

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2013
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTOR'S MEETING
555 S. 10th Street, Room 113**

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.
3. Director's Meeting minutes of December 10, 2012.
4. Organizational Meeting minutes of December 10, 2012.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) (December 10th) - Emery, Schimek
2. Public Building Commission (PBC), (December 11th) - Carroll, Cook
3. Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) (December 11th) - Eskridge
4. Board of Health (December 11th) - Emery
5. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC), (December 12th) - Carroll
6. Parks & Rec Advisory Committee (December 13th) - Cook
7. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (December 18th) - Carroll
8. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (December 20th) - Emery
9. Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (December 18th) - Eskridge

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2013

Present: Carl Eskridge, Chair; Jon Camp, Vice-Chair; DiAnna Schimek; Lloyd Hinkley; Doug Emery; Jonathan Cook, and Gene Carroll

Chair Eskridge opened the meeting at 2:32 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012.
3. Director's Meeting minutes of December 10, 2012.
4. Organizational Meeting minutes of December 10, 2012.

The above minutes were approved by consent.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) (December 10th) - Emery, Schimek

Schimek stated they received a report from Figard. All current projects are near completion or done. Example: West Haymarket, the removal of old tracks. There is money left over from the quiet zone at South Salt Creek. Other items included the 33rd railroad crossing, and the Board had voted \$200,000 for a preliminary study. Also, Figard and Shafer went to Kansas City to discuss railroads' interest and will present later, and the Hickman quiet zone is coming along. Schimek personally was interested in the Rosa Parkway access. A small neighborhood in South Salt Creek doesn't have good access when closed off by the railroad. They created an access road off of the Rosa Parks area, going downhill, which is now graded. They want to pave for a more permanent solution. Emery added, as long as it's marked, it has to be more emergency. Schimek agreed, adding not a road for everyone. Emery stated for emergency vehicles in case there's a train across the highway and they need fire engines or ambulances. Schimek stated they approved \$60,000 for this project.

Camp asked if Mr. Walker was content with the outcome? Schimek replied he hasn't been vocal on this project. Another person had called. We had the police, fire and street maintenance come together for the solution. Camp stated on past projects, 35th and Cornhusker crossing, Warlick, South and Park, are these RTSD in general Public Works projects? Would like to see us take some time, possibly a pre-council, and re-visit where we're at on some Public Works priorities. Do have long term such as South Beltway which keeps getting put further down. Warlick and 14th. What savings we'd get if we did the South Beltway? Options at 35th and Cornhusker? Schimek asked if speaking of RTSD? Camp replied RTSD has some funding, railroads discussion involved and possibly Cornhusker is the largest, last fall was at 5 million dollars. Maybe step back and say, these are project cost estimates? What is the amount of money we have and does doing one help reduce the cost of others? Seems like large Public Works projects aren't focused on long enough.

Emery stated the first step is, will we get it financed? Will it be part of the County budget? We can have all kinds of priorities, but if they're not going to fund, which they didn't this year. Schimek added the topic may be appropriate for a Commons Meeting.

Eskridge asked if Hinkley would be willing to be on this committee? Hinkley replied yes. Emery

stated there is a problem, the RTSD will meet once more before Hinkley leaves. Members made a decision to be one short and fill after May. We meet quarterly, and not again until March or April.

2. Public Building Commission (PBC), (December 11th) - Carroll, Cook

Cook stated the PBC had meetings on December 11, 2012 and January 7, 2013. On December 11th discussed the public art venue opening January 4th. Hopefully everyone has been able to see the new public art. The solar panels on 27th Street will be our last project with the American Recovery Act. We needed a six month extension to complete. We received a letter today saying our six month extension had been approved. The project going forward, entirely paid for the federal grant.

Cook stated the Commission discussed the LED light savings. For our three garages we have a savings of \$20,000 a year, after changing to LED lights.

At District Court the pay phones aren't utilized as much as before so we're removing two of the five pay phones.

At today's meeting discussed concealed weapons, a topic the County needs to look at. The Treasurer's office now has a number of former law enforcement officials. From the Sheriff's Department have Andy Stebbing and now Deputy Jarrett is also at the Treasurer's. They meet a Federal law which requires that if they want to carry concealed weapons they need a certification yearly. This applies to former law enforcement officers, and they would be qualified. The Federal law does not override local law, which states you can't have a weapon in the building. Also, there's a Nebraska statute on concealed weapons. It's possible if they want to carry weapons in this building there will need to be a change to ordinance, or to State law. The Law Department and County Board needs to weigh in, as the Treasurer is a County Department.

Cook stated they discussed changing hand dryers. Looked at changing what we have in this building to hand dryers, but decided to look into automatic towel dispensers. The dispensers we have are very expensive, \$6,500 a year for paper towels, and are very inefficient as when you pull one, five comes out. With an automatic dispenser, waving your hand, may still provide towels but at a savings. Will look at more cost information.

Cook stated on candle warmers, which is a light bulb with wax around the bulb, when the light bulb heats it causes some wax to evaporate which may leave a nice scent. We decided this was a departmental issue, handled by Directors.

Carroll added they increased the minimum dollar amount for contracts to a \$3,000 threshold. Cook commented they also approved an ordinance as part of our technical changes.

Camp asked on the LED conversion, what was the cost? Cook replied it was Federal money but do not recall the cost. Camp stated secondly, hand dryers. He's read paper hand dryers are better. Hand dryers really aren't as sanitary as you'd think. Read articles, and do know these are inefficient.

3. Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) (December 11th) - Eskridge

Eskridge stated the MAC met in December and will meet again tomorrow. Last month Chief Peschong attended and talked about hiring minorities in LPD. They have developed strategies to approach and Chief Huff will report at the next meeting on January 8, 2013.

4. Board of Health (December 11th) - Emery

Emery stated they meet on January 8, 2013.

5. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC), (December 12th) - Carroll

Carroll reported the VoIP phone system is just about complete in this building, going very well. The largest item is having Windstream turn off their lines and stop billing. Also working on the Interlocal agreement between the City and County dealing with the I.S. department, as it's very outdated.

6. Parks & Rec Advisory Committee (December 13th) - Cook

Cook stated they discussed the Willard Community site, with a number of ongoing expenses, which we can't afford. A private group willing to take over. Primarily discussed the property, and boundaries, and what we would surplus. For more information on the actual functioning of the Willard Community contact me with Parks stating the private group is supportive in moving forward.

Cook stated they did approve the urban garden regulations. There are pages of rules but a lot are basic which are what we need to do to protect ourselves. Then, the Holmes Club house is on schedule and should be ours by April 30th. Regarding the pools, the swim count is up 8% over last year, and at 82% cost recovery, where before we were at 63% cost recovery in 2008.

Schimek asked if there will still be a senior center at the Willard Center? Cook replied it's a community center, not a senior center. Schimek thought it was also used as a senior center.

7. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (December 18th) - Carroll

Carroll stated the first we received a refund from the Burlington Railroad, \$2.5 million. This was an advance paid to speed the track transition. The original amount was \$3 million and we've receiving a \$2.5 million refund. Hawkins Construction was selected to build the parking lot and pedestrian bridge for \$7.2 million. Another item was deciding to include a new VoIP system, an IPTV system, inside the arena, which wasn't available two years ago when budgeted. New technology and did add \$1.5 million to the project. With other items being shifted, example: part of the pedestrian bridge over to Mortenson Construction, their contract increased to \$159 million. Most of this money came from one budget into another. Did not increase the complete project cost. Shifted one budget to another and Mortenson now in charge of the building's TV system as all the building's controls to run the systems should be installed at the same time, by the same people, to make sure they all top each other. We felt Mortenson's would do the best job, and the reason Mortenson's contract went up.

Carroll stated the money for the TV system received from the County Convention Bureau. They gave \$1.5 million to the JPA.

Carroll stated project still on budget, on time, and everyone possibly noticed the crane is down and gone. Now closing the hole in the roof, and should be completed by the end of the month. The hot water is on from the District Energy Corporation.

Camp stated regarding the Burlington \$2 million refund, as we're going forward, what's the thinking of saying, this is great and may be able to give money back to the taxpayer, or reduce the 30 years to fewer on the tax? Carroll believes it's too early to tell, each budget has some contingency. A few change orders are coming, but really down the road as far as our contracts. So fairly soon should be able to take a look at the budget and see whether our numbers are right or wrong. Want to make sure

we don't have any change orders which may come and upset the budget. Will take a strong look, but have not use our contingency funds across the board as we knew something might come up. We would like to be conservative and say, we'll wait and see until we get closer. In February Mortenson has to give a guaranteed price and completion date in their contract. After this happens we'll know where we're at. Camp thanked Carroll. Sounds as if we do have good things happening.

Cook pointed out the current time, stating the clock is more than 5 minutes slow, with actual time being 2:56 p.m.

8. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (December 20th) - Emery

No report.

9. Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (December 18th) - Eskridge

Eskridge stated they heard it is very close to completion and will give to the County possibly within a month.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - None

V. MISCELLANEOUS - None

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Eskridge adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.