

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2014
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' MEETING
555 S. 10TH STREET, ROOM 113**

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of March 17, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of March 17, 2014.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Railroad Safety Transportation District (RTSD) - Christensen, Emery, Gaylor Baird
2. Joint Budget Committee - Emery, Gaylor Baird
3. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Fellers

III. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2014**

Present: Carl Eskridge, Chair; Doug Emery, Vice Chair; Jon Camp; Roy Christensen; and Trent Fellers

Absent: Jonathan Cook; Leirion Gaylor Baird

Others: Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff; Denise Pearce, Senior Policy Counsel; and Mary Meyer, City Council Office

Chair Eskridge opened the meeting at 2:11 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of March 17, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of March 17, 2014.

With no corrections the above minutes placed on file in City Council Office.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) - Christensen, Emery, Gaylor Baird

Christensen stated the RTSD had committed \$13.5 million for two railroad overpasses on the South Beltway. The commitment is there, however heard budget decisions are only binding for one year. Looking at \$2 million plus a year for the next several years to be committed, with County Board Members indicating support with the caveat of completing the County budget.

Emery added since we don't bond, it's pay as you go, and we accrue the money. Will start with the idea to have the financing needed to build the overpasses, but several items are on the budget. As Councilman Christensen stated the amount of money being saved is dependent on the levy.

The other item is the work being done on a quiet zone in Hickman, and discussing a Denton quiet zone. Once again, constituents cannot expect a quiet zone quickly, with the railroad having their own timeline. Heard they are approximately eight or nine months behind in Hickman. If we decide on quiet zones will not give a finish date as it's subject to change.

Eskridge stated the crossings of extra concern are 33rd and Adams. Emery commented the intersection, and financing, is included. Eskridge added Council discussed/proposed two years ago. Emery replied at the time it was not voted to go forward and be put in the budget. The County, and other interested parties, voted against. They later changed their minds and started saving for preliminary design work, being done now. There is an understanding we will have to work on the two crossings. With over a million potential problems there daily using their figures, plus these are the two busiest railroad crossings in Nebraska.

2. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Emery, Gaylor Baird

Emery stated again the discussion focused on investing the million dollars to realize more income. The City and County law offices working on solutions to have an agreement where the amount has no more risk but earns a higher return. Discussed the United Way campaign, who also is on the Committee, who stated they will achieve the goal as they did a year ago. May not reach their yearly budget but will reach same goal as a year ago. Remarkable since they lost one of their largest donors.

3. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Fellers

Fellers stated the VPC heard two different grant proposals, one from the Lied Center and one from the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. The Lied Center requested \$258,000 for front canopy repair. Apparently they have glass leaking, needing repairs. Also, want to add additional LED signage around the canopy, and add a lighting workroom in the Carson Theater. The sound board in the main auditorium no longer working, therefore update the main lobby audio. The Lied is going into its' 25th year and they are looking for some help. The Committee recommended approval of two different proposals, for a total of \$89,000. The LED signage around the canopy and the main auditorium sound board, which is approximately \$25,000.

Fellers commented the Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame looking to receive kiosks so visitors can see historical data of high school sports. The Committee felt this was more of a capital expenditure and didn't have a lot of data from the committee making the proposal. Our Committee needed to know how many more visitors would the facility receive before giving money. Requested they come back next year.

Camp asked what is the lodging tax annual funding? Fellers stated he would send the information. He stated the grant fund has approximately \$400,000, which they watch closely. Seems like a lot of grants they give are looking for a capital expenditure type rather than something that can help them from the lodging tax.

Camp inquired if there is any consideration to donate to the Ice Rink? Fellers didn't believe they've received a grant request.

III. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR

None

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Eskridge stated there will be a Commons Meeting shortly with two agenda items of the annual weed report and following up with further discussion on the consolidation plan. Any other topics requested?

Eskridge added last week we discussed the Audit Advisory Board. Pearce stated she wanted to give the applicants more time to respond. Next week will not have an Organizational Meeting but will request to be on the agenda the following week.

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Roy Christensen stated the Nebraska Hearing Society Convention held here last weekend, consisting of approximately 80 participants from across the State. A great convention. Did take some participants to the arena for the basketball game at lunchtime, and they were impressed by the Haymarket area.

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Eskridge adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.