

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013  
555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 113  
Immediately Following Director's Meeting**

**I. MINUTES**

1. Director's Meeting minutes of January 14, 2013.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of January 14, 2013.
3. Executive Session, Labor Negotiations, minutes of January 14, 2013.

**II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS**

1. District Energy Corporation (DEC) (Jan. 15, 2013) - Camp
2. Keno Advisory Board (Jan. 17, 2013) - Emery
3. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (Jan. 22, 2013) - Carroll
4. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (January 24, 2013) - Carroll
5. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (Jan. 31, 2013) - Emery
6. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) (Feb. 1, 2013) - Emery, Eskridge
7. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (Jan. 28, 2013) - Eskridge, Hinkley, Schimek
8. Correctional JPA (Jan. 29, 2013) - 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**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

**Present:** Carl Eskridge, Chair; Jon Camp, Vice Chair; Lloyd Hinkley; Gene Carroll; Doug Emery; Jonathan Cook; and DiAnna Schimek (2:30 p.m.)

**Others:** Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff; Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff; Denise Pearce, Senior Policy Counsel; and Rod Confer, City Attorney

Chair Eskridge called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

**I. MINUTES**

1. Director's Meeting minutes of January 14, 2013.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of January 14, 2013.
3. Executive Session, Labor Negotiations, minutes of January 14, 2013.

Eskridge stated the minutes were distributed to Council Members. With no corrections the minutes were approved.

**II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS**

**1. District Energy Corporation (DEC) (Jan. 15, 2013) - Camp**

Camp stated at their DEC annual meeting did elect officers: Hudkins, Chair; Camp, Vice Chair; and Nelson Secretary Treasurer. Schorr now represents the County. Main projects are continuing in the West Haymarket. Our sales are fine. We act as a conduit generating the energy and selling to the State, City and arena. We also look ahead. Much like LES we do contacts for the future. Also, working on the 1526 Building. Adding capacity, running underground pipes and will furnish the energy. There will be an International Meeting in Miami in June, and will attend with Nelson, who will present, and a staff person.

**2. Keno Advisory Board (Jan. 17, 2013) - Emery  
& Joint Budget Committee (JBC) (Feb. 1, 2013) - Emery, Eskridge**

Emery stated he would combine the **Keno Advisory Board** and the **Joint Budget Committee** in this report. When we started with Keno funds, and distribution, it was determined to put 40% of the yearly away until the fund was one million dollars. With the fund at a million the question is what to do now. We discussed with the Keno Advisory Board an idea from the County in putting together a 2 year program which would benefit all. An RFP issued to try to cut down on recidivism rates, or people in jail. Looked at continuing to take 40% and distribute. Take 60% with \$10,000 kept in the JBC as an emergency fund. For the next 2 years will try to run the RFP and provide \$45,000/year to decrease the recidivism rate. All should have seen the Keno Advisory Board distribution which will be before Council in the next couple of weeks.

Eskridge added there was discussion on this being a 2 year project. Now soliciting programs and ways to address recidivism to keep people out of jail. Some felt this was more a County problem than a City problem, but it is joint. The County is more responsible for the jail. Costs of incarceration is not only County's costs as families encounter costs, with many community costs.

Emery gave an example. If people were trained, possibly with a food handler permit, when released, they could go to work as a food handler. Now they need training, which may delay getting the permit. The longer the delay of not being employed perhaps the higher chance of recidivism. Hinkley asked if counseling enters? Emery replied no, would try to get them on their feet. Possibly housing, or other items. We will issue the RFP stating this is what we want to accomplish, tell us your programs, how you would run versus us designing a program, with perimeters, saying we'll do for you.

Eskridge added another idea was a need for parenting classes, items specifically like learning what it's like to be a good father. One program suggested.

**3. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (Jan. 22, 2013) - Carroll**

Carroll stated the DLA received a presentation from Design Workshop on the P Street Corridor. An abbreviated presentation versus what was shown publicly on Wednesday night, when people had a chance to vote. Carroll thought they had very good changes, working well with the retail environment to see what is wanted, and it worked out with no loss of parking. Working with Public Works on the defined parts of the parking system. They understand they're in a time crunch with the funding requirements, but on task. Eskridge asked if they will present to Council? Hoppe replied it could be arranged. Carroll stated part of TIF money. Camp asked if it needs final approval from Council? Hoppe, before committing an answer, will check.

**4. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (January 24, 2013) - Carroll**

Carroll stated they received a presentation by DEC. The building is up with hot water running to the arena for heat. Approved running DEC piping south to 6<sup>th</sup> and O Streets for a new office building to be built. Approved Olson and Associates to do testing on the new pedestrian bridge. Did order a Dasher Board System, the hockey board system, at a cost of \$191,000.00. They built the Dasher Board in concrete anchors and now pouring the main floor of the arena. If we have a need for ice, it is being built into the floor and will be available.

**5. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (Jan. 31, 2013) - Emery**

Emery stated the PRT has 6 active cases. Bad news is 3 of the 6 have been on for a considerable time and in various stages of legal action to allow us to mediate problems, and bill to the owner. Much like what the PRT did with the project which had the rocks. We went in, re-mediated and charged back, which is what we intend to do and see if we can move these 3 specific projects. Otherwise we probably are in as good of shape which we have been for a while with total projects.

Hinkley asked if all projects relate to real estate? Emery replied yes, all residential areas, and the most difficult of the difficult. We tried multiple approaches with each for at least 3 years, with 2 on for almost 5 years. With one house we finally found a way to attack a couple months ago, and the project has gone well, now being rid of the worst of the problem. We seen to have the person's attention. They're paying as it's on their property tax to pay us back. Developed a strategy, and convinced judges. Before we often didn't see the same judge but now have 3 to 4 inch files making it obvious we've tried everything within reason.

Eskridge heard from the Everett Neighborhood Association about a property, 5 or 6 blocks south of here, anything on this property? Emery replied we have to remember it may not all get to the PRT as it needs multiple agencies involved. There needs to be at least 2 agencies. Lot of projects have the question of, why aren't you dealing with it, with the answer being it's not in our purview.

## **7. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (Jan. 28, 2013) - Eskridge, Hinkley, Schimek**

Eskridge stated at each meeting we receive statistics from Cornhusker Place. They highlight data, let us know of particularly problematic bars in terms of numbers of people brought to them, blood alcohol content numbers, and some individual ages. This information is very helpful to track. We previously asked that a few bars be looked at and now seeing some interesting things at certain locations.

Eskridge added they discussed taxis. A couple bar owners are members of the ILC and they're very pleased with the new taxi service. The location on 14<sup>th</sup> and O street, especially the south side of O Street, needs some improvement on how well it works.

He stated server seller training on line, functioning, and working. Needs a little tweak but in good shape. The Entertainment District originally was envisioned as a specific area close to the arena, and now being envisioned as possibly a broader area. Discussing how this will be defined.

Camp asked with more taxi companies coming, has this affected the rates? Hinkley stated they're not unhappy about the taxi service, possibly a little unhappy with pickups. Camp stated he's curious with competition and the rates? Confer stated rates should be regulated by the Tourist Commission. Eskridge believes there's 2 different rate structures. One rate structure for those here before and then for Happy Cab. Camp asked if this could be checked? With different companies possibly assume a lower structure? Eskridge replied the rates were lower. The old company maybe looked at the lower rates, not sure. A big advantage of taxi ridership increasing since the rates were lowered.

Hinkley stated this statistically new area opened his eyes. Lots of pickups not from the bars, but from home parties, and he wasn't familiar with the activity in this area. Also, shocked by the number of 14 to 16 year olds.

## **8. Correctional JPA (Jan. 29, 2013) - Eskridge**

Eskridge stated the Correctional JPA had a couple of finishing issues with the jail. One a floor resolution, needing to be done, and another item. Expect resolution by the end of this month and then the facility will be turned over to the County. They estimate in five months they will have staff trained. They expect the jail to be open on approximately August 1<sup>st</sup>. Emery asked, then the JPA goes away? Confer stated probably will have through paying the bonds.

### **III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

Pearce stated the Audit Advisory Board has reappointments. Also, the Mayor has 3 appointments this March. Your appointee is Jason Christensen, who is willing to continue serving. She then distributed a handout. Applicants for the Audit Advisory Board is the first list, then a list of applicants for the Internal Audit Review Committee. Council sits on this internal board along with a member of the Mayor's office, and City Auditor. All names included. She stated to let her know if Council wants to see any of the applications. Who would you like to have in the resolution for the Council to vote on? Possibly discuss this week, or think about it, and revisit next week?

Cook thought the Chair. Eskridge asked if Council only selects one? Pearce replied yes. Let her know who Council wants in the resolution and she'll submit. Eskridge asked if anyone had problems with Mr. Christensen serving in that role? Short discussion, with agreement.

#### **IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR**

Hoppe stated Councilman Eskridge and he has scheduled pre-councils for next week. One on 2013 roads projects with Public Works giving a presentation. The other a presentation on the horizontal water well legislation coming to Council the next week. We thought worth the time to see a little of what's planned dealing with water and the issue coming this summer assuming there's drought.

Eskridge stated there is President's Day and then a couple Council Members will be gone for a short time. This seemed a good time to put these issues together for next week.

#### **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

Eskridge stated the Consolation Task Force was discussed at the Commons Meeting, where it was clarified Council will have 7 members on the Consolation Task Force. Sent to Council the results of names we had from last week. Do think if we had been told initially we had 7 then each of us would have chosen 1. Discussion on who our candidates are considering the County's selection regarding needing certain characteristics?

Carroll stated Council went through the process. The Chair calculated based on totaling the top 7 from all Members. Do think probably the first 6, with a tie for 7<sup>th</sup> place. Possibly decide the tie of who gets to represent as No. 7 person, but think the top 6 are selected now will decide on the 7<sup>th</sup> person.

Camp stated we didn't have a defined process, just a ballot, which concerns him. Feel it's important, for us as a whole, to look at qualifications. Everyone who applied brings something to the table. Did think a strange way to send out without discussing, with no defined process. I understand what Eskridge put together. Did want Gruntorad. He was the only one who contacted me last November, when this first came out. Think it's important to discuss if you want someone with a specific background. Can't recall if anyone had enforcement and we'll talk about the police and sheriff's departments consolidation. Did look at these elements, and what we want in a way of past Council Members, and how far removed. Any elected officials wanted on the list, or not?

Emery stated the first problem was hearing we'll each submit a name. But 12 people doesn't amount to 10. We assumed it was 5 from the County and 5 from us. Did mention to Raybould and Schorr I felt this was a little unfair to Council. Originally everyone would submit a name, and we were not being allowed to do. The Mayor also picks 1 name. Probably makes little difference if 11 or 13 people. Don't know, even with the initial assumption of each submitting a name, how we would have the pieces together, like you're asking. Emery said he understands what Camp is saying, but which job does your appointee fit? How do you control other appointees, making sure they fit the niche? I feel the decision would be if it's a workable group. Someone we obviously missed?

Schimek stated the County has 5 appointments. Do think to go with our first choices. If some have the same first choice then go back. Also, there are 6 people who came in first with tabulating, and 3 slightly under the 6. We could take the top 6 people and vote on the 3 right under them. Cook stated the next 2 in line have same tabulated scores.

Eskridge stated it seems if we want to choose Gruntorad for the position, everybody's first choice would be on the list. The other 2 top vote getters would then be elected as well. Cook added if you know that everyone's first choice is honored, it seems reasonable.

Carroll reiterated if including Gruntorad the top other 6 are all included. Schimek pointed out 1 of the top 6 did not get a first vote. Eskridge stated 2 did not, Gauger and McGill. Gauger received 5 votes but not a no. 1 vote. McGill got 4 votes but not a no.1 vote. Cook stated he thought Eskridge was saying everyone's first choice. Eskridge commented some Members had the same first choice. Camp commented that Gruntorad was his no.1 choice.

Eskridge stated Council appointees will be Dick Campbell, Mike DeKalb, Jan Gauger, Jean Lovell, Darl Nauman, Amanda McGill, and Dale Gruntorad.

**VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

No comments

**VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

See invitation list.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Eskridge adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.