IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2012

I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. FUNdamental Healthy Me Play Days in August at Woods Park, 33rd and J Streets.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Celebrate 75 years of Summer Reading Program at Salt Dogs game.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler, City Library representatives, and Foundation for Lincoln Libraries, will welcome the new Lied Bookmobile at 10 a.m., Thursday, August 2nd, at Eiseley Branch Library.
4. NEWS RELEASE. City welcomes new Lied Bookmobile.
5. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will announce new voluntary water conservation measures Friday, August 3rd, 10:00 a.m., at a news conference at 555 S. 10th Street, Room 303.

III. DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
2. Administrative approvals which were approved by the Planning Director from July 24, 2012 through July 30, 2012.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES/STAR TRAN
1. StarTran Advisory Board recommendations for F.Y. 2012-14 budget.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING REHAB & REAL ESTATE
1. Street and alley vacation No. 12004. North 35th Street, Holdrege Street to Starr Street and East/West alley west of North 35th Street.

WEED AUTHORITY
1. Lancaster County Weed Control and City of Lincoln Weed Abatement, July, 2012.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP
1. Letter received backing Councilman Camp on not spending TIF money on artwork or other peripheral elements.

ADAM HORNUNG
1. Letter from Matthew Maude, Savannah Pines Retirement Community, regarding Fire & Rescue Department budget 2012-2014 General Fund change(s) #4.

V. MISCELLANEOUS
VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
   1. Letter from Alan Domina listing two complaints and asking for reconsideration of the policies. (Each Council Member received individual letter)

VII. ADJOURNMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 31, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Melissa Harris, Parks and Recreation, 402-441-4900

The media are invited to cover the “FUNdamental Healthy Me” Play Days in August at Woods Park, 33rd and “J” streets. About 400 summer day campers will participate in the annual Lincoln Parks and Recreation events. The kindergarten through fourth-grade Play Day is set for Wednesday, August 1, and the mid-level Play Day is set for Wednesday, August 8.

The goal of Play Day is to bring together campers for a day of friendly competition and camp spirit, and both will follow the same schedule:
• 10:30 a.m. - swimming activities
• 11 a.m. - tennis tournament
• 12:30 p.m. - relay races and obstacle courses to encourage teamwork and physical activity
The Play Days will conclude with a water balloon toss and awards ceremony.

Campers from Air Park, Belmont, Bethany, Calvert, Goodrich, Everett and Irving recreation centers have been taking tennis lessons through a partnership with Woods Tennis Center, and they will have the opportunity to participate in a round-robin tournament. Campers also will compete in box hockey and Mancala tourneys.
LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES  
136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-8500  

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  August 1, 2012  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Barbara Hansen, Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8512  

CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
AT SALTDOGS GAME  

Lincoln City Libraries invites the public to the annual Summer Reading Program Recognition Night at Haymarket Park Sunday, August 12 to celebrate the 75 years of the program. Youth who have completed this year’s Summer Reading Program have received vouchers to attend the Saltdogs game against the Gary South Shore Railcats at 5:05 p.m. Their guests may purchase two tickets for the price of one.  

The event includes a performance by the String Beans from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A march around the field is set for 4:30 p.m., and children will have the opportunity to meet Homer the Haymarket Hound as well as some of the Saltdogs players. The first 3,000 attendees will receive a commemorative fan created for the celebration.  

More information on Lincoln City Libraries is available at lincolnlibraries.org. More information on the Saltdogs is available at saltdogs.com.  

- 30 -
Mayor Chris Beutler will join representatives from Lincoln City Libraries and the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries to welcome the new Lied Bookmobile at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 2 at the Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior Street. A reception is scheduled from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The new bookmobile operates on compressed natural gas and includes many other “green” features.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 2, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831
Pat Leach, Library Director, 402-441-8510

CITY WELCOMES NEW LIED BOOKMOBILE
Vehicle runs on compressed natural gas and has many “green” features

Mayor Chris Beutler today announced that Lincoln City Libraries’ new Lied Bookmobile will be in operation soon. The new bookmobile was unveiled today at an event at the Eiseley Branch Library recognizing the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries, the Lied Foundation Trust and other donors. The new bookmobile will run on compressed natural gas (CNG) and includes other environmentally friendly features.

“CNG is one of the cleanest fuels to burn,” Mayor Beutler said. “It does cost more to manufacture a vehicle to use CNG, but they are generally much less expensive to operate. In the case of our new bookmobile, we have an agreement with Black Hills Energy that sets our fuel price at the equivalent of $1.49 per gallon for the next year. CNG is cleaner and cheaper, and those are important factors in demonstrating the value of our initial up-front investment over the life of the vehicle.”

The CNG bookmobile cost about $312,000 to manufacture, about $50,000 more than a diesel version. Library Director Pat Leach said it’s estimated that the additional investment will pay for itself in fuel savings in about four years. In addition to $50,000 from a federal energy grant, a $100,000 gift from the Lied Foundation and other private donations helped to fund books, an endowment, and other “green” features such as interior and exterior LED lighting, carpet made from recycled materials and three skylights to allow for natural light in the cabin.

The Lied Bookmobile replaces one that had been in operation for about 20 years. Other funding sources included $150,000 in City Keno funds and $20,000 from Lancaster County. Leach said the bookmobile will be on the road five days each week, with scheduled stops at 30 locations, including child care and senior facilities in Lincoln and 11 communities in the County.

“The bookmobile provides individualized service to a diverse population,” Leach said. “Our customers will be very well served by the new Lied Bookmobile, and I think they will be delighted with all the new features.”

- more -
The Lied Foundation Trust, based in Las Vegas, Nevada, was established in 1972 by Omaha businessman Ernst F. Lied in honor of his parents and has supported projects throughout the State that have enhanced the quality of life for all Nebraskans. The “Lied Bookmobile” is dedicated to Lied and his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied.

For more information on Lincoln City Libraries, visit lincolnlibraries.org.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7511

DATE: August 2, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will announce new voluntary water conservation measures at a news conference at **10 a.m. Friday, August 3** in **Room 303, third floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th.**
Annexation by Ordinance
Village Gardens
S 56th St & Pine Lake Rd
Effective: July 24, 2012
40.8 Acres

m:\plan\arcview\ann_notif\Annexation Notification Map.mxd
m:\plan\arcview\ann_notif\AN12003.pdf
Memorandum

Date: ♦ July 31, 2012
To: ♦ City Clerk
From: ♦ Teresa McKinstry, Planning Dept.
Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals
cc: ♦ Jean Preister

This is a list of the Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from July 24, 2012 thru July 30, 2012

**Administrative Amendment No. 12036** to Special Permit No. 1689A, Old Cheney Center, approved by the Planning Director on July 25, 2012, requested by David Ferguson, to add a deck and reduce the available parking spaces by 2 for the commercial center, on property generally located at S. 56th St. and Highway 2.

**Administrative Amendment No. 12016** to Pre-Existing Use Permit No. 9S, Vandervoort Addition to Edgewood, approved by the Planning Director on July 27, 2012, requested by John Badami, to increase the allowed floor area on Lot 6 from 7,000 square feet to 10,783 square feet, thereby increasing the total floor area from 107,338 square feet to 111,121 square feet, and to adjust the land use table accordingly, on property generally located at S. 62rd St. and Old Cheney Rd.
July 31, 2012

Mayor Chris Beutler
Members of the Lincoln City Council
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: StarTran Advisory Board Recommendations

In compliance with Section 2.38.100 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the StarTran Advisory Board, on July 27, 2012, conducted a public hearing and took action on the following proposed StarTran fare revisions included in the Mayor’s Recommended F.Y. 2012-14 Budget:

**Proposed Fare Revisions F.Y. 2012-13**

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<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
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<td>Regular 31 Day Passport</td>
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<td>$16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handi-Van 31-Day Passport</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Star Shuttle Fare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
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**Proposed Fare Revision F.Y. 2013-14**

Increase the fare for Big Red Shuttle Service that operates at all UNL home football games from $4.00 to $5.00 per trip.

**Public Hearing**

Ten attended the public hearing, and seven spoke, expressing the following:
* Five favored the proposed reduction of the 31 Day passport fares.
* Three disagreed with the proposed charge for transfers.
* One disagreed with the proposed increase of the Star Shuttle fare.
* One disagreed with the proposal to increase the Big Red Shuttle fare.
(Two emails were received by staff, one in favor & one opposed the fare changes)

**StarTran Advisory Board Recommendations**

The StarTran Advisory Board voted to approve the following motions:
* “The Board recommends rejecting the increase in the Star Shuttle fare, keeping it at a quarter, keeping transfers free, and amending the proposal for the Regular 31 Day Passport to go from $45 to $17, with the Handi-Van 31 Day Passport from $90 to $34. The Board’s recommendation is based on the discussion with staff and input expressed by the public.” (6 ‘Ayes’/0 ‘Nays’)
* “The Board recommends accepting the proposed increase of the Big Red Express Shuttle fare from $4 to $5 each way, per person, in F.Y. 2013-14.” (5 ‘Ayes’/1 ‘Nay’)

I will be in attendance at the August 6, 2013 City Council public hearing to provide additional information and respond to questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Phelps, Chair
StarTran Advisory Board

cc: Miki Esposito, PW/U Director
    Jan Bolin, Finance
    Larry Worth, StarTran
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Beutler & City Council Members
FROM: Clinton W. Thomas

DEPARTMENT: City Council Office
DEPARTMENT: Housing Rehab & Real Estate Division

ATTENTION: 
DATE: July 31, 2012

COPIES TO: Teresa J. Meier
Marvin Krout
Rod Confer
Byron Blum, Bldg & Safety
Jean Preister, Planning

SUBJECT: Street & Alley Vacation No. 12004
North 35th Street, Holdrege Street to
Starr Street & East/West Alley west of
North 35th Street

A request has been made to vacate that portion of North 35th Street between Holdrege and Starr Streets and the east 200 feet of the adjacent alley running west from North 35th Street. Staff has indicated there are existing sanitary sewer, gas mains and electric utility corridors within the area to be vacated. This will necessitate that easements be retained for the future maintenance and replacement of these utilities. Vacating a portion of the alley will create a dead-end situation on the unvacated portion. This will require the retention of an access easement over the area to provide access to Holdrege Street. The public access easement, in all likelihood, will affect only the north half of the vacated 35th Street, but the south half will suffer the reduction in value imposed by the utilities and the inevitable maintenance and replacement inconveniences they will cause. The area of North 35th Street to be vacated is considered to be diminished in value by 90% of the underlying land value.

A change of zone has been submitted for the Planned Unit Development that will encompass the area to be vacated. As such, the zoning is considered to be B-1 in accordance with the change of zone. As such, the underlying land value is considered to be $10.00 per square foot. As previously indicated, the area is considered to be damages due to the imposition of easements with the area of the alley considered to have only a nominal value of $0.10 per square foot due to its long narrow shape. The calculations are as follows:

Alley:

\[ 2,200 \text{ sq. ft.} \times \$0.10/\text{sq. ft.} = \$220.00 \]

Vacated 35th Street:

\[ 13,656 \text{ sq. ft.} \times \$10.00/\text{sq. ft.} \times 10\% = \$13,656.00 \]

TOTAL

\[ \$13,876.00 \]

Therefore if the area is to be vacated it is recommend it be sold to the abutting property owner for $13,876.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Clinton W. Thomas
Certified General Appraiser #990023
Noxious Weed Inspection Activity

A total of 1,971 inspections on 1,278 sites have been made this year on Noxious Weeds in Lancaster County. Noxious weeds were found on 1,044 sites.

Noxious Weeds outside City Limits

We made 1,202 inspections on 854 sites, totaling 6,939 acres inspected. Found 690 sites with violations.

- 181 Musk thistle
- 254 Leafy spurge
- 245 Phragmites
- 8 Purple loosestrife
- 1 Canada thistle
- 1 Saltcedar

Noxious Weeds inside City Limits

Our inspectors made 769 inspections on 424 sites, totaling 2,079 acres inspected. Found 354 sites with violations.

- 193 Musk thistle
- 64 Leafy spurge
- 57 Phragmites
- 18 Knotweed
- 14 Purple loosestrife
- 6 Canada thistle
- 2 Saltcedar

2012 Noxious Weed Infestations

Weed Abatement – City of Lincoln

A total of 3,974 inspections have been completed on 1,831 sites for overgrowth within the city limits. Our office has received 1,095 complaints from the public concerning weed abatement violations. In attempt to get the overgrowth controlled the Weed Control Office made 33 personal contacts, sent 1,170 letters and 583 legal notices. As of July 31st, we have completed 114 contracts to have the vegetation cut.

The following article went out on this month's Acreage Owners E-news from UNL – Extension

Fall Treatment of Phragmites

By Brent Meyer, Lancaster County Weed Superintendent

The Lancaster County Weed Department is currently having a signup for landowner’s that would like to have their phragmites sprayed this fall by helicopter. Our goal is to work with each landowner to make sure all the phragmites in Lancaster County gets treated this fall. If you are aware of a patch of phragmites on your acreage and would like more
information about helicopter treatment you are encouraged to contact our office.

Fall Treatment Options for Phragmites

Helicopter Application
Since some patches are only accessible by helicopter we had Lancaster County Purchasing department take bids to get the best possible price. The price of imazapyr (Arsenal or Habitat) chemical used to treat phragmites has come down since the 2009 application so we were able to get a bid of $200 per sprayed acre for application and chemical from Skycopters (all locations will be measured by GPS in the helicopter for accuracy of sprayed acres). This is the same applicator we have used for the last few years and has shown to be very cautious and accurate. The helicopter will be in the area sometime between mid to late August prior to killing frost. It will depend on their schedule. Contact our office so we can add you to the list to get the discounted rate.

Ground Application
Ground application may be possible for some locations and is acceptable if you notify our office this is your intent. Follow the control recommendations below for best results.

Cost of Application
It is the landowner’s responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property and you will be responsible for the cost.

When and How to Control?
The best time to get control is when the patch is new and there are just a few scattered plants. Once it gets established it will form a dense circular patch that is very easy to spot, but control will become much more difficult and expensive. Multiple year applications will be required and it will need to be continually monitored for re-growth. Many landowners had applications in 2009 that are now showing re-growth. Spot treatment and follow up will be required by you next year to treat any areas missed. Research and field data results show that herbicide control with imazapyr (Arsenal or Habitat) has proven to be the most effective. Glyphosate (Rodeo or Roundup) will be effective, but does not have the residual that the imazapyr has. (Read and follow the label directions)

How to Identify
During the summer when everything it is green and growing it is difficult to spot phragmites until it heads out. Wetland areas typically occupied by cattails are great places to look for phragmites. Phragmites is a deep rooted perennial grass that will grow 6 – 15 feet tall and likes to grow in wetlands, around lagoons, near streams, creeks or in any area that may be wet for a period of time.

How does phragmites spread?
Phragmites will spread by seeds blown by the wind or moved by water. By underground rhizomes that if broken or cut and moved will start a new plant and also by stolons that run across the top of the ground and root down and send up new plants every few inches. Stolons can grow as much as 30 feet in one year.

Why should I be concerned?
Phragmites left untreated will create a monoculture and crowd out all other vegetation. It will eliminate natural refuge and feeding grounds for invertebrates, fish, waterfowl and limit recreation values for birdwatchers, walkers, naturalists, boaters and hunters. The tender-dry vegetation left in the fall creates the potential for fast-spreading fire that can threaten surrounding areas including homes and buildings. More information can be found on our web site in the Landowners Guide for Phragmites Control.

Contact Information
We need everyone’s help, so if you would like more information on purple loosestrife or would like to report an infestation contact the Lancaster County Weed Control Office. Email: weeds@lancaster.ne.gov or phone 402-441-7817.

August Planned Activities
1-2 LSTF Conference – Cancelled due to fires at Niobrara
9 Management Team Meeting
9 County Board @ 9:45
10 Invasive Species Council
14 5 Rivers WMA
16 Management Team Retreat
21 LPWMA Meeting
30 Problem Resolution Team
31 Inventory Due
31 Barb Frazier’s Last Day

Good Neighbors - Control Noxious Weeds!
Only Camp offers budget suggestions

Councilman says city should use money for pure economic development, not artwork.

By NANCY HICKS
Lincoln Journal Star

The city should focus its tax increment funding only on important aspects of a new business project, City Councilman Jon Camp said.

That money should not be used for “artwork or other peripheral elements,” Camp said during a Friday afternoon council meeting to discuss the mayor’s proposed budget.

Tax increment financing should not have been used for a brick archway, he said, referring to a recently completed 14-foot brick arch near the Elaine Hammer Pedestrian Trail Bridge on North 27th Street.

And TIF should not be used to pay for a $1.2 million, large TV screen for The Yard, a planned area intended to attract people to the West Haymarket across the street from the new arena.

With TIF, the city uses the expected increase in property taxes that will be generated by a redevelopment project over 15 years to help pay public and sometimes private costs of a private development.

See BUDGET, Page A6
July 26, 2012

The Honorable Adam Hornung
City Council Member of the City of Lincoln
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

RE: Fire & Rescue Department Budget 2012-2014 General Fund Change(s) # 4

Dear Mr. Hornung:

The Lincoln Journal Star published an article that appeared last Friday July 20, 2012 regarding the above-referenced change in the Lincoln Fire & Rescue Department’s 2012-2014 General Fund, whereby “a new fee for lift assists will be charged to initiations [sp] and facilities that contact LF & R for assistance with patients that do not require transport.” The article states that such fee will amount to $250 per event.

The article appears to suggest that an independent living community, such as our Savannah Pines independent living community, may be exempt but neither the article nor the budget’s discussion provide any clarification. Regardless, we vehemently object both to the creation of a facility-level fee, and the underlying “policy” reportedly asserted by Public Safety Director Tom Casady that such a fee would reduce the number of calls made to Lincoln Fire & Rescue.

The bases for our objections are:

1. Often, our resident or his/her spouse is the one making the 911 call, not one of our employees. There are occasions, however, where our residents request one of our employees to call 911. If a fee is assessed (which we assert has no basis for being assessed), the appropriate party to charge is the individual on whose behalf a call to LF & R (via 911) is made.

2. None of our employees are trained, certified, licensed, or otherwise qualified to make any determination of medical necessity that may, or may not, require emergent medical attention as Savannah Pines is an Independent Living (“IL”) community. IL by its nature does not provide any healthcare, medication, or any sort of service requiring licensure or certification to its residents. IL is therefore an age-restricted apartment providing amenities such as housekeeping, food service, and entertainment. Accordingly, assessing a charge on an IL community that is age-restricted in favor of a protected class is both punitive and discriminatory.

3. Our residents comprise a population that is likely more prone to falls compared to a non-age restricted apartment complex due both to advancing age, and a higher incidence of medically-caused falls from events such as strokes, heart attacks, or other serious medical conditions. Moreover, a substantially higher number of falls in a senior apartment may...
result in broken bones or otherwise require substantive medical attention.

4. Each of our residents has a physical address for their apartment, no different than a house or any other apartment complex, where they reside. Levying a fee of any nature on the landlord of a senior housing community (or apartment complex or owner of the individual home) is discriminatory, violates due process, and ultimately attempts to improperly shift a responsibility for public service to the private sector.

5. Assessing a charge on the landlord as stated in the Change #4 makes no distinction for situations where one property may have a higher concentration of seniors compared to other locations. For example, Bickford Cottages has 30 apartments whereas Savannah Pines has 119 apartments, yet Bickford may likely have the same or more calls due to the higher acuity of care needed by its residents.

6. The Lincoln Journal Star reports that, “On some of the calls, firefighters got the feeling that there was sufficient staff but the institution did not want to run the risk of an injury,” implying that the staff did not wish to injure his- or herself, not risk further injury to the fallen senior. We see no basis for a firefighter making any such assertion as this is an operational matter for a private business. If a senior citizen has fallen, as mentioned above, a higher probability exists that such person has sustained an injury either as a result of the fall, or that a medical event triggered the fall in the first place. In either event, if a senior citizen has fallen, and is having difficulty recovering from the fall, then a non-trained, non-licensed, non-certified employee of the operator/landlord should be making a call to L F & R without having to be concerned about a fallacious fee being levied because some firefighter thought the employee was in essence, lazy.

While the newspaper article reports Mr. Casady as saying that the City’s, “…intention is to target this at staffed facilities, not independent living”, the problem with assessing any sort of fee is that eventually an IL property such as Savannah Pines may find itself at the mercy of the City or L F & R as it continues searching for more revenue from additional sources. The underlying basis for attempting to create such a fee is ridiculous. Moreover, targeting the landlord of a protected class of citizens due to age is discriminatory. And finally, attempting to squeeze ever more fees out of the private sector because L F & R ultimately did not transport a prospective patient to an emergency room is simply wrong.

This proposed charge needs to be removed from consideration for inclusion in the City’s budget altogether, regardless of the type of facility involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew M. Maupe
Savannah Pines Retirement Community,
a Resort Lifestyle Communities Property
Dear Mr. Camp,

I am writing to you for 2 causes of my concern.

The first is the bill that I received to register my alarm system - Part of the "Lincoln Falls Alarm Reduction Program." I think this is grossly unfair, unjust and misguiding. People that do not have alarm systems do not have to pay. So it is much less costly to deal with a fire in its early stage than a late stage, more extensive fire? This toll is another example of penalizing people who are trying to be good, productive neighbors and citizens. Rather than tax residents with alarm systems, I think we should be given a bonus, or some tax reduction for saving all the citizens of Lincoln Falls and dollars. Please rethink this awful program.

The second issue I have in mind is the policy of having all-or
very nearly all of the road repairs in Lincoln in the southeast part of the city. If this is a great alleviation for residents of Lincoln then it should be shared with all the residents. There is no reason that they not be held in all 4 quadrants of the city. If it is a burden, an inconvenience to the residents of southeast Lincoln then that also should be shared with all the Lincoln residents.

Please re-consider these 2 policies and offer all of us more equal, fair treatment, and not just an added tax.

Sincerely,

Alan K. Dominca
4200 South 59th St & Cx
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-489-7261
I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR & DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor sets new goal for water conservation.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Section of S. 27th Street to reopen one week ahead of schedule.

III. DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee meeting agenda for Thursday, August 9, 2012.
2. City Board of Zoning Appeals meeting agenda for Friday, August 10, 2012.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
Letter from the Downtown Lincoln Association regarding the on-street parking rate increase.
(Each Council Member received individual letter)
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831
Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, 402-441-7571

MAYOR SETS NEW GOAL FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Because of historically low Platte River flows, Mayor Chris Beutler today reduced the goal for water usage from 65 million gallons per day to 60. He said the City will make a decision on whether to issue mandatory water restrictions next week when officials receive the results of new computer modeling to evaluate the long-term impact of the reduced river flows.

“I want to thank residents for responding to last week’s call for voluntary water conservation,” Mayor Beutler said. “Our water usage over the last week has dropped to an average of about 67 million gallons per day. Yesterday, a little morning rain helped us get down to 61 million gallons. Unfortunately, the lack of rain has contributed to a river flow of less than 300 cubic feet per second. We must work together as a community to reduce our water use even more so we have adequate supplies for drinking, fire protection and other essential uses.”

The Mayor said that in order to reach the new water use goal, residents must comply with the designated day watering schedule:

- Properties with street addresses ending in even numbers, including zero, are asked to voluntarily limit outdoor water use to Wednesday, Fridays and Sundays.
- Properties with addresses ending in odd numbers are asked to voluntarily limit outdoor watering to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Beutler strongly encouraged residents to avoid watering during the hottest parts of the day, when evaporation makes watering much less effective. Daily usage and water conservation tips are posted at lincoln.ne.gov.

The City has not issued mandatory water restrictions since 2002. The lowest river flow in July 2002 was about 650 cubic feet per second. The Mayor encouraged residents to become familiar with the measures that would be enforced under mandatory restrictions. Those are outlined in the City’s Water Management Plan available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: water).

- more -
Beutler said the City has already taken steps to reduce water usage. The Parks and Recreation Department is turning off fountains that are not connected to separate wells and has reduced watering on golf course fairways. Outdoor watering at City facilities has been reduced, and some sites are using wastewater hauled from the treatment plant. Lincoln Water System is continuing to maintain the City’s 13,000 fire hydrants, but it is not flowing water from them as part of the testing.

Some City facilities and parks such as the Sunken Gardens and the Hamann Rose Garden as well as some large local businesses have their own wells. “We do not want the public to be discouraged when they see watering continue at these City facilities and businesses,” Beutler said. “Their usage does not impact the City’s supply.”

Turf experts caution against watering every day, unless you have new sod. If mandatory restrictions are issued, those with new sod can obtain free daily watering permits from the City Building and Safety Division. Lawns allowed to go dormant only need about one-half inch of water per week.

City water rates are structured to encourage conservation – the more you use, the higher rate you are charged. Water rates are available at lincoln.ne.gov.

- 30 -
Date: August 3, 2012
Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831

Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of August 4 through 10, 2012
Schedule subject to change

Monday, August 6
• KFOR interview from Community Health Center Week celebration - 7:15 a.m., People’s Health Center, 1021 N. 27th St.
• City-County Common meeting - 12:45 p.m., County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., room 113

Thursday, August 9
• People’s City Mission Homeless Prevention Center open house, remarks - 3:30 p.m., 2615 “O” St.
SECTION OF S. 27TH STREET TO REOPEN
ONE WEEK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

A two-block section of S.27th Street from “A” to Everett streets will reopen about 6 p.m. this evening, one week ahead of schedule. The street has been closed since Monday for the construction of a conduit for a power line, part of the Lincoln Electric System’s Central Lincoln Reliability Project. The project was expected to take about 11 days to complete.

Greg Topil with the Traffic Operations Section of the Public Works and Utilities Department said the early reopening is the result of extra effort by contractor K-2 Construction.

Information on all City construction projects and street closures is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: projects).

- 30 -
A Technical Committee meeting is scheduled as follows:

DATE: August 9, 2012  
TIME: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 113, County/City Building

AGENDA

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.
2. Review and action on amendments to:
   ○ A. The current FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program
   ○ B. The proposed FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.
3. Committee discussion on the possibility of initiating Biannual MPO Programs for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to match the local two-year budgeting cycle.
4. Other topics for discussion.
Notice is hereby given that the CITY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS will hold a rescheduled public hearing on Friday, August 10, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on the 1st Floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, on the following items. For more information, please contact the Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

Agenda of August 10, 2012

1. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2012.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

2. Appeal No. 1203, requested by Rod Hornby, for a variance of the front yard setback, on property generally located at 3901 N. 63rd Street.
August 2, 2012

Mr. Adam Hornung, Chairman
Mr. Jon Camp
Mr. Eugene Carroll
Mr. Jonathan Cook
Mr. Doug Emery
Mr. Carl Eskridge
Ms. DiAnna Schimek

Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE  68508

RE: On-Street Parking Rate Increase

Dear City Council Members:

The Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) offers its support for the proposed increase in on-street parking rates from fifty cents to one dollar per hour, contingent upon two changes to the Mayor’s original proposal: one, the timely installation of new “smart” (credit card capable) meters, and two, delaying the rate increase from September 1 to November 1, 2012. Our reasoning is the rate increase will be more readily accepted by downtown consumers because of the convenience smart meters provide. We support postponing the increase to November 1, both to allow time for installation of new meters and to coincide with the completion of downtown construction.

For two years, DLA has encouraged and supported a planned phase-in of an appropriate smart meter to replace existing meters downtown. As part of the meter replacement and an overall strategy to encourage garage parking, DLA recognized an increase in on-street parking rates might be necessary. It was our hope to pilot a selection of meters and build consensus among stakeholders to be followed by a rate increase.

The Mayor’s proposal to transfer $750,000 of meter proceeds to the general fund instead of to the Parking Enterprise Fund (Fund) moves another question to the fore, namely the long-term financial health of the Fund. Clearly recognized over the last few years was the need for the parking garages at the Larson Building and the Lumberworks site. When the Lumberworks garage is completed, downtown is left with no direction on the next garage and what resources will be needed. Without a financial plan, we think the cash reserves in the Fund are vulnerable to reallocation. DLA would strongly propose that the City, at its earliest convenience, undertake a demand study to predict the requirements for the next garage or garages, define a project timeline, and develop a plan to ensure the long-term stability of the Fund.

The Board of Directors of the DLA voted unanimously at the July 24, 2012 meeting in support of the adoption of the planned on-street parking rate increase and respectfully urges you to approve the proposed plan. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your continued support of downtown Lincoln.
Sincerely,

Terry Uland, President      Bill Schmeeckle, Chairman
Downtown Lincoln Association Downtown Lincoln Association

c:  Chris Beutler, Mayor, City of Lincoln
    Dave Landis, Director, Urban Development Department
    Dallas McGee, Assistant Director, Urban Development Department