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VII. ADJOURNMENT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2015

Present: Trent Fellers, Chair; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Vice Chair; Carl Eskridge; Jane Raybould; Jon Camp; Roy Christensen; and Cyndi Lamm

Others Present: Mary Meyer, Council Secretary

Chair Fellers opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES
1. Directors’ and Organizational meeting minutes of June 8, 2015. With no corrections the above minutes placed on file in the City Council office.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Camp, Raybould
Raybould stated Phase 1 of the build out of the former jail will have substantial completion of the sally port, and the holding cells used when transporting inmates from County jail, by August 4, 2015. Will then enter Phase 1b, the demolition and new generation construction, with the contract being awarded. The demolition will start June 22nd.

Raybould added they discussed the Bensch Building, the build out for the Mental Health Crisis Center. The bids will open July 9th with construction starting on July 14th. A completion date expected of December 22, 2015.

Phase 3 will put the bid together allowing interested general contractors to discuss the tenant build out for the jail interior.

Camp added a policy was brought forth by Don Killeen, applicable in buildings under certain circumstances. Raybould commented the Behavioral Policy, which was modeled after Lincoln’s Library Board on how they handle situations. Only one modification, added -“and or”-which Camp submitted. Will move forward with Kirkpatrick to finish working with different departments on understanding this new policy on inappropriate behavior. Camp commented no situations in recent memory but believe we should have policy going forward.

2. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) - Christensen, Gaylor Baird, Lamm
Gaylor Baird stated there was conflict among the County and City RTSD representatives regarding the County recommendation for the levy amount allocated to RTSD. The maximum is 2.6 cents per $100 of evaluation, and the way business was done for many years. This is the amount required to accomplish some future major projects, such as the South Belt Way, 33rd/35th and Adams, along with others, and not going into the red before projects completion. Gaylor Baird added the amounts compiled from Figard, and other engineers.

Gaylor Baird stated the County had reduced the amount of RTSD levy to balance their budget, in case they have budget issues. She commented at the City County Commons meeting the County stated this would not be the case this year, but at this meeting felt they may not hold true to that promise.
Gaylor Baird commented when it came to the vote Figard recommended we have the 2.6 cent levy. The vote went back and forth and ended being a 2 cent request. Gaylor Baird added she voted against and Christensen voted for. Gaylor Baird believed if asking for the full levy would have a better chance of project completion.

Christensen stated first he moved for 2.6 cents, with Gaylor Baird seconding. Received a 2-3 vote against. County Representative Avery moved for a 2 cent. He wanted to put off the vote in favor of a study, with a recommendation after the County Board had decided what to do on the levy. Gaylor Baird had correctly said if having a recommendation ask before the decision. We insisted and had a vote with Avery asking for a 2.2 cent levy. Supported this levy and believe if we had gone ahead with what 3 County Board members wanted, probably would have been 1.6 cents.

Christensen added since Avery supported and brought forward think we’re more likely to get closer with a 2.0 cent recommendation than with a 2.6 cent. Do believe a different vote would have the County feeling as if they should ignore completely, which happened last year. This was passed. Respect Gaylor Baird’s vote not to support but thought important enough to have on record, with 3 County voting for, Lamm not voting yet. Passed 4 to 1.

Gaylor Baird stated Bill Avery sustained from voting the first time. Not sure why and feel we need better clarification on whether that is allowed. Christensen stated another vote was to approve the engineering and initial environment study for the 33rd & Adams grade separation project.

Christensen added there is “Pell”. Before if work had been completed in a study and later it was time for the actual environmental impact study the original work had to be thrown out. Through this new federal program, “Pell” we can preserve and use what we accomplished in this portion and add a final environmental impact study. As this is pricey think it will decrease the final cost. The number proposed and passed for the study was $640,000.

Raybould asked if it would be possible to have Figard come and talk about design changes? When he presented before there were double round abouts, and now hoping for possible modifications. Christensen replied part of the study will have them come forward, and they’re now discussing 3 or 4 different design options. Part of the study shows different options and then the RTSD will chose. Raybould stated hopefully they could come and present so we have a heads up on their thoughts and ask our questions about the design.

Camp agreed with Raybould. Will spend $600,000 for a study which we already had a study completed, and don’t know the input which would be given on the fiscal side. Christensen stated we did give a lot of input, adding he; Schorr, RTSD Chair; and Figard, City Engineer; had approximately 4 meetings last month and decided not to bring the initial proposal, which was well over a $1 million. They presented an $800,000 proposal which we reduced to $640,000. Camp said on the overall project they have the ability to sign. Christensen added team members have input, and vote. A good suggestion to invite Figard for a pre-council when there is something to report.

Camp questioned if this should be at a City County Commons Meeting, like the previous presentation? Fellers commented he would speak to the Commons Chair.

Raybould said one thing she would ask Figard was to talk more about the intersection itself. What have we done? Have we taken all appropriate steps to mitigate the hazards at the location, before we do this huge project? Would want statistics on injuries, fatalities, and other issues.
3. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Christensen

Christensen stated the main subject was the Zoo expansion proposal. After looking at the general project outline we heard testimony. Sixty people attended and five spoke. There were concerns about green space preservation, access to the gardens, preserving the public gardens on the NW side, and the plaza which commemorates donors. Want to maintain a respect for these items.

Christensen commented one interesting item was the Statue of Liberty, which previously was on the corner of 27th and A. Now looks like the proposal is to put back at that location. Mostly in favor and demonstrated by the Zoo Foundations’ favorable testimony.

The Board discussed a survey done with 2100 constituents, a large survey number in Lincoln, asking if Zoo expansion was favored with 93% in favor. Also in the survey an item on the parking issues. Asked about parking and respondents who replied yes to a parking problem, with no question ever exceeding 10%. The average was around 3% to 5% saying there was a problem parking. Discussion continued on parking and looking at City property south of A street, which needs work, and depends upon more than City Parks.

Raybould asked if discussion on parking included a shuttle from parking areas south of the Zoo? Christensen replied no, but discussed using the crosswalk at A Street now. Now people use a bike path to cross and talked of using the cross walk for people to park south of A Street.

Gaylor Baird questioned if expansion in other directions discussed? Christensen stated not part of this discussion. Talking now about in the triangle to expand the Zoo. There was talk on using Joel Satore, National Geographic photographer, who said he visits parks worldwide and stated our Zoo was great, adding go big, move the Parks and Rec building, which we discussed with pros and cons. The Board did vote to approve moving forward with general proposal, with lots of details to work out. Nothing written in stone.

4. JPA Discussion - Eskridge

Eskridge stated his first JPA meeting will be held on June 25th. Now getting orientated through Steve Hubka on budget questions and with law and management on issues.

5. Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) - Eskridge

Eskridge stated MAC had their last meeting before summer break. A very interesting meeting in which we reviewed some discussions held last year. Looked back and agree we need to cover more, which leads to another topic. Laid out issues to be discussed in future meetings.

6. Board of Health - Raybould

Raybould stated an important item is recognition of the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, as it has been an award recipient for 2 awards. Received the Horizon Award for the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees for individuals, or groups, sharing resources and talents to make Lincoln a healthier community, and for their willingness to explore new ideas and collaborate. Very dedicated to serving the most vulnerable community people community. Basically the Lincoln Health Department has pulled numerous resources in their purchasing power primarily to distribute diabetes supplies to low income people. A large savings to the City and County as well as leveraging grant money from Community Health Endowment. Most recipients of grant money from Lincoln’s Community Health Endowment to partnerships with other organizations make the money go further in helping our community.
Raybould added they also received the 2015 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award, for the work the Health Department has done with food safety. A very prestigious award in which the Health Department compiled substantial information even to be considered. An accommodation to our Health Department on how they deal with all food establishments and working with them to make sure they are in compliance. For the Health Department’s tremendous outreach they received recognition.

Raybould stated they discussed the No. 48th Street Transfer Station and possibly making it a permanent collector for hazardous waste instead of the hazardous waste now done periodically throughout the year. Will apply for a grant, which depends on the award to have the financial stability to open. Discussed perhaps opening in the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year if they receive the grant.

Raybould commented they discussed fugitive dust. Fugitive dust investigation, enforcement, and proposed policy. Looked at making updates to Fugitive Dust and air pollution and the impact of this sneaky dust which goes over property lines.

Lamm asked if, when talking about the transfer station, there was discussion on impacting the land use which is currently being considered and developed? Raybould replied it would be in collaboration and coordination with the land use of the conversion to Parks, and other recreational property use. Lamm asked if they thought it would be problematic for land use? Raybould didn’t think they had concerns. From past experience know of an island which was for refuse, and the depository for all city trash, and now it’s a beautiful park. Don’t think the proposed use for a collection site, and believe there’s been temporary collection sites throughout Lincoln and do not think they’re concerned about it becoming a hazard dump. Will follow up.

7. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Raybould

Raybould stated the ISPC meeting postponed until June 25th.

8. Auditor Selection Committee - Christensen

Christensen stated this committee is new with this being the first meeting he’s attended. Selecting, from bidders of companies, who will audit the City. The City, wastewater, EMS, solid waste, CHE, parking, West Haymarket JPA, with three bidders. The low bid now is $74,000 for a year, with the high bid of $90,000 per year. We’ve decided to interview all bidders, with an hour for each, and will occur June 22nd.

Gaylor Baird stated she’s aware there’s no auditor for the City but for terms of there being a City Council committee? Fellers commented not really a committee but an assignment. Christensen is the City Council representative who goes to this committee. Gaylor Baird asked, who else attends? Christensen answered Steve Hubka, Vince Mejer, and other folks. Wasn’t aware of this committee before volunteering.

Raybould thought the same auditors who show for every bid showed and not a shock of who submitted a bid. Christensen said HGH is the same audit firm who does the County.

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR
None

IV. MISCELLANEOUS
None
V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jane Raybould moved to add Executive Session to this agenda, Christensen seconded. Discussion: Christensen understood the purpose of executive session is to (Raybould - discuss pending litigation and to protect the public interest. No further discussion.

Roll: Fellers, Gaylor Baird, Eskridge, Raybould, Camp, Christensen, Lamm voted in favor of motion. 7-0.

Organizational Meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Council present: Trent Fellers, Chair; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Vice Chair, Carl Eskridge; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Roy Christensen; and Cyndi Lamm

A motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and to protect the public interest was made by Raybould and seconded by Lamm. On a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0. Immediately prior to the executive session the Chair restated the motion. Council went into executive session at 2:30 p.m.

The Council exited executive session at 3:00 p.m.