I. MINUTES
1. Approval of Directors’ minutes from June 18, 2018
2. No Minutes for June 25, 2018 due to night meeting
3. No minutes for July 2, 2018 in observance of Independence Day

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR’S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Administrative Approvals from June 19, 2018 through June 25, 2018

PUBLIC SAFETY
1. 2018 Annual Report of the Open Data Governance Committee

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS
Carried over from June 18, 2018 Directors’ Meeting
1. MAC - Shobe (06.12.18)
2. BOH - Shobe (06.12.18)
3. ISPC - Gaylor Baird (06.14.18)
4. Parks & Rec - Gaylor Baird (06.14.18)
5. DLA - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird (06.26.18)
6. WHJPA - Eskridge (06.28.18)
7. PRT - Lamm (06.28.18)
8. ILC - Christensen, Shobe, Eskridge (06.25.18)
9. PAC - Lamm, Shobe, Raybould (06.28.18)

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
1. Proposed Costco Chicken Farm, opposition - Duston Stancyk
2. Proposed Costco Chicken Farm, opposition - Ben Martin
3. Proposed Costco Chicken Farm, opposition - Erin Stancyk
4. Proposed Costco Chicken Farm, opposition - Sarah Rasby
5. June 25, 2018 Council Meeting - Kathryn Speicher
6. Proposed PACE - Greg Nelson
7. Modifications to Plaza/Cube Licensing Agreement request to delay - Mark Hunzeker
8. East “A” Street Development & Impact Fees - Russell Miller
11. Subdivisions that don’t have fire hydrants - Marlene King
12. Residential Sidewalks - H. Eugene Cook
13. Use of additional sales tax - Dennis Wertz
14. Funding for Lincoln Fire & Rescue - Lisa Thompson

VIII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
See invitation list.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Memorandum

Date: ♦ June 26, 2018

To: ♦ City Clerk

From: ♦ Amy Huffman, Planning Dept.

Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals

cc: ♦ Planning Commission
   ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of the administrative approvals by the Planning Director from June 19, 2018 through June 25, 2018:

Administrative Amendment No. 18027, to Final Plat No. 17046, Prairie Village North 21st Addition, approved by the Planning Director on June 20, 2018, accepting the Affidavit of Surveyor to correct typographical errors on the Final Plat, generally located at N. 89th Street & Tumbleweed Drive.
Annual Report

to the Mayor and City Council
by the City of Lincoln Open Data Governance Committee

July 1, 2018

Introduction

Lincoln City Council Resolution 16R-180, passed by the City Council in August 2016, established an open data initiative for the City of Lincoln. The resolution requires the creation of an Open Data Governance Committee and provides that the committee make an annual report on or before July 1 to the mayor and city council concerning the progress of the open data initiative, and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. This report from the committee is in response to that requirement. This is the second annual report.

Governance Committee

The Open Data Governance Committee required by the resolution was created in December 2016. The committee is composed of 20 members, including members from City departments, public sector private enterprise, non-profits, and the University of Nebraska.

David Young  Public Works and Utilities Department
Diane Gonzolas  Citizen Information Center
Elizabeth Elliott  Law Department
Eric Jones  Lincoln Fire & Rescue
Jeff McReynolds  Information Services Division
Jeff Peterson  Lincoln Police Department
Julee Hector  Lincoln Public Libraries
Leirion Gaylor Baird  Lincoln City Council
Lisa Pytlik Zillig  University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Lori Seibel  Community Health Endowment
Matt Waite  UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications
Eric Jackson  Citizen/student
Raju Kakarlapudi  Health Department
Ryan Axmann  Planning Department
Steve Henderson  Information Services Division
Steve Miller  BVH Architects
Todd Wiltgen  Lancaster County Board
Tom Casady  Public Safety Director
Zach Pluhacek  Lincoln Journal Star
Lana Tolbert  Building and Safety Department
New Datasets

During the past year, approximately 55 new datasets or resources have been added to the City’s open data portal, increasing the number of resources from approximately 119 one year ago to 174 today. The new datasets added within the past year include:

- Address points
- Surplus City property
- UPLNK (SeeClickFix) service requests
- Police use of force incidents
- Assaults on police officers
- Hate crimes
- Police motor vehicle pursuits
- Fire response zones
- Quality service audit surveys
- Lancaster County property sales
- Historic preservation sites
- Street sweeping

Many annual datasets were also updated shortly after January 1 to add the 2017 data and tables. A new page was added to the open data website to display real-time statistics for selected police incidents. This page uses a new tool developed by the provider of our open data portal software, ESRI. The City Finance Department is presenting working on a new open budget portal that will provide greater access to budget information and analytics. This resource will be linked in the open data portal as soon as it is ready for release.

Open Data Website Activity

There have been just over 71,000 visits to the open data portal since it was launch in March 2017. During the past 12 months, there have been 55,540 page-views, and 13,680 sessions by 10,305 users. The portal is averaging over 150 visits per day. Popular datasets include streets, city limits, zoning, surplus property, and LPD arrests and citations.

Lincoln continues to receive reports of people viewing and downloading data. This is especially true of university students and City employees. One of the interesting developments has been the use of the open data portal by City employees who have found it an easy way to obtain or view data that might otherwise require more time and effort to obtain.

Awards and Recognition

In April of 2018 Lincoln received the GIS Innovation Award at the Mid America GIS Conference. The City was recognized for its “...culture and spirit of transparency, collaboration, and innovation.”
Lincoln is scheduled to receive the ESRI Special Achievement in GIS Award later this month at the annual ESRI Users’ Conference in San Diego. The nomination states, in part, that “…a perfect example of an open data implementation. It combines all the elements that it was designed for, including featured information products that provide valuable information to the public. It also provides easy to find information that people would look for.”

Lincoln participates in the Police Open Data Initiative (PDI), hosted by the Police Foundation. The City was recognized by the PDI as one of the first communities in the United States to provide open data concerning hate crimes, and the City’s efforts in this regard were discussed in a Police Foundation publication, *Releasing Open Data on Hate Crimes: A Best Practices Guide for Law Enforcement Agencies*. At the request of the PDI, Lincoln presented information about its open data initiative in a nationwide webinar in March of this year.

**Open Data Census**

Earlier this year, The Sunlight Foundation solicited contributions to a nationwide compilation of municipal open data. Lincoln participated in this effort, completing submissions for 17 of the 20 datasets that are included in the census. Lincoln’s score ranks 11th of the 264 cities.

**Open Data Costs and Resources**

As reported last year, to date, *the City has incurred no direct costs related to open data, other than the contribution of staff time*. No purchases have been necessary, and no additional personnel or overtime costs have been incurred. Staff time has primarily consisted of attendance at committee and subcommittee meetings.

**Next Steps and Recommendations**

The Open Data Governance Committee will continue to meet and work through its subcommittees in the coming year. The committee will continue working to make more City data sets available as open data on the website. The committee will continue to prioritize those data that pertain to City democracy, City financial information, and City information related to health, safety, and welfare.

An important priority in the coming year will be ensuring that the data on the open data website is maintained and is as current as practical, and that all web links are functional. An effort will be made to incorporate Lincoln’s open budget portal into the open data website. The committee continues to recommend that all City departments evaluate new software acquisitions and updates with consideration as to whether these products or initiatives support open data interfaces and outputs.
The committee recommends that the current focus of the open data initiative remain in place: making existing data sets already collected in the City’s usual course of business available as open data wherever feasible.

One of the goals of the governance committee in the coming year is to more effectively market the City’s open data to the public. The committee hopes to host at least one open data event to which members of the public are invited to assist the City in analyzing and/or visualizing data related to a specified topic.

Last year, the governance committee identified sustainability as a critical issue. The open data website will continue to require occasional maintenance. Time and effort will continue to be required every year to update those data sets composed of annual files for previous years. Cultivating new data sets will require a more significant effort moving forward.
Hi folks I and my family own land and have a small lake very near to the proposed Costco Chicken farm operations southwest of Lincoln. The article in the journal star plainly stated the 25,000 sq ft buildings will house 22,500 chickens and the feces will be REMOVED ONLY ONCE A YEAR. Assuming space for equipment and walkways it’s safe to say these chickens will be confined to 1 sq ft of “living” space. Besides being cruel, the feces and smell is disgusting, the run off WILL pollute surrounding lakes and fresh ground water. On top of that our family and neighbors property values will be reduced by up to 40% according to public document. My family has worked and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars recently into the property and would be a shame to have to sell and lose money. We host wellness retreats and small weddings, we employ local Crete boys to do the maintenance, we have cut and planted a few hundred trees, naturally rid the lake of algae and seaweed and stocked with fish 5 years in a row. Help us protect our Lancaster land, our clean Nebraska ground water, and stand up against the horrors of factory farming. Please vote NO at the hearing on July 18 to stop the Costco poultry farm!
Hi folks I and my family own land and have a small lake very near to the proposed Costco Chicken farm operations southwest of Lincoln.

The article in the journal star plainly stated the 25,000 sq ft buildings will house 22,500 chickens and the feces will be REMOVED ONLY ONCE A YEAR. Assuming space for equipment and walkways it’s safe to say these chickens will be confined to 1 sq ft of “living” space. Besides being cruel, the feces and smell is disgusting, the run off WILL pollute surrounding lakes and fresh ground water. On top of that our family and neighbors property values will be reduced by up to 40% according to public document. My family has worked and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars recently into the property and would be a shame to have to sell and lose money. We host wellness retreats and small weddings, we employ local Crete boys to do the maintenance, we have cut and planted a few hundred trees, naturally rid the lake of algae and seaweed and stocked with fish 5 years in a row. Help us protect our Lancaster land, our clean Nebraska ground water, and stand up against the horrors of factory farming. Please vote NO at the hearing on July 18 to stop the Costco poultry farm!
City Council - Contact

Date: 6/25/2018 4:48:35 PM

name: Erin Stanczyk
address: 3100 Prescott Ave
city: Lincoln
state: NE
zip: 68502-5946
email: eatmoveresterin@gmail.com

comments: I am against the Costco chicken feed lot. This will slash property values and have detrimental effects on the air quality and environment in general!
Angela M. Birkett

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 9:48 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: InterLinc - Contact

City Council - Contact
Date: 6/25/2018 9:48:20 PM

name Sarah Rasby
address 6126 Andrew Ct.
city Lincoln
state NE
zip 68512
email sarahrasby@gmail.com

comments Good evening,

I heard in the news about Lincoln establishing a chicken operation for Costco and wanted to express my feelings. This is big business at its best which is horrible, not only for our community, but for our earth and the chickens. Please reconsider and research the effects of what this decisions would contribute to for the environment and for the rights of these animals. I consider it a privilege and gift to live in Lincoln. It works be a great dishonor if something like this happens in our community. Please, not in our backyard!

IP: 66.87.142.54
Form: https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/contact.htm
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 11_3 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Mobile/15E216 Instagram 46.0.0.14.96 (iPhone9,1; iOS 11_3; en_US; en-US; scale=2.00; gamut=wide; 750x1334)
Before I respond specifically to the DACA issue at the city council meeting tonight I would like to read the transcript of tonight's meeting. When, exactly, will this be available? It looks like you are a little behind.

Jon Camp wanted to know the name of the woman who spoke up. Was it ugly? Loud? Is he going to blacklist her from his country club? I remind you that women had to stand up and speak out against the ignorance and power of men for suffrage. I'm not an enthusiastic demonstrator but I and many others will continue to speak up and work to make all children safe. They are our future.
City Council - Contact

Date: 6/27/2018 3:22:47 PM

**name** Greg Nelson

**address** 3700 Sumner Street

**city** Lincoln

**state** NE

**zip** 68506

**email** gnelson@inetnebr.com

**comments** Please support Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) at the 23 July City Council meeting and afterwards, It's in the best interest of business and the environment.

Greg Nelson
Andrew:

Please find attached a letter relating to the proposed “Settlement Agreement” among TDP Phase One, LLC, the West Haymarket JPA and the City of Lincoln. I appreciated your willingness to defer this matter to June 25; however, the subsequent delay in scheduling this matter on the Council agenda has resulted in a hearing date of July 9, when I also plan to be out of town. We are once again requesting a deferral of this matter; however, we have decided to provide more information as to our position on the “Settlement Agreement” in hopes of beginning a dialog which includes the other parties we believe to have legal and equitable interests in the Redevelopment Agreement and the Plaza/Cube License Agreement. If you and your client choose to commence that dialog, perhaps I won’t have to fly back to Lincoln for a July 9 hearing. If not, I will.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark A. Hunzeker
Baylor Evnen, LLP
600 Wells Fargo Center | 1248 O St. | Lincoln, NE 68508
Direct: 402.458.2131 | F: 402.475.9515
mhunzeker@BaylorEvnen.com | BaylorEvnen.com
June 26, 2018

Andrew Willis
Cline Williams Wright Johnson
& Oldfather, L.L.P.
233 South 13 Street
Suite 1900
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

RE: Modifications to Plaza/Cube Licensing Agreement

Dear Andrew:

Our firm represents Yard Investments, LLC d/b/a Gate 25. This letter is for the purpose of notifying you that my client has serious concerns about the attempt by TDP Phase One, LLC (TDP) to modify the Plaza/Cube License Agreement as it applies to the Public Market by entering into a “Settlement Agreement” with the City of Lincoln and the West Haymarket JPA.

As you know, the Plaza/Cube Licensing Agreement is incorporated and made a part of the West Haymarket Redevelopment Agreement (section 304.B, p. 26). The Redevelopment Agreement also provides for use restrictions in addition to those of the Plaza/Cube Licensing Agreement. Specifically, no more than 66 2/3 % of the “retail space abutting the outdoor public plaza (“Yard”) on the Plaza Project” can be occupied by businesses whose predominant (over 50 % of gross sales) operation is the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. It further requires such businesses to have a licensed kitchen and offer a full menu during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and requires 85% of the first floor leasable retail square footage on any block face to have minimum normal hours of 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday. (Section 404, pp. 31-33).

TDP, the City and the JPA are not the only parties with an interest in the Redevelopment Agreement and its enforcement. Owners of leasehold interests in the project are bound by the Redevelopment Agreement, and are entitled to its benefits, as explicitly provided in Section 404:

It is intended that each of the restrictions set forth herein shall extend beyond the expiration of the Tax Increment Period, shall run with the land and shall bind every person having any fee or other interest in the RRO Project Parcels and Hotel Project Parcel and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their successors and permitted assigns (emphasis supplied).

As the owner of a leasehold interest in one of the RRO Project Parcels, my client is bound by the restrictions contained in Section 404, and is entitled to the benefits of the section as well. We believe that Yard Investments, LLC and others similarly situated are necessary parties to any amendment of the Redevelopment Agreement, including amendment of the Plaza/Cube Licensing Agreement. We do not believe that the “Settlement Agreement”, even if approved by the city council, will relieve TDP from the obligations of the Redevelopment Agreement and the Plaza/Cube License Agreement. The right of my
client and other tenants to enjoy the benefits of those agreements cannot be extinguished by paying off the City of Lincoln and the West Haymarket JPA.

Although your client has not specifically shared the plans for the use of the Public Market space, with my client, the earlier attempt at a liquor license for the space indicates a likelihood that the intended use will violate both the Plaza/Cube License Agreement and Section 404 of the Redevelopment Agreement. We believe it is well past time to consider the position of Yard Investments, LLC and other tenants with rights derived from the Redevelopment Agreement. Going forward on the current path could obligate your client to pay more than $266,000 to the city, but not change the restrictions on the use of the Public Market space.

My client believes the use restrictions of the Plaza/Cube License Agreement and Section 404 of the Redevelopment Agreement are very beneficial to its business and we intend to aggressively protect against violation of those restrictions. Further, my client’s lease contains explicit acknowledgement that the “Building and/or Center is subject to the terms and conditions [of the] Redevelopment Agreement”. Leasing the Public Market space in violation of the use restrictions may also be a breach of the lease. We request that you ask for the “Settlement Agreement” to be placed on the City Council’s pending list until a suitable agreement can be reached with the other parties with an interest in the Redevelopment Agreement. We believe that a business-like negotiation among all interested parties could result in a satisfactory solution. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Hunzeker
For the Firm
mhunzeker@baylorevnen.com
From : Russell Miller  27 June 2018
341 S. 52
Lincoln, NE 68510

To : Lincoln City Council

Hello,

Lincoln Journal Star article by Matt Olderding on 20 June 2018 titled “Large development at 93rd and A among new housing given initial OK” is very disturbing. The article states that “nearly 300 homes on almost 100 acres of land near 93rd and A streets” has been approved by the Planning Commission on 20 June.

Item 5 under the “ANALYSIS” of the Commission Staff Report states that : “5. The developer is proposing an Annexation Agreement for the East “A” Street Coalition. This includes eight property owners and the ultimate annexation of approximately 200 acres on both the north and south sides of A Street located generally between 94th and 98th Streets.”

In other words the plan is to double the living units. Soon the Council will be asked to approve 300 living units with maybe 500 new vehicles but when the total project is completed with approximately 600 living units we can expect 1,000 to 1,200 new vehicles using “A” street daily.

It should be obvious that “A” street will have to be improved by widening and adding shoulders. This is exactly what is happening with Pine Lake Road. Pine Lake is being improved with 4 lanes and shoulders because of the impact from housing growth in that immediate area. But it is being paid by Lincoln’s wheel tax.

According to the CIP budget Pine Lake’s $11,246,900 total cost will be paid by the following sources :
Highway allocation $646,400 or 5.7%
Railway transportation safety $600,000 or 5.3%
Street drainage $400,000 or 3.6%
Wheel tax (residual & new construction) $7,070,500 or 62.9%
Impact fees $2,530,000 or 22.5%

My question is : Why must all of Lincoln’s car owners’ wheel tax money be used to improve a street that very few of us will ever use?

The purpose and intention of impact fees were to provide arterial infrastructure funding for projects necessitated by growth. The 7 million dollars of wheel tax money used on Pine Lake should have been used for
rehabilitation of the many City residential streets and not funding a street widening project caused by urban growth.

Unless the Council changes the impact fee schedule by increasing the street portion by $3,200, the same wheel tax raid will happen to fund the necessary improvements for east “A” street. The result will be that more years will pass with inadequate funding for residential street rehab because wheel tax money is replacing impact fee money.

The Council must recognize that Lincoln’s impact fee inflation adjustment is not working and never will. The inflation adjuster must be changed so that it reflects the cost of concrete and not the Consumer Price Index (CPI). MY suggestion is Lincoln develops its own inflation adjustor based on actual street construction costs as Iowa’s DOT Price Trend Index (https://iowadot.gov/contracts/lettings/PriceTrendIndex.pdf) does. Lincoln could probably use Iowa’s Price Trend Index that is immediately available and not waste time trying to develop our own.

To adjust impact fees so they reflect 2018 street construction costs, I am advocating an additional $3,200 be added to the arterial street portion of total impact fee bill. Or an impact fee bill for a new single family dwelling would be:
Arterial street $2,628 plus the increase of $3,200 or $5,828
Neighborhood parks & trails $ 356
Water and Wastewater $2,008
TOTAL $8,192 (one time cost)

The impact fee ordinance contains a provision for 100% exemption for low income persons and 50% exemption for moderate income persons (http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/engine/dsc/impact-fees/lmi-housing.htm)

However, the concern for “low income” on the east “A” street project is misplaced, because these are “single-family homes and town homes that would likely range in price from about $250,000 to more than $700,000.”

CONCLUSIONS

1. Immediately increase the arterial street portion for impact fees by $3,200
2. Adopt Iowa’s Price Trend Index so Lincoln’s impact fees stay current
3. Recognize that in the near future that our Street Department will have to find funds for widening “A” street. My GUESS is about 8 million dollars.

Thank you,

Russell Miller

PHOTOS OF STREETS FOLLOW
This photo is approximately 94th & A st looking West on east ‘A’ street.

This photo is approximately 73rd & Pine Lake Road looking west on Pine Lake. The contract for widening etc. from 61st to Highway 2 for $11 million has been let.
Angela M. Birkett

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 6:27 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: InterLinc - Contact

City Council - Contact

Date: 6/28/2018 6:27:14 PM

name: Marjorie Saiser
address: 1256 Mulder Dr
   city: Lincoln
state: NE
zip: 68510
email: msaiser@neb.rr.com
comments: Please support the ordinance supporting development of solar energy!

IP: 97.98.133.195
Form: https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/contact.htm
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/67.0.3396.99 Safari/537.36
City Council - Contact

Date: 6/30/2018 3:17:57 PM

name: Deryl Travis Jr.
address: 5943 Dobsons Ct.
city: Lincoln
state: NE
zip: 68516
email: Dltravisjr@gmail.com

comments: I'm strongly against non commercial fireworks. People do not obey the days and hours of shooting them, the fireworks have become bigger and louder. We should reduce them to 2 days including the 4th of July or eliminate them all together.

IP: 174.101.149.76
Form: https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/contact.htm
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; CPU OS 11_4 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/11.0 Mobile/15E148 Safari/604.1
Do you all know what a possible danger you are putting families in because you are being greedy and letting Beitler to continue to do this. Having new fire stations are not going to help unless it is a medical, because Lincoln Fire does not have any tankers. I hope all of the volunteer fire depts change the mutual rule and start charging Lincoln Fire for there assistance. When Sky Ranch Acres was taken in several yrs ago, they were promised fire hydrants of which they still do not have. That winter there was a house fire out there, Lincoln Fire had to Call Southeast Fire to put out the fire. Southeast Fire received a “Thank you” from the family and a check for $1000.00. So please stop taking in areas that you cannot protect! MArlene King.

Sent from my iPad
June 30, 2018

TO: Lincoln City Council

The Friday June 29th issue of the Lincoln Journal Star had an article titled “Lamm wants to earmark sales tax for roads”.

I support this idea but it should also include residential sidewalks. I am elderly and try to walk daily either on the sidewalks near our home or in the mall if the weather is not cooperative. I have called the street department about the deteriorated sidewalks but absolutely nothing gets done. Some of these sidewalks are dangerous to walk on.

Prior to the last election for mayor there was some activity on sidewalk repair but as soon as Beutler was elected those projects were completed and nothing has happened since. Mayor Beutler seems to be only interested in funneling funding to his downtown cronies, for bike paths or to build the terrible costly round a bouts that almost every body hates.

The only way that we are going to get funding for residential streets and sidewalks under the Beutler administration is for the city council to force such action. Anything that you can do to get some funding for residential streets and sidewalks will be appreciated.

Sincerely;

[Signature]
H. Eugene Cook
2200 Larchdale Drive
Lincoln, NE 68506
Tele # (402) 327 0654

Signed copy to Mayor Beutler
City Council - Contact

Date: 7/2/2018 1:48:27 PM

name        Dennis Wertz
address     7208 Shirl Dr.
city        Lincoln
state       NE
zip         68516
e-mail      nebden1@hotmail.com

comments    To Cyndi Lamm-Your idea to use additional sales tax revenue for street repair is a great idea. The streets are in terrible shape and should have been repaired a long time ago. Just as long as none of it gets used for the south beltway!
Good morning,

As the time gets closer to approve the city budget, I get more and more concerned about the lack of necessary funding for LFR.

I was privileged to become a Stakeholder for LFR in January 2017. Since that time I have learned about the staffing, apparatus, stations, and working budget of the department in great detail. I chose to do as many ride-alongs as I was offered (more than 10), so that I could see first hand what the department is all about from the ground level up. I have chosen to remain involved by actively visiting stations often and having in depth conversations with firefighters and paramedics. I have examined living conditions, bays, exercise areas, turn out gear storage, kitchens, bathrooms, exhaust systems in the bay, and exits to streets and navigation into traffic from those exits. I participated in OPS training for an entire day, which all of you were invited to do at on a different date, but were too busy. I dare say, if you put on all that very heavy gear, went through ops training, hauling hose, locating a fire, dragging a heavy "victim" out, used extrication tools to cut open a car, and sat in a train car while fired rolled over your head, and did numerous ride-alongs, your votes for LFR needs would drastically change! So as you can see, I have taken this role very seriously.

As a very proud granddaughter, daughter and niece of lifelong firefighters in my home town in Iowa, I have seen first hand how those I love had to fight for every dollar for the things they needed for the fire department, not for themselves, but for the safety of the community that they loved and lived in their whole lives. Because the city council and community in general did not want to approve tax dollars, the fire department had to do the best with what they had, which was not much. The men had to buy their own gear, or fight fires without gear and had one fire engine and had to call for mutual aid when large fires occurred. And yet they never lost a home to a fire. They did their jobs so well is spite of the lack of resources, that the town did not know how hard they worked or the dangers that they were in because of the lack of proper equipment and apparatus. Sadly, my dad died of cancer as a result of exposure to carcinogens. My family was devoted to being firefighters and this is my way of carrying on their tradition of service.
I have told "my guys", as I refer to them, that they are in much the same situation as my family. LFR does such an amazing job, that they are their own worst enemy. Because they get the job done, and extremely well, the citizens are completely unaware of the conditions of the stations, engines, trucks that we have. If the citizens were aware, they would be putting pressure on you, the city council, to do better for our firefighters, paramedics, and for our community.

Nearly every existing (not new) engine and truck in our fleet have an "F" rating, as in FAILING. I have heard that we will have a replacement policy in place in the future, but that is not enough to compensate for rigs that need to be replaced now. There was not a replacement policy in place for several years, and now we are in a mess. Having the transmission fall out of a fire truck, onto the street on the way to a fire is ridiculous! I dare say, that if any of your houses burned to the ground because of a situation like this, you would have a VERY different opinion about the needs of LFR. We do NOT have enough engines/trucks to serve a city this size. Lincoln has fewer firefighters per citizen and per square mile than comparable cities. We have 7 frontline ambulances, or 1 ambulance per ~42,850 people, an improvement from 1 per ~50,000. An 8th ambulance should be considered and planned for asap. And please do not tell me about the new engines and trucks that we have received in the past year. I am well aware and thankful for them, but it is not enough. We are just one huge fire event from disaster.

Our staffing levels are too low, and again please do not tell me about the 15 new firefighters in the new budget. We both know that if the Safer Grant does not go through, and it might not because you refused it the last time, the city will have no "skin in the game" whatsoever. The amount of money available for new FF/Paramedics will not even cover attrition.

The living conditions are not good in many of our stations. Many have cracks in cement block walls that I can put my fingers through to my knuckles. One stations' floor is cracking and chairs get caught on the crack when sliding backwards to get up. The window frame is crooked and separated from the wall due to the foundation issues. Furnace and air conditioning filters need to be constantly changed because air circulation is poor in the sleeping areas. Even though the bays have exhaust systems, the walls show proof of exhaust accumulating on the walls. This in and of itself would not be such an issue, but as daily physical training is a requirement for LFR, most exercise areas are actually in the bay. The bay is also the place where the turn-out gear is housed and off-gases from the gear is dangerous for the firefighters while exercising. The flooring in most rooms and bathrooms are in bad shape and need repair. There are multiple issues at most stations, but these are just a few. These men and women LIVE in these stations 24 Hours a day. We would not tolerate living conditions such as these in our homes, why should they??

I am a single mother of 10 children, 5 birth, 4 adopted and one foster son. I work full time for FACTS Management, a division of Nelnet as an Implementation Specialist II. My oldest 5 children and spouses all live and work in Lincoln. We all are taxpayers and expect to have all the protection we need in the city that we live in.

I have tried to schedule time with most of you numerous times, to no avail. There have been promises of meetings, but none scheduled. A meeting scheduled but then one of you was a no-show. And some have not given the courtesy of a response, so I felt that this would be best way to let you know what my findings are as a stakeholder, a taxpayer. And this will be a part of the public record. If public safety is really your top priority, then let your VOTES show it. If they do not, my votes will show how I feel at election time.

Sincerely,