Resolution No. A-74015 (see attached) and to allow some time if you have additional information you would like for us to consider. Please submit any additional information or clarifications no later than Monday, March 23, 2009, so the SAR Committee can take your information into consideration. The SAR Committee will consider all information on hand at that time and forward a formal recommendation to City Council for consideration.

Greg MacLean
Director of Public Works and Utilities

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark A. Hunzeker [mailto:MHunzeker@baylorevnen.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 12:17 PM
To: Jon Camp; Jonathan A Cook; Doug Emery; John Spatz; Ken Svoboda; Robin Eschliman; Dan K Marvin; Robin S Eschliman
Cc: Don W. Taute; Greg S. MacLean; Marvin S. Krout; Steve Masters; Trish A. Owen
Subject: Re: Letter of 12-24-08 Requesting Creation of Special Assessment Districts

Robin:

All these questions have been previously asked and answered. Moreover, Greg and several of his staff who have been involved in umpteen meetings on this subject all have my phone number and email address if there are truly unanswered questions of this nature. If we need to bring a crowd of property owners who have been trying for 15 years to get these utilities to their property (and been thwarted at every turn by this kind of bureaucratic rehashing of every issue) to an open mike session at the council, we can.

There is no requirement for "petitions" for sewer and water districts, so the question of "who supports and who doesn't" is not as relevant as it is for a paving district. You might recall that other than one homeowner who lives on a five acre parcel, surrounded by commercial development, there has been no opposition to any of the Comp Plan amendments, annexation, blight designation, redevelopment plan, or anything else that has been proposed with the goal of getting city services to this area. Property owners in the area have all been invited to attend multiple meetings where the agenda was to keep them informed, and to give them opportunities to comment or object. Other than the one homeowner, there has been no objection to the direction we have been pursuing. One commercial owner has been on again, off again, but has not presented serious opposition at any point. We are very confident that support for these districts will be overwhelming.

Again, Public Works has had my letter requesting the districts since before the first of the year. The letter was done AFTER at least two meetings with them in which these very issues were discussed. To have these issues being recycled through you as an excuse for over 10 weeks of inaction is
frustrating, to say the least. I know, and Greg MacLean knows, that you and the rest of the city council have not been involved in those meetings, and have no reason to think these aren't issues which are new. I appreciate your attempt to follow up. I would appreciate more a straightforward attempt by Public Works to get out of the way and help these landowners get utility services, help provide "shovel ready" commercial and industrial sites near the I-80/Hwy77 interchange, and help support higher land values to provide more tax increment to pay for the trunk sewer, street improvements, and other improvements per the Redevelopment Plan approved in 2006.

How many times does the City Council have to express its approval of encouraging development in this area before we can actually get moving?

Mark

>>> "Robin Eschliman" <robine@neb.rr.com> 3/11/2009 11:25 AM >>>
Mark: Greg MacLean is working with me to get you some answers. Greg has confirmed that the formal referral went through a week or two ago.

One thing that would be helpful would be to get a written list of property owners whom you represent and who support this project. It would be helpful to know who in the area has been notified and who hasn't, who is on board, who is not, and who doesn't know about, this requested S.A.D.

Public Works and Planning are in the process of formulating additional questions for you. Some of the questions may or may not be: What about condo access, where will the mains go, what about easements, will there be plat adjustments. However, they are not done with their list of questions and Greg will be getting those for you.

Robin Eschliman
Council Chair

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Mark A. Hunzeker" <MHunzeker@baylorevnen.com>
To: "Jon Camp" <jcampcc@aol.com>; "Jonathan Cook" <jcook@ci.lincoln.ne.us>; "Doug Emery" <demery@lincoln.ne.gov>; "John Spatz" <jspatz@lincoln.ne.gov>; "Ken Svoboda" <ksvoboda@lincoln.ne.gov>; "Robin Eschliman" <reschliman@lincoln.ne.gov>; "Dan Marvin" <dmartin@neb.rr.com>
Cc: <DTaute@ci.lincoln.ne.us>; <GMacLean@ci.lincoln.ne.us>; <MKrout@ci.lincoln.ne.us>; <SMasters@ci.lincoln.ne.us>; "Trish Owen" <TOWen@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 4:29 PM
Subject: Letter of 12-24-08 Requesting Creation of Special Assessment Districts

Dear Robin and Council Members:

Today I received another phone call from a landowner in the area of N56th & I-80. He has had a serious buyer asking when we could expect to get water and sewer service to his land. It has been two weeks since the last correspondence on this issue, which I presume has resulted in a formal referral of our district request to the public works department.

Could someone at least prevail upon the public works department to communicate with me on this subject, so that I can give my client an answer other than "I
haven't heard anything"? Is it possible that things are so hectic at public works that this matter of getting sewer and water to a major interstate interchange can keep getting shuffled to the bottom of the pile?

Mark
RESOLUTION NO. A-74015

WHEREAS, the City of Lincoln has previously found it necessary and desirable to limit the type and number of public improvements funded through utilization of the special assessment revolving fund by the creation of assessment districts and the levy of special assessments against benefitted properties included within such districts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has previously established criteria for the purpose of selecting, through an equitable method, those public improvements proposed to be constructed through the creation of special assessment districts in such a manner as to give preference to those public improvements which are most necessary and which further the established growth policies of the City of Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to formally establish a review committee whose responsibility it shall be to apply such criteria to proposed special assessment districts, to simplify the method through which the determinations of such committee are reported to the City Council, and to reestablish the criteria to be utilized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska:

There is hereby established a committee to be known as the Special Assessment Revolving Fund Review Committee. The committee shall consist of the Public Works Director, the Planning Director, the Transportation Director, and the Finance Director, each of whom shall be ex officio members of the committee, and the Mayor or his representative. It shall be the responsibility of the Public Works Director or his authorized representative to accept requests for the construction of public improvements through the creation of
special assessment districts or units and the Public Works Director or his authorized representative shall apply to each such request the criteria as hereinafter established. The committee shall meet when requested by the Public Works Director for the purpose of reviewing all current requests for the creation of special assessment districts or units and for review of their ranking according to the sum of the priority points provided to each request under the hereinafter established criteria. The committee shall consider the then available funds in the special assessment revolving fund and, by applying the priority point assigned to each proposed project and giving consideration to other relevant circumstances regarding the proposed project, shall make recommendations to the City Council as to whether or not the proposed special assessment district should or should not be created. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the City Council as part of the information provided to the Council with the ordinance or resolution proposing the creation of such special assessment district or unit as the case may be.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby established the following point system for determining priority of funding for proposed special assessment districts or units. Each project shall be ranked according to the sum of the priority points for which it qualifies. Priority points shall be assigned in the following manner:

1. (7 points) Projects partially funded by Community Development Block Grant Funds. This shall be applied to neighborhood improvement districts to provide initial street paving in target neighborhoods and to sidewalk districts or other improvements approved by the City Council.

2. (7 points) Projects partially funded by government sources other than special assessment and Community Development Block Grant Funds, but
not including storm sewers. This is intended for those districts which
receive a city subsidy or federal aid contribution.

3. (7 points) Projects in areas where other improvements are
already installed or contracted for except paving in industrial areas, orna-
mental street lighting, or repaving districts. This shall be applicable,
generally, to a sidewalk district or paving district if the abutting property
is adequately served by existing sanitary sewer, water and storm sewer mains,
but could apply to a proposed sanitary sewer or water district if all other
utilities, required for the issuance of a building permit, are in place.

4. (7 points) Districts with estimated total construction costs
of more than $30,000, with certification that the owners of 75% of the in-
volved frontage have no delinquent special assessments against that property
or any other property in which they have 25% or more equity.

5. (7, 3 or 1 points) The owner pays a percentage of the costs in
advance on single districts. Seven points shall be awarded for payment of 50%
or more of the project costs, three points shall be awarded for payment of
25%-49% of the project costs, and one point shall be awarded for payment of
15%-24% of the total estimated special assessment costs.

6. (7 points) Water and sewer districts within which the peti-
tioner installs paving through his own financing, by executive order.

7. (7 points) Commercial or industrial building developments that
expand the city's economic base. This shall apply to any district, except
ornamental lighting or repaving districts, which would include, within its
limit, any commercially or industrially zoned property for which a building
permit has been requested.

8. (7 points) Projects that promote growth in compliance with the
Comprehensive Plan future urban area.
9. (7 or 3 points) Water, sewer, paving or sidewalk districts which will improve an existing health, safety and general welfare problem. Points shall be awarded as follows:

Water Districts: Seven points if non-abutting service supplying more than one structure needs replacement; three points for a new structure to eliminate the need for non-abutting service.

Sewer Districts: Seven points if a malfunctioning septic system can be eliminated, or to eliminate a non-abutting service in need of replacement; three points shall be awarded for a new structure to obviate the need for a non-abutting service.

Paving and Repaving Districts: Seven points shall be awarded only if a sight distance problem or other traffic hazard along an arterial street will be eliminated.

Sidewalk Districts: Seven points shall be awarded to each of the five highest priority projects on the Sidewalk Priority list as approved by the City Council. The next five sidewalk projects (priorities 6 through 10) would receive three points each. As projects are removed from the list, the other project priorities will be adjusted accordingly.

10. (7 points) Projects with estimates of construction costs of $30,000 or less.

11. (7 points) Affordable Housing Developments (AHD). Affordable housing developments complying with the following specifications and conditions:

   a. **Average Lot Size** -- The overall average lot size of each approved affordable housing development shall not exceed 6,500 square feet per lot. This averaging technique would allow for the creation of larger lots when special circumstances dictate (such as corner lots, or lots having unique buffering requirements), while keeping the
entire development's density at a level that could enhance lot
affordability.

b. **Average Lot Price** — The overall average initial lot price for each
approved affordable housing development could not exceed two (2.00)
times the value of the average per lot special assessment district
rate, or $8,500, whichever is greater, but in no case exceed $10,000
(i.e., two times $5,000), plus the special assessment district
interest accrued after the assessment of the district but prior to
the sale of the individual lot. (This standard assumes that paving,
sanitary sewer, water, and lighting are all included in the district's
cost calculation.) *SEE ATTACHMENT "A"

c. **Number of Dwelling Units Within Each Affordable Housing Development** —
The number of dwelling units contained within each approved afford-
able housing development shall be at least 12 dwelling units but no
more than 300 dwelling units. This assumes that only single family,
duplex, and townhouse style units would be allowed, with each
dwelling unit constructed on its own lot.

d. **Number of Lots and Dwelling Units Allowed in Final Plat** — The
maximum number of lots and dwelling units that could be approved for
any single phase of an affordable housing development shall be 60
lots with their accompanying dwelling units.

e. **Minimum Distance Between Affordable Housing Developments** — A
minimum distance of 2,000 feet shall be required between all afford-
able housing developments to encourage their distribution throughout
the community.

f. **Payment of Special Assessments Prior to Approval of Subsequent
Phases** — No subsequent phase of an affordable housing development
shall be approved by City Council prior to the payment of a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the total amount of the special assessments outstanding on prior phases.

g. Payment of Special Assessments at Time of First Sale -- The full amount of special assessments plus applicable interest for each lot shall be paid upon the first sale of that lot.

h. Time Period for Initiation of Construction -- A request for a footings inspection shall be submitted to the City by the property owner no later than 300 days from the date of the initial purchase of a lot in an affordable housing development. This stipulation is designed to encourage the timely construction of affordable housing.

i. Lot Consolidation -- All dwelling units shall be built on individual lots as initially platted. This standard is intended in part to prohibit the combining of two or more lots into a single larger lot for the purpose of constructing a larger residence.

* - SEE ATTACHMENT "B"

12. (3 points) Projects within the built-up areas of the city.

13. (3 points) The development provides for housing for the elderly, handicapped, or low income.

14. (3 points) The development provides for conservation of energy through Community Unit Plan bonuses.

15. (3 points) Sidewalk systems which the Council has ordered constructed and in which 50% of the owners have complied.

Notwithstanding the priority attributable to a particular project by virtue of the numerical value assigned to it by application of the above-referenced point system, the City Council may order the creation of an assessment district and approve the construction thereof when, in the opinion of the
City Council, such construction is necessary to safeguard the safety and
welfare of the citizens of the city.

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 72063 be and the
same is hereby superseded by this resolution.

Introduced by:

Approved as to Form & Legality:

City Attorney

Staff Review Completed:

Administrative Assistant


Johanns moved to amend Bill 91R-39 at
Page 5, Sub-paragraph b, by adding the
following: "The developer shall submit to
the Special Assessments Revolving Fund Committee
a financial pro forma for the development showing
that cost savings resulting from the use of
Special Assessment Funding will flow to the
homeowners."

Seconded by Gutgsell and carried by the
following vote: AYES: Gutgsell, Hempel, Johanns,
Seng, Wilson; NAYS: None; ABSENT: Haar, Minnick.

Gutgsell moved to amend Bill 91R-39 at Page 6 by
adding a Sub-paragraph "j." to read as follows:
"j. Maximum Special Assessment Funding --
No more than $1,000,000.00 Special
Assessment Revolving Fund money shall
be devoted to affordable housing develop-
ments at any one time."

Seconded by Johanns and carried by the
following vote: AYES: Gutgsell, Hempel, Johanns,
Seng, Wilson; NAYS: None; ABSENT: Haar, Minnick.

Adopted as Amended by the following vote:
AYES: Gutgsell, Hempel, Johanns, Seng,
Wilson; NAYS: None; ABSENT: Haar, Minnick.

APPROVED
FEB 25, 1991
MAYOR

ADOPTED
FEB 19 1991
By City Council
Revising the criteria for determining the priority to be assigned to requests for special priority points to "affordable housing developments."
ATTACHMENT A

PAGE 5, Add to Sub-Paragraph b.:

The developer shall submit to the Special Assessments Revolving Fund Committee a financial pro forma for the development showing that cost savings resulting from the use of Special Assessment Funding will flow to the homeowners.
"j. Maximum Special Assessment Funding -- No more than $1,000,000.00 Special Assessment Revolving Fund money shall be devoted to affordable housing developments at any one time."
March 11, 2009

City Council Representatives
555 S.10th St. Suite 208
Lincoln, Ne 68508

RE: Requested Special Assessment District for Water main in NW 19th Street from “Q” Street north for approximately 370-feet

Dear Council Representatives:

The Public Works & Utilities Department has received a request for a water main to be constructed under a Special Assessment District. The property owner requesting this district will benefit from the water main abutting the property and is willing to pay for their assessed amount.

We are requesting a pre-council meeting to review the area in question with you, prior to the public hearing for the following reasons:

- The area that will be benefitting from the water main has been before council in previous years and was denied based on other property owner opposition to the proposed assessments.
- Because of the previous denial, the petitioner has requested a shortened water main length as an alternative for providing service to the property.
- The Public Works & Utilities Department would like to discuss cost savings and potential conflict avoidance by maintaining the larger assessment district, rather than the special construction requested at this time.

Please advise on the route you would like to go and we will provide the necessary means for review. If you have any questions please call me at 441-7711.

Sincerely,

Elmer Cole
Project Manager/Special Assessment Manager
Public Works, Engineering Services

cc: Greg MacLean
    Roger Figard
    Holly Lionberger,
    File
March 12, '09

Dear Councilman Cook,

I am writing to urge you to vote in support of the South Street Branch Library, which has served so many families over the years—including my own.

Other money-saving plans are possible—such as closing each library for a day a week. There is no sound reason why a small branch library which does
an entire city neighborhood. So well fixed so many years should be sacrificed to problems of
judging.

I hope that you will agree with me about this matter.

I have respected your service and admired your judgment during your time in office.

Sincerely yours,

June Levene
Dear Mr. Cook,

My name is Laura Betty of 2418 Calumet Ct. I am writing with regard to the closure of the South Street Library Branch.

When my husband and I moved here four years ago we were delighted to have such a nice facility in close proximity to our home. My family has used the library as a quiet place to study, read, or complete paperwork and our children’s preschool attends story time there on Wednesday afternoons. I anticipate that our family will utilize the branch more and more as the kids grow up.

I urge the council to reconsider their move to close this library. It would be a shame for the neighborhood to lose such a resource. Respectfully,

Laura Betty
Robin Eschliman, Chair
Lincoln City Council
County City Building
555 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

In regards to closing Bethany Library, I would be pleased with it being open part time. I'm 81 years old and I enjoy reading. I live at Lot Mane Condominiums. Makes a nice walk to the Bethany Library.

Thank you,

Nola Mayke
1540 N. Lotner Blvd. #114
Lincoln, Ne. 68505

The # 466-0888

RECEIVED
MAR 1 3 2009
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

Nola Mayke
1540 N. Lotner Blvd. #114
Lincoln, Ne. 68505

LINCOLN NE 68505
12 MAR 1 4:00 PM 2 T

RECEIVED
MAR 1 3 2009
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

Robin Eschliman, Chair
Lincoln City Council
County City Building
555 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, Ne. 68508
Shedding Assets
As the severe national recession takes its toll, states may put up 'for sale' signs on premium items.

The bleak fiscal picture for states is turning into an alarming one. Midway through the fiscal year, more than 40 states faced—or are still facing—shortfalls in their current budgets. For most of them, next year is likely to be the same or worse.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that the combined budget gaps for the remainder of this fiscal year and years 2010 and 2011 will be more than $350 billion. In the current fiscal year, more than half the states already have cut spending, used reserves or raised revenues to pull their budgets into balance—and still the shortfalls keep piling up.

While states await help from President Barack Obama’s fiscal stimulus plan, they are looking at less traditional ways to raise money to plug the holes in their budgets. As in Chicago before them (see page 44), one idea that is surfacing in an increasing number of states is turning assets into cash by selling or leasing them.

Some Minnesota lawmakers are pushing to privatize the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the state lottery. One legislator estimated an airport deal could bring in $2.5 billion and the lottery $500 million. Those aren’t the state’s only premium assets that could be put up for grabs. There is a first-rate golf resort, an amateur sports complex, a major zoo and a lot of land.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts has held hearings about the possibility of finding a private partner for the Massachusetts Turnpike. Such a deal would help defray Big Dig debt and also save the state highway operating costs.

In New York, Governor David Paterson has appointed a commission to look into leasing state assets. Topping that list: the impressive Tappan Zee Bridge, which sits north of New York City and leads drivers across the Hudson River. Also on the list of possible sale items: the state lottery, golf courses, toll roads, parks and beaches.

Vermont, which prides itself on its historic preservation and the tourism it brings to the state, may put for-sale signs on some of its historic sites. It is far from a done deal, but a memo written in October by Jim Saudade, the deputy secretary of the state’s Agency of Commerce and Community Development, laid out several approaches to saving or earning money, one of them being a move to sell or lease some of the sites. “All around state government,” Saudade said recently, “there are memorandums like this.”

Such ideas may, however, not be instant successes. In December, Florida tried to sell its famed Alligator Alley, a major east-west highway that not only gives drivers occasional views of alligators lolling along waterways but also takes them past the wilderness of Big Cypress Swamp. The state’s Department of Transportation did not receive any bids for the highway. With next year’s budget deficit estimated at 23 percent of Florida’s general fund, the DOT is likely to take Alligator Alley into the market again.

—Penelope Lemov

Will New York’s Tappan Zee Bridge be up for sale?
Please keep the funding available for the Lincoln Arts Council, and in particular the Lincoln Municipal Band. It is one of those things that makes Lincoln a wonderful place to live. The amount of money they have received in the last 6 years is unbelievably low, and I feel they should continue to receive at least that much and in fact, should be increased substantially. Right now, the band receives less than 4 cents a year per citizen.

Jane Vander Broek
6511 Shenandoah Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-730-2102 cell
402-488-8288 home

Worried about job security? Check out the 5 safest jobs in a recession.
Council Members

I would like to express my disgust over the decision of head of public works, Greg MacLean to spray all that salt brine on the Lincoln public streets on March 12 & 13, 2009. Myself and many others as residents of Lincoln think that this was a gross waste of (tax payer) city funds, labor and unneeded wear & tear on city equipment. The slight chance of moisture over the weekend was removed from the forecast in plenty of time to avoid the application of salt brine. If Mr. MacLean, was so worried about frost on bridges that is all that would have needed a coating of brine. I spoke with numerous co workers on Friday, who drive of 20 to 40 miles daily to work in Lincoln. They saw no ice or frost on Thursday or Friday morning. Additionally, the pollution, dry salt dust in the air and corrosive damage he caused to personal vehicles during this exploit is also a price that must be considered. Please address this issue so that tax payer dollars are not used for needless activities.

Thank You

Larry Schwartz
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name:     Rhonda Lange
Address:  15720 N. 1st
City:     Raymond, Nebraska 68428
Phone:    402 785-2446
Fax:
Email:    blange@futuretk.com

Comment or Question:
Dear General Council members:

I have some concerns and questions about the laws in Lincoln that govern certain "bully" breeds of dogs such as Pit Bulls. Evidently, Omaha has changed the law about these breeds because there have been many of these dogs available on various classifieds such as Craigslist. Also, these ads have referred to new ordinances regarding these dogs. My concern is that if Lincoln does not have any laws regarding these dogs, that there could be a large influx of these dogs to the area related to this new ordinance. We live near Raymond, Nebraska, but we do most of our social activities, shopping, etc with our children in Lincoln and are very concerned about these animals. I would very much appreciate any feedback that anyone has about the current laws in place and any plans for further ordinances regarding these dogs.

Thanks,

Rhonda Lange 402 785-2446.
Dear City Council Members,
I'm writing to urge you to find a way to keep the South Lincoln Public Library and the Irvingdale Pool open. I understand that these are times that require difficult choices. I also know that crime and public safety are issues that citizens of Lincoln are quite concerned about. Rather than close these two facilities, it seems to me that this is a time that requires greater investment in crime prevention. Making public spaces available for youth - particularly low income youth with few options - is a great short and long term crime prevention strategy. I hope that you can find a way to maintain these important community resources.
Sincerely,
Julia McQuillan

1935 Sewell St
Lincoln, NE 68502

dmcquillan2@unl.edu
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Nicole Effle
Address: 1531 Salida Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-261-3037
Fax:
Email: nicole.effle@us.army.mil

Comment or Question:
PLEASE vote to save the South and Bethany Branch libraries. These branches are vital pieces of the communities in which they reside. They provide a free meeting location, access to a plethora of services and encourage a sense of community for those who use them. My son attends Westminster Presbyterian Preschool and the children look forward to field trips to the library to attend summer reading activities and encourage their love of reading. For some families having access to a library within walking distance is the only way their family can get books, have internet access, search for jobs, do homework, and have a safe, cost effective outing for their families. These small branches are the epitome of what our community needs during a time of economic hardship. DO NOT take from our families, our children and grandchildren, the opportunity to grow, learn and truly be a part of their community.

Nicole A. Effle
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS;

We are writing to ask for your continued financial support for the Lincoln Municipal Band. We have been attending, and immensely enjoying, these summer concerts for over 50 years. The loss of these concerts would be great to hundreds of citizens.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Howard & Mavis Olson
200l So. 51st St., #3306
Lincoln, NE 68506
Dear City Council Members,

I want to personally thank you for your open-mindedness for such a challenging decision to vote for the Early Child Development Center on South 29th Street. I know this Special Permit for a center was a difficult decision due to the surrounding circumstances in the area. On a positive note, as time passes I hope these issues will gradually subside. As a Director I will run this child care center to the best of my ability through yearly early childhood educational training for the staff and myself. I plan to help the community through purchasing items for the center, planning future fieldtrips for preschoolers and pre-k children to help support other businesses in Lincoln and surrounding areas, donations, volunteering, etc.

I am a Director who wants to make a positive impact through each child attending this center. This can be achieved with head teachers, teachers, teachers aides, infant room staff, and myself coming together as a team to produce high quality service for these children and their families. This program will be designed to focus on children’s individual needs and development through a wide variety of learning opportunities, emotional nurturing and diversity. In my heart you have made the right decision. As an honest child care provider I see the need for a center, along with Pam Dolberg (Food Program Consultant-Area Supervisor & Management Training Director) and many others.

Just in my Family Home I child care, I receive a number of phone calls for a spot and I have to turn the parents down. Since Monday, I have taken it a step further by briefly letting these parents know what the future holds for me as a Director in this new facility. I then ask them if they would consider putting their child(ren) in an Early Child Development Center. Almost everyone so far would like to be put on a list to receive an information packet about the center and would like to be contacted near the time of opening.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope you feel you make the right decision for the development towards this facility. And again, thank you for your vote and God Bless.

Sincerely,

Mel Bancroft / Director

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2009
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
To Mayor Chris Beutler and members of the City Council:

Think twice when ‘cutting the funding’ for the cities various fine art programs such as neighborhood libraries and the Lincoln Municipal Band.

On pleasant summer Sunday evenings we often attend the band concerts. It is interesting to note the diversification which gathers together from the ‘four corners’ of our city. I well recall how important music & reading was to the ‘dirty thirties and fighting forties’ during other ‘turbulent periods of American history. Word from the popular song during the 1930’s come to mind, “Brother Can You Spare a Dime”. Sparing a dime to help the cities fine arts would be a good place to build your budget. Or, ‘Praise The Lord and Pass the Ammunition and we will all stray free’ from the WWII days was morale music which helped ‘sanctify our souls’ as did Kate Smiths ‘God Bless America.” And, Tokyo Rose just happened to be my favorite disc jockey. Remember, ‘think thrice’.

Aldie Johnson
4500 Sumner
Lincoln, Nebraska
68506
RE: Closure of the library at:

Bethany Library
1810 North Cotner Boulevard (68505)
(402) 441-8550

Good council members.

I am writing to voice my concern about the closing of this library. This "small" library is the ONLY library within walking distance for the students of Mickle Middle School. My granddaughter, who attends Mickle, lives just west of the Hy-Vee store on 84th and Holdrege and walks to this library 2-3 times per week to read and access the computer. Without this one close location, she would require transportation to the only next closer library on Fremont and Touzalin. Much further away, especially in the cold winter months. With a working mother, she has no access to that library unless she happens to find a friend whose parent is taking their child to that location. I’m sure she is not the only student with this same concern.

Please make better decisions with our tax money and make an effort to make ALL centers of knowledge exempt from the cuts we all must be concerned about. You have already cut the hours and staff it with volunteers. What more do you want from this vital establishment?

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Thank you.

Mary Moyer
6426 Francis Street
Dear City Council Members,

How many of you attend and enjoy the Band Concerts in the summer, those held at Antelope Park? There is always a good turn-out and beautiful music is always provided. And you expect to eat a meal in the City of Lincoln picnic area and contribution to the Band, Shame on you.

We feel this is a very positive attempt for cheap entertainment for the whole family, cope with the high price of the Live Concert entertainment.

Please do not cut this contributor and continue supporting the Lincoln Arts Council.

Sincerely,

Island Kay Dear
5536 Enterprise Dr
Lincoln, NE 6852
I am writing to just briefly say I desperately hope you do not close my library, the Bethany branch. I have lived within walking distance from there since 1988, and I love it. The location is so convenient, the staff is wonderful, the atmosphere is great – I’ve spent many hours just browsing, reading, and hanging out there. When I find books at other locations that I want, I request they be sent to Bethany so I can conveniently pick them up. I was already upset when the hours were cut back and changed, as I frequently visited later in the evenings when they were still open until 9, so I cannot imagine if my library were to be closed down.

I read the other options in the paper, and I really hope these can be explored far before shutting the doors to a neighborhood community resource like this. Specifically, cutting back Bennett Martin’s hours or days, to spread the resources a bit. The library needs to be accessible to its community, or what is the point in having one? For the young, old, poor, or even eco-conscious, who do not drive – how can they still use the library if the one within walking/biking distance has been closed? How does having one miles away help them?

I urge you again to please consider all other options before going the drastic route of closing any branches. If there is something as a community we can do to help keep our library available, please let us.

Thank you for your time.

LAURA WAGNER
Client Support Team
248.936.4200
301 S 68th St Pl Suite 400
Lincoln NE 68510
USA
GALLUP
Begin forwarded message:

From: HallerandShortt <mshortt@nebraska.com>  
Date: March 18, 2009 11:54:28 AM CDT  
To: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov  
Cc: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov  
Subject: Lincoln Arts Council - Lincoln Municipal Band  
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v753.1)  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delsp=yes; format=flowed  
Message-Id: <DED1ED16-2BE3-448E-99A7-E7A043C99732@nebraska.com>  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  

Mayor Beutler and Council Person Camp:  

I write to request continued funding for the Lincoln Arts Council which assists the Lincoln Municipal Band concerts. For years I've attended the band's free concerts enjoying the splendid music in the outdoor setting. Many of the attendees are folk who cannot afford to pay for the experience to hear great music. I want some of my tax dollars used to bring music to the people of Lincoln. Sharing culture is an important feature in creating a solid community.  

In addition, I would request that the funding to the Lincoln Arts Council be increased. Artistic functions bring people(including non-Lincoln residents) to the downtown area where we often spend money on art, food and drink.  

Money invested in the arts is money well spent.  

Thank you for your consideration.

Marcella A. Shortt  
7445 Kentwell Lane  
Lincoln, NE 68516
Dear Robin Eichlerman,

My husband & I live at Cotner Center Condos. We have 101 Condos. We average about 80 to 85 in age.

Our Condo is about 1/2 blocks from the Bethany Library. We get lots & lots of books from them. And they bring books to us so those who can't get them have the new books to read. We really hope you can keep our library open we need it!

Hopeful
Don & Betty Eichler

RECEIVED
MAR 18 2009
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
March 17, 2009

Robin Eschliman
Lincoln-City Council
County-City Building
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Robin Eschliman,

As a citizen of Lincoln, I am writing to express my concern over the consideration being given to closing the Bethany Library and the South Street Branch.

A number of us who reside at Cotner Center Condominiums enjoy the convenience of the short distance to the near-by Bethany Library, to which we can walk when weather permits.

Cotner Center residents also appreciate the service of having large print books brought to our facility, so that we have a larger selection of books in large print than our small in-house library affords.

I wonder if perhaps it would be possible to cut hours or days the library is open so that Bethany Library could continue as a part of the Community where it has been since the 1950's.

Thank you for giving serious thought to retaining our library.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bernice M. Boilesen
1540 North Cotner Boulevard, #220
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

P.S. I would appreciate your sharing my letter with all the City Council Members, as an expression of my feelings with regard to the Bethany Library. Thank you!
To whom it concerns,

It is so important to have neighborhood libraries to keep everyone near free reading material…Bethany is such a beautiful library that offers so many different books, and the small atmosphere is great b/c you don’t get lost. Please, think about the families surrounding the area.

Thank you,

Lucy Boden
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of March 21 through March 27, 2009 - Schedule subject to change.

2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Separation of Grass and Leaves Begins Last Week In March.

DIRECTORS -

ANIMAL CONTROL -

1. Response E-Mail from Robert Westfall to Rhonda Lange - RE: Bully breeds. (Response to Rhonda Lange e-mail listed on the Directors Agenda of 03/23/09 under “IV. Correspondence From Citizens - #3)

LIBRARY -

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Firefighters Visit Libraries.

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL - None

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Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of March 21 through March 27, 2009
Schedule subject to change

Sunday, March 22
- Dash for Disabilities kickoff, remarks and proclamation - 1 p.m., Nebraska Wesleyan University, Knight Fieldhouse, 53rd and Huntington streets

Monday, March 23
- Mayor's Annual Award of Excellence - 1:30 p.m., Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
- Mayor's Annual Award of Excellence reception - 1:45 p.m., County-City Building, second floor mezzanine

Tuesday, March 24
- Presentation by national walking advocate Mark Fenton - 7:30 a.m., Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 3140 “N” St., training center
- Presentation by Michael Lux - “The Progressive Revolution – How the Best in America Came to Be” - 11 a.m., Wells Fargo Center, 1248 “O” St., Suite 600
- Lincoln Chaplaincy Corp annual banquet and meeting, remarks - 6 p.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 “A” St.

Wednesday, March 25
- Lincoln East Rotary Club's Annual Salute to Lincoln's Outstanding Firefighter (Richard Zechmann), remarks and presentation - 11:30 a.m., Valentino's, 70th and Van Dorn

Thursday, March 26
- Sally Gordon's 100th birthday celebration, proclamation - 8 a.m., State Capitol
- KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
Beginning Wednesday, April 1, waste haulers will collect grass and leaves separately from household trash. State law requires that residents separate grass and leaves from household trash from April 1 through November 30 each year. In order for waste haulers to comply with this requirement on April 1, residents who subscribe to separate yard waste collection must begin to separate grass and leaves from their household trash after their last waste collection in March.

The separate collection of grass and leaves is provided by local waste haulers for a fee. Those who do not subscribe to the special collection have three options:

1. Haul grass and leaves to the 48th Street Transfer Station.
2. Hire a lawn service.
3. Mulch and compost grass clippings and leaves. The University of Nebraska Lancaster County Extension Office will provide backyard composting workshops in April and May.

This is the 17th year of the yard waste composting program in Lincoln. Since the fall of 1992, City officials estimate that Lincoln has diverted more than 224,148 tons of grass and leaves and 103,126 tons of tree trimmings from the landfill. To date, the composting program and annual wood recycling operation have added more than two years to the life of the landfill. This represents close to 1.2 million cubic yards of landfill space that has a current value of $9.7 million. If the City stopped its composting and wood waste diversion program today, it is projected that the landfill would close in 2030 instead of the scheduled year of 2034.

Steve Hatten, President of the Lincoln Solid Waste Management Association, said grass and leaves must be separated in approved containers. That includes paper yard waste bags available from retailers; 32-gallon waste containers with tight-fitting lids; and 90-gallon containers provided by the waste haulers.

City policy does not allow grass and leaves in plastic bags at the compost facility because the bags do not decompose and cause litter problems. Hatten said some waste haulers will empty the plastic bags, so residents wanting to use plastic should contact their haulers to determine how they manage the bags.

- more-
City Recycling Coordinator Gene Hanlon said that the City inspects incoming loads at the Bluff Road Landfill and composting site. If household trash is found mixed with grass and leaves, the City can assess the haulers a $50 fine. Hatten said waste haulers may leave containers at the curb if they contain household trash mixed with grass and leaves.

Hanlon also said wood chips and LinGro compost are now available from the City. If self-loaded, the LinGro compost is available at the 48th Street Transfer Station at no cost. For more information on the City's composting program or the availability of compost and wood chips, contact the City Recycling Office at 441-8215 or see the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: compost).
In response to the email from below

From: Robert J. Westfall  
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 12:53 PM  
To: 'blange@futuretk.com'  
Cc: Bruce D. Dart; Denise S. Bollwitt  
Subject: bully breeds  

Rhonda,

Lincoln, like Omaha, does not support a breed ban and Lincoln currently has no breed specific laws in place. The laws in Lincoln currently address the actions of individual animals and their owners. In a continuing effort to remain proactive, Lincoln Animal Control authorities are closely monitoring Omaha's progress and the effects that their new ordinances have on citizens and pets. It is possible that ordinances similar to the laws Omaha has adopted may also be adopted in Lincoln, although this will be done with the understanding that not every law is appropriate for every city, and only after proper consideration. Thank you for your interest and please feel free to contact Lincoln Animal Control with any questions or concerns regarding this or similar animal related issues.

Robert Westfall  
Animal Control Division Manager  
Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department  
3140 N Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-441-7900 / fax: 402-441-8626  
rwestfall@lincoln.ne.gov
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name:     Rhonda Lange
Address:  15720 N. 1st
City:     Raymond, Nebraska 68428
Phone:    402 785-2446
Fax:
Email:    blange@futuretk.com

Comment or Question:
 Dear General Council members:

I have some concerns and questions about the laws in Lincoln that govern certain "bully" breeds of dogs such as Pit Bulls. Evidently, Omaha has changed the law about these breeds because there have been many of these dogs available on various classifieds such as Craigslist. Also, these ads have referred to new ordinances regarding these dogs. My concern is that if Lincoln does not have any laws regarding these dogs, that there could be a large influx of these dogs to the area related to this new ordinance. We live near Raymond, Nebraska, but we do most of our social activities, shopping, etc with our children in Lincoln and are very concerned about these animals. I would very much appreciate any feedback that anyone has about the current laws in place and any plans for further ordinances regarding these dogs.

Thanks,

Rhonda Lange 402 785-2446.
Firefighters Visit Libraries

Firefighters with Lincoln Fire and Rescue will be special guest readers at Lincoln City Libraries this spring.

Deputy Fire Chief, Jeanne Pashalek, says, “A large part of our job is the interactions we have with the community at various levels, not just emergency services. We take pride in our commitment to public education and this is just an example of how we can reach out and impact people of all ages in the community. We are looking forward to the opportunity to read to the preschoolers at our local libraries.”

In honor of the visits, the preschool storytime will feature a firefighter theme.

Lincoln City Libraries’ preschool storytime is a half-hour of books and activities for children ages three, four and five, presented free of charge. It supports early literacy by offering vocabulary development, experiences with a variety of literature, and participation in language-related activities. Pre-registration is not required for preschool storytime. Newcomers are always welcome!

The schedule of firefighter visits, March through May is:

Anderson Branch Library
March 18th, 10:30 am

Bennett Martin Public Library
March 26th, 10:15 am

Bethany Branch Library
April 16th, 10:30 am

Eiseley Branch Library
April 9th, 10:30 am

South Branch Library
April 22nd, 14:00 pm

Gere Branch Library
May 19th, 10:30 am

Walt Branch Library
May 5th, 10:30 am

The full schedule of preschool storytimes is available at the library’s Web site, www.lincolnlibraries.org