

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012
555 S. 10TH STREET, ROOM 113
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting minutes of April 23, 2012.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of April 23, 2012.

II. REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCES

1. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency - Carroll
2. Downtown Lincoln Association - Carroll
3. Problem Resolution Team - Emery
4. Lancaster County Correctional Facility JPA - Carroll
5. Internal Liquor Committee - Eskridge, Hornung, Schimek

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - TBA

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - TBA

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Discussion of Board, or Commissions, candidate appearance at Council.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See Invitation List

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012**

Present: Gene Carroll, Chair; Adam Hornung, Vice Chair; Carl Eskridge; Jonathan Cook; Jon Camp; and DiAnna Schimek

Absent: Doug Emery

Others: Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff, Denise Pearce, Senior Policy Counsel

Chair Carroll opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting minutes of April 23, 2012.
 2. Organizational Meeting minutes of April 23, 2012.
- With no corrections the above minutes were approved.

II. REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCES

1. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency - Carroll

The meeting was canceled.

2. Downtown Lincoln Association - Carroll

Carroll stated they had a presentation from Esposito on the downtown repaving.

3. Problem Resolution Team - Emery

Emery absent.

4. Lancaster County Correctional Facility JPA - Carroll

Carroll stated a standard meeting. There are no dates from Sampson Construction on when they're done, with some issues to work out, but overall want to have the jail operating by the end of the year.

5. Internal Liquor Committee - Eskridge, Hornung, Schimek

Eskridge said the task force is looking at the servers permit issue. Met numerous times and will come to Council May 21st. A report from Cornhusker Place shows lower actual numbers of individuals, but higher blood alcohol content of those brought to Cornhusker Place. Some thought possibly law enforcement releasing less intoxicated individuals. The increase in BAC is alarming to Phil Tegler, Cornhusker Place. Average is point 24. About three times the legal limit.

Camp asked on the server training any modification? Eskridge replied received a proposal from a large retail establishment, asking about a flat fee, not individual employee permit fees. Carroll added the ordinance is pretty as written. Judy Halstead has the rules, regulations, and guidelines which the Health Department will use in ordinance compliance. The industry has worked extremely well with Halstead to iron out issues on compliance concerns.

Camp asked if considering exempting grocery and convenience stores? Carroll replied now no one is excluded. An example is convenience, grocery stores in the last compliance check by LPD, 16 % failed, and these types of business sell the majority of alcohol. Grocery and convenience store

personnel have attended meetings, working on compliance. They questioned what happens first, second, or third offense? Went through plus the costs. Will work on a budget to present. Camp asked if anyone asked for exemptions? Carroll replied not officially. Hornung said he's been asked by several people for an exemption. An exemption to off sale establishments being discussed.

Cook asked with the higher BAC numbers, is there a relationship with longer drinking times in bars, or possibly selective enforcement? Hornung thinks the lower BAC folks not getting admitted as frequently. Take 100 people with various BAC's, take out the bottom 20 BAC's, your average BAC looks much higher. Cook agreed, but could be seeing people who need to go to Cornhusker Place, and think they see heavier drinking, and the folks with lower BAC 's aren't as important now.

Camp added possibly do monthly, not just an average. Numbers versus an average. It's consistently been 25/month, but if going from 25 to 50, drinking more. Hornung commented we were asking those kind of questions. Camp asked if any data? Hornung replied no, we can ask him to compile.

Eskridge stated another statistic shows high numbers of very young people, 14, 15 year olds. Hornung thought Mark Whitehead made a good point that not every person drinking bought their alcohol at a convenience store. A lot of it has to do with home, consumption, as much as supply. Cannot be the case of 15 year old buying alcohol at bars, or convenience, or grocery stores.

Carroll stated except when LPD does surprise checks and they send kids under age. We have convenience stores selling them alcohol without even checking their I.D.'s. It happens. Hornung agreed, people make mistakes in every industry.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - None

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Discussion of Board, or Commissions, candidate appearance at Council.

Carroll stated he listed as a question came up on the Health Department's appointment last week who didn't come. Not her fault as she was told not to come. Want to be sure, or verify, our policy and who shows up for these appointments. Put forth the idea if a Council Member wants an appointee at the Council meeting to call them and request. Whoever it is. Otherwise think it's kind of fruitless for a person to come, say their name, and thank you.

Schimek agreed, adding if we want someone there we should be prepared to ask questions on why they want the job, what would they like to accomplish. So they don't come, waiting for us to hear or question them, and we don't.

Hornung added people come in and then we don't ask questions, so they wonder why they had to show up. But, there have been questions which come up 2 to 3 days before the meeting. Not a great amount of time to call or set up in advance. Also, at the beginning of the meeting. Noone has to wait for hours. But a good idea for a couple of the Boards. If going to the LES Board and 5 minutes of a City Council meeting is too much may want to reconsider as they do a lot of work. If nothing else, lets us know who they are. Don't think it's a good idea to do for every Board.

Camp stated we talked about this several years ago and this is a good discussion. Think there are 3 big committees, LES, Health Board, and the Planning Commission. I think it's incumbent upon us to ask questions. Often try, or give them an opportunity to introduce themselves, then broadcast so

the public sees who they are. It's on us to ask questions to help get the issues out. Example, use to always ask every LES person what they thought of nuclear action, or retainment. If we're not having them come, as with some minor boards, it was effort to get out of their daily routines. Example, liquor licenses, are we getting them here? Mixed on asking them to come, as would be singling out someone. We ask questions of the 3, not to grill them, but help us understand the issues.

Carroll thinks with the Health Department unfair to ask a doctor to come in the middle of the day just to say hello. They're giving up their time to be on the Health Board, and would like them more at Board Meetings than here to meet us. Carroll added Council has always had the opportunity to know who the people will be, and an opportunity to meet weeks ahead of time. He thinks if we want someone to attend let the Council Member send an email, or call.

Camp stated it's part of transparency. Carroll commented if you want to talk to somebody send an email and ask them to show. Cook agreed with Carroll as most people, and Boards, don't need to come to be on camera for one minute. When he's had interest in a Board called them directly, like Planning Commission appointees. Don't see why this isn't something any of us could do. Don't think last minute questions are a reason to make them show up.

Schimek stated at the State everybody who would be appointed, not reappointed, had to show at the hearing. If they lived far away and couldn't make it we asked them to get someone to speak on their behalf. Don't know if a consideration if impossible to attend someone from the Board could speak on their behalf. Also was kind of surprised we don't ask questions.

Carroll stated not only appointments to the Health Board, but electricians, plumbers, etc. they have jobs during the day and would rather be out making money. Hornung urges that LES and the Planning Commission attend, as very important boards.

Carroll stated he wants to reaffirm the policy as there was a misunderstanding last week. Council wants to hold it to the Planning Commission and LES? Hornung and Eskridge agreed. Cook said the misunderstanding was on the Board of Health. Still say, not necessarily unless somebody asks. Carroll commented we'll say those two unless a Council Member requests whoever is being appointed and makes it to first reading, making sure there at the next meeting.

Camp asked if any ideas, or maybe another a different time on the liquor applications? Think important for them, but again a lot of times they come, swear in, name and address, and they leave. Everyone's time is important.

Hornung stated one thing we try to do is eliminate the need for multiple licenses, like special licenses, special permits, so less people need special permits now because of what we've done with the liquor laws. As a result should be less people coming who need to come 12 times a year. Which some special permits were. In reality not a lot of reasons unless coming for a special event. Camp stated he thinks a good thing, you can get new people, and maybe look at someone and realize we didn't know the name.

Pearce asked if wanting reappointments to come for the Planning Commission and LES? Before it's been new appointees. Hornung said he'd rather everybody. Cook questioned reappointees. Cook said the information about the person on the agenda, and reappointments we know. Pearce stated new appointees for the Planning Commission and LES.

Schimek stated on liquor licenses, these are folks serving in a different capacity than being on a

Board, dealing with the public and responsible for following the law. Carroll stated they're asking us for something. Schimek thinks appropriate to have those folks come, even without questions.

Carroll stated that's really not on our agenda today, let's bring it up next time to the Chair.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See Invitation List

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Carroll adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

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