

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MAY 5, 2014
555 S. 10TH STREET, BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' MEETING**

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of April 21, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of April 21, 2014.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (April 24) - Emery
2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (April 22) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird
3. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (April 28) - Christensen, Eskridge, Fellers
4. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) (May 2) - Emery, Gaylor Baird
5. Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (April 29) - Eskridge

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MAY 5, 2014**

Present: Carl Eskridge, Chair; Doug Emery, Vice Chair; Jon Camp; Roy Christensen; Jonathan Cook; Trent Fellers; and Leirion Gaylor Baird

Others: Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff; Rod Confer, City Attorney; and Steve Hubka, Finance Director

Chair Eskridge opened the meeting at 2:15 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of April 21, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of April 21, 2014.

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

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (April 24) - Emery

Councilman Emery was unable to attend.

2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (April 22) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird

Gaylor Baird stated they received a presentation from Mike Davis/StarTran, who also requested support of a federal grant. The DLA does support this planning grant which will allow the City to study where they might want to locate a mobile transit center, and the need to determine the next steps. The cost of the project is sufficient to require grants to move forward. The DLA voted to provide a letter of support for this initial grant. During discussion the question was raised on whether this could be done in partnership with UNL. One DLA member thought the Human Services Federation, and other human service organizations, ought to be contacted for input as well.

Gaylor Baird added they also received a presentation on P Street.

Camp asked what is the grant amount? Gaylor Baird responded she wrote \$108,000 local while listening, not sure of the exact amount. Camp asked if for construction versus studies? Gaylor Baird answered this question should be asked of Mike Davis. Camp stated we do a lot of studies, soft dollars, and think we have qualified people in Lincoln. We know what we need and we know the facts. Seems we may be able to save some soft dollars and get as much, or greater, support. Hoppe replied our main point is, if they end up funding a large portion can't imagine they won't require a study. Camp advocated, wherever possible, to start reducing some soft dollars, especially the out of town people.

3. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (April 28) - Christensen, Eskridge, Fellers

Eskridge stated we just had a pre-council on ILC subjects, any thoughts or comments beyond what we heard? Christensen commented he asked Captain Citta to have one more look at the age number, and give us the medium and mode as well. Think it will give a different picture of the distribution of age.

Camp added the pre-council gave a very good report. It says a lot for the police department and

probably the server training. Eskridge stated the Center Team Captain was changed. Believe she has people in bars, making sure laws are being observed. Apparently some bar owners feel the police have been a little too involved, but to me it sounds like a good job.

Eskridge stated on the issue we have with the State Liquor Commission we'll have an informal conversation with State Liquor leadership.

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

Gaylor Baird stated they received a presentation from Jeff Chambers, Project Director for the Center for Children at UNL, and focused on homelessness. We have a homeless coalition which keeps very good data. Compared to other cities Lincoln apparently is serving the homeless population well, and we're seeing a decline.

Gaylor Baird added the United Way also gave a presentation. Their campaign next year targets raising \$7.1 million dollars, very helpful for those of need in our community.

Emery commented the homelessness discussion focused on the time surveyed. Once a year they count nationwide to see what the count is. Believe Lincoln's count was approximately 900, but done on a day when the wind chill was a minus 17, always a concern. Very good information giving another side to the idea we have none, or little, homelessness and poverty in Lincoln. Gaylor Baird stated at the time they counted all emergency housing was full.

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

Hoppe stated on June 12th we will have the Joint Omaha-Lincoln City Council meeting at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Working with Omaha's staff on a joint agenda. So far have received: water; prime data sharing; cooperative purchasing; the CIR; land banking; the Emerald Ash Borer; and the fairness ordinance from our side. Want to be sure everyone submits what they want Omaha to see to gauge interest in various topics. We probably need to keep to 5 or 6 topics.

Camp asked for a list copy to prioritize the topics. Hoppe replied he would send, and asked if there were other topics.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Eskridge stated in talking with the County Board received the request for Council to consider having joint small group meetings, or conversations. Christensen asked, no quorum from either side? Confer stated there's a probation against trying to have meetings not in line with the Open Meetings Act. Eskridge commented he felt it was more a matter of trying to open communication. Cook said could have the Chairs talk. Eskridge replied we do have quarterly joint meetings.

Eskridge added the second request was the timing issue between the City's budget process and the County's budget process in terms of joint departments.

Hubka stated, as mentioned, there's differences in their administrative board. What they're doing is what we're currently doing with the Mayor's office. They're meeting with their agencies to develop their budget. As Council veterans know, we typically have a Commons Meeting shortly after the budget is released. It was scheduled for Tuesday, July 15th. Spoke with Dennis Meyer, County Fiscal Officer, and the County Board didn't feel it was worthwhile for them to attend, or have a Commons Meeting. They chose, and voted, to not attend the meeting.

Hubka said the question then becomes do we have County Agencies, who are part of the meeting

come and discuss with the City Council, as they have at past Commons Meetings? Five County agencies are listed to attend the Commons: Pre-Trial Diversion; Emergency Management; Weed Control Authority; Building Commission; Human Services and Justice Council; and Joint Budget Committee. Approximately 1 ½ hours. He added the City spends a little over a million dollars, probably without the Building Commission of rent, etc.

Hubka asked if Council wants these County Agencies to come in? Cook added Council has the meetings on Wednesday, should we set aside additional time? Or cancel Tuesday, extend Wednesday, and add time if we want to meet with some of the departments? Hubka stated on Tuesday do have quite a few City departments, with large department dollars. Cook commented the City picks what to pay and the County pays 1/4 of the amount, with no choice.

Emery asked what would happen if we changed Tuesday to make sure we put those together, at the start or the end, of the session? People who wanted to stay could. We would do the rest of the day as outlined. Cook stated should go ahead with Tuesday with Budget arranging.

Gaylor Baird asked, for clarification, they wouldn't come as they've voted on their budget? Camp answered they heard from their departments and feel it's done. They don't have a lot of influence over City departments.

Eskridge added the Commission has already gone through their process and may think this is redundant. Emery stated, it's worked until this year, and seemed thought out. Gaylor Baird asked at these meetings does Council have questions for the County Commissioners? Emery replied we share responsibility on some agencies. Usually if the County has concerns about agencies they have the opportunity to discuss with everyone present. If we make a subtraction to the budget the Commissioners might pay less. Cook added if they don't show we'll listen to department presentations.

Hubka stated the give and take is usually between the person from the department and Council or Board Members. Cook added conversations are pretty limited with some departments. Gaylor Baird commented the County Commissioners serve Lancaster County which includes Lincoln so it seems to make sense to be a part of the discussions. We serve the same people, one community.

Hubka commented we'll try to arrange these departments at the end of the day. Camp asked with the City budget will there be a preliminary before the City Council budget? Now the Mayor is meeting with all the departments. Will we say what we want? Hoppe replied he was hoping to have Council discuss where we think we are and briefings next week, or the week of the 19th, to receive your feedback and what you want to see before we submit the budget. Hoping to do a couple of times before we go to print. Seems to work well to give background, for Council to think about, and come back and discuss what you want.

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments.

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Eskridge adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.