

**IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2015**

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' and Organizational meeting minutes of August 24, 2015.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/REQUESTS OF MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE. City has inspected new apartment complex for life-safety issues.

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Administrative Amendment No. 15067 approved by the Acting Planning Director on August 19, 2015.
2. Urban Design Committee, scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2015, has been canceled.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES/ENGINEERING

1. ADVISORY. Lakewood Drive Street Repair Due to Water Main Break.

WEST HAYMARKET JOINT PUBLIC AGENCY

1. The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet today, August 27th, at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chamber or the adjoining Bill Luxford Studio, 555 S. 10th Street.

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (08.25.15) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird
2. Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency (08.25.15) - Fellers
3. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (08.27.15) - Lamm

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. CITY COUNCIL

CARL ESKRIDGE

1. Councilman Eskridge replying to Craig Boesch regarding the Highlands Golf Course.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS

1. InterLinc correspondence from Ed Schnabel regarding the VA redevelopment. (Councilman Camp replied on 08.25.15)
2. Craig Boesch writing in opposition to the proposal of selling the Highland golf course.
3. Julie Crawford stating reasons why not to sell the Highlands golf course.
4. Brock Peterson writing in support of Councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird's 2015-2016 budget proposal.

5. Peggy Struwe comments and thoughts on the budget. Making cuts can put us back years, please don't do it again.
6. Kathleen Uhrmacher writing in total support for the budget plan proposed by Leirion Gaylor Baird, stating reasons.
7. Sam Baird asking Council to adopt the budget changes suggested by Leirion Gaylor Baird, giving his reasons for the decision.
8. Robert Hinrichs expressing his support of Leirion Gaylor Baird's position on the budget.
9. Robert Narveson asking Council to not cut the property tax for Lincoln, we do not want a deficit.
10. Nancy Carlson urging Council to vote against the amendment proposed by Councilman Christensen.
11. Kevin Stoner urging Council to vote for Councilman Roy Christensen's budget proposal. Time to cut expenses and lower taxes.
12. Dave Piester in support of the Mayor's budget, with changes proposed by Leirion Gaylor Baird.
13. Petronela Radu in strong support of proposal addressing community needs endorsed by Councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird.
14. Jodene Roeker asking Council to keep the current tax levy so we do not have a budget deficit next year.
15. Ron Case endorsing Councilwoman Baird's budget proposal.
16. Karla Cooper offering suggestions while the City Council prepare the budget.
17. Dale McIntosh giving his thoughts and requests as Council prepare the budget.
18. Richard Moberly urging Council to adopt Council Member Gaylor Baird's budget proposal.
19. Judy White suggesting to leave budget in its original form or adopt Councilwoman Baird's proposal.

X. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

BUILDING AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT
555 S. 10th St., Suite 203, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Terry Kathe, Building and Safety Department, 402-441-6447

CITY HAS INSPECTED NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX **FOR LIFE-SAFETY ISSUES**

A representative of the City Building and Safety Department said this morning that seven building code issues at the new Prime Place apartments remain unresolved, but none are considered life threatening. Officials conducted code inspections for the complex at 11th and “Y” streets last week before students were allowed to move in. Four of the issues deal with lighting for the parking area.

Terry Kathe, Building and Safety Manager, said inspectors ensure that apartment complexes are safe to inhabit within the building and life-safety codes adopted by the City.

“We take seriously allegations of defects found in new living facilities,” Kathe said. “The Department does not condone the cleanliness of the apartments and we understand the concern and frustration students and parents have for the conditions they found when moving in. However, the apartments, aside from two clogged drains and the need for one additional furnace damper, meet the requirements of the building and life-safety codes.”

Kathe said the City has urged the developer and contractor to finish cleaning, but has no authority to require them to do so.

More information about the Building and Safety Department is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: building).



Memorandum

Date: ♦ August 25, 2015
To: ♦ City Clerk
From: ♦ Amy Hana Huffman, Planning Dept.
Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals
cc: ♦ Mayor Chris Beutler
Planning Commission
Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of the administrative approvals by the Acting Planning Director from August 18, 2015 through August 25, 2015:

Administrative Amendment No. 15067 to Special Permit #05003A, Meadow View 2nd Addition CUP, approved by the Acting Planning Director on August 19, 2015, requested by REGA Engineering, to add notes allowing accessory structures up to 2,000 sq. ft. in addition to attached garages, on property generally located at SW 70th Street and Pioneers Boulevard.

*C:\Users\ncsgkr\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\H2RTIKEHAA
weekly approvals City (00000002).wpd*

Mary M. Meyer

From: Council Packet
Subject: Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee meeting regularly scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2015 has been canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

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Teresa McKinstry
Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Planning Dept.
555 S. 10th St., Ste. 213 * Lincoln NE 68508
402-441-6164

August 26, 2015

Lakewood Drive Street Repair Due to Water Main Break

UPDATE

Dear Residents:

As you recall early on Friday, August 21st, a small section of a 12" water main ruptured on Lakewood Drive. The force of flowing water caused heaving and settlements to adjoining driveways, sidewalks and the street creating unsafe conditions for general travel. In the interest of safety, Lakewood Drive between Wedgewood Drive and Glenwood Circle has been closed to traffic since last Friday. Public Works immediately began assessing the extent of the damage once the water main had been returned to service. Due to the size and scope of the work an emergency paving repair was declared and contractor bids were requested to expedite restoration of the roadway. MTZ Construction, LLC of Lincoln, NE has been contracted to facilitate the repairs.

Work is starting today, August 26, and is expected to be **completed by September 2nd**.

During this time you may lose vehicle access to your driveway if it is located within the repair area. Should you have any questions or special access needs please contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your patience.

Tim L. Byrne
City of Lincoln
402-416-5342
tbyrne@lincoln.ne.gov

Manny Martinez
MTZ Construction, LLC
402-202-0504
manny.mtzllc@gmail.com

Mary M. Meyer

From: Council Packet
Subject: JPA meeting

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7511

DATE: August 27, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831

The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet at **2 p.m. TODAY, Thursday, August 27** in either the **City Council Chambers or the adjoining Bill Luxford Studio, first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street.** Mike Wooley of Venue Solutions Group (VSG) will present the final report of the financial and operational review of Pinnacle Bank Arena

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/pdf/2015-08-27-JPA-Agenda.pdf>

Diane Gonzolas
Manager, Citizen Information Center
Office of the Mayor
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-7831
cell 402-525-1520
dgonzolas@lincoln.ne.gov

Mary M. Meyer

Subject:

FW: Do not even consider selling the Highlands Golf Course

To: craig boesch

Subject: RE: Do not even consider selling the Highlands Golf Course

Thank you for your input. We are working on a plan that will help Grow Lincoln Golf that will include keeping the Highlands. There will be meetings this fall and I encourage your participation.

Carl

Carl B. Eskridge

Lincoln City Council

District 4 (Central and NW Lincoln)

From: craig boesch [craigboesch@me.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:45 PM

To: Carl B. Eskridge

Subject: Do not even consider selling the Highlands Golf Course

August 25, 2015

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to you to adamantly oppose Mayor Beutler's plans to sell the Highlands golf course to a local developer.

Golfers have paid for it, Beutler solely oversees the city's ownership; and mismanagement of the golf enterprise funds.

Let's not add to the ineptitude, with a sale of a treasured resource. The Highlands Golf Course is likely one of the finest municipal achievements amongst many communities in our nation.

Don't do it! don't even think about it.

Sincerely,

Craig Boesch, North West Lincoln, NE

P.S. Additionally, as noted in many other letters you've likely received - I resubmit this pertinent information:

The Lincoln golf community has several concerns on the leadership of municipal golf program, as administered by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. Recently, on March 19, 2015, and before members of the Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee, director Lynn Johnson and city finance director, Steve Hubka, remarked of their own "*negligence*" with managing the golf enterprise fund by having a cash surplus of \$1.2 million in FY2001, to a cash deficit of \$827,562 by FY2013. In a span of a decade, the golf division had an operating loss exceeding \$2.0 million. Simply, the City of Lincoln has breached the municipal code governing the uses of Golf Enterprise Fund, Section 12.24.030, and Golf Fees Placed in Golf Fund (Ord. 8468 § 1; July 13, 1964) – by passing non-golf expenses to it.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Ed Schnabel
Address: 7317 South Wedgewood Drive
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-488-0814
Fax:
Email: eds19495@aol.com

Comment or Question:
Dear Members

Not able to make today's meeting.

Would like to know if they (VA Redevelopment committee) plans on meeting with the Veterans and those of us who live beside the project before they begin to build?

I would hope that their new buildings would fit in with those of the Hospital and Doctor's Row. Not something that will distract from their current style, but will try and match the brick and Architectural Style. Thus not some modern style or the every day apartments that you see going up all over town.

Would be nice to see the plans put on hold until they are ready to share the details of just what the new buildings will look like.

Thanks

Ed Schnabel

Mary M. Meyer

From: craig boesch <craigboesch@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:46 PM
To: Carl B. Eskridge
Cc: Jane Raybould; Jon Camp; Cyndi Lamm
Subject: Do not even consider selling the Highlands Golf Course

August 25, 2015

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to you to adamantly oppose Mayor Beutler's plans to sell the Highlands golf course to a local developer.

Golfers have paid for it, Beutler solely oversees the city's ownership; and mismanagement of the golf enterprise funds.

Let's not add to the ineptitude, with a sale of a treasured resource. The Highlands Golf Course is likely one of the finest municipal achievements amongst many communities in our nation.

Don't do it! don't even think about it.

Sincerely,

Craig Boesch
North West Lincoln, NE

P.S. Additionally, as noted in many other letters you've likely received - I resubmit this pertinent information:

The Lincoln golf community has several concerns on the leadership of municipal golf program, as administered by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. Recently, on March 19, 2015, and before members of the Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee, director Lynn Johnson and city finance director, Steve Hubka, remarked of their own "*negligence*" with managing the golf enterprise fund by having a cash surplus of \$1.2 million in FY2001, to a cash deficit of \$827,562 by FY2013. In a span of a decade, the golf division had an operating loss exceeding \$2.0 million. Simply, the City of Lincoln has breached the municipal code governing the uses of Golf Enterprise Fund, Section 12.24.030, and Golf Fees Placed in Golf Fund (Ord. 8468 § 1; July 13, 1964) – by passing non-golf expenses to it.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Crawford, Julie <Julie-Crawford@cdolinc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; Roy A. Christensen; Trenton J. Fellers; Leirion Gaylor Baird
Subject: Highlands Golf Course

Dear Council Members.

Please do not sell the Highlands Golf Course to a developer. Our school, North American Martyrs Catholic School, on NW 12th Street, across from the Golf Course, has over 550 children in attendance. We already have concerns about traffic and safety with the large development underway on the west side of NW 12th Street.

I am not a golfer, but my husband is. He plays in a regular league every week at the Highlands course. Where else in Lincoln can you enjoy the beauty and challenge of the game and also watch the planes arrive and depart.

Julie Crawford
Parish Secretary
North American Martyrs Catholic Church
1101 Isaac Drive
Lincoln, NE 68521
402-476-8088 ext. 5

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Brock Peterson
Address: 7631 Brummond Drive
City: Lincoln, NE, 68516

Phone: 402-328-8782
Fax:
Email: brockpeterson34@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

I am emailing in support of Councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird's 2015-2016 budget proposal.

I would like the City Council to know that I agree with Leirion's stance that the following are obligations that must be met - they are not 'optional wants':

- * A balanced budget
- * Fixing potholes in our roads
- * Meeting our Police and Fire pension obligations
- * Keeping playground equipment safe for our children

Budget plans which save taxpayers \$15 per year are not worth sacrificing the critical items above.

Best regards,

Brock Peterson

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Peggy Struwe
Address: 545 N 25th street
City: Lincoln, NE 68503

Phone: 402-450-6416
Fax:
Email: pstruwe1943@msn.com

Comment or Question:

All of us must live within our budgets. I feel the city should do the same. Cutting what comes in without cutting what goes out doesn't balance the budget.

All of us can afford to spend the \$15 you would return to us and use it for streets and other city priorities.

Just making cuts can put us back years where we were before. Please don't do it again.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Kathleen Uhrmacher
Address: 3220 Sheridan Blvd.
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email: kuhrmac@inebraska.com

Comment or Question:

I totally support the plan for the budget that was proposed by Leirion Gaylor Baird. Our city is only as strong as it is because of the concerted efforts of the past 8 years in supporting fire, police, education and expansion projects. Her suggestions are those that will maintain those successes and keep moving our city forward. Saving \$15 a year is hardly worth the detriment that the other proposal would bring. Please vote to support Ms. Gaylor Baird's budget proposal.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Sam Baird
Address: 9105 Pioneer Ct.
City: Lincoln

Phone: 4024290965
Fax:
Email: sampbaird@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:
RE: 2015-2016 Budget

Unfunded PENSION OBLIGATIONS are a very serious concern for any organization, particularly a public entity that borrows money and has a credit rating. Most weeks the Wall Street Journal runs an article on cities in trouble because of unfunded pensions. It eventually will impact the ability and cost of the City's borrowing. Leirion Gaylor Baird's proposal makes a start at funding those obligations.

Likewise the BALANCED BUDGET is critical to any concern. I can not believe the successful business people on the Council do not understand that there must be a plan. To make cuts without fitting them into a plan is NOT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

I think that all drivers (taxpayers) in the City of Lincoln want the roads maintained. This along with the public safety issues are the top of my list.

My knowledge of playground equipment is limited. However, to knowingly provide unsafe equipment is legally irresponsible and to not have the staff to inspect the equipment regularly is morally irresponsible.

Please adopt the changes suggested by Leirion Gaylor Baird. She has studied the issue in great depth and has provided a reasoned plan as opposed to Roy Christensen's idea to just cut taxes. If he had a reasoned plan, I might like it but in my opinion there is not an alternative to the Gaylor Baird plan.

Thank you for your consideration

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:44 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Robert Hinrichs
Address: 2310 Smith Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 510-219-1296
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I'd like to express my support of Leirion Gaylor Baird's position on the budget, and strong disapproval for Roy Christensen's cuts. It is too late in the process to introduce changes that will create a huge 1.8 million deficit. His argument that people will protest at any point in the process is not relevant - to me, it indicates a lack of confidence on his part that the cuts would pass under proper scrutiny and debate. It further sounds just like a typical "starve the beast/race to the bottom" strategy, where money is cut (for meager savings), for political points, services suffer, then complaints are issued when those services suffer in quality, as justification to make further cuts. That is a disappointing game to observe, and we have seen how this kind of slash-now-think-later approach has virtually destroyed other communities. Not in my city! These funds are needed to provide important services for the health of this city and its economic relevance. Shame to anyone who thinks I'd enjoy getting back \$15/year so much, and see my city suffer in the long-term for it.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Robert Narveson
Address: 1729 C St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 402-435-5858
Fax:
Email: narveson@arvig.net

Comment or Question:

Please do not cut the property tax for Lincoln. We do not want a deficit. And we want essential services paid for.

Fixing potholes in our roads is a need - not a want Meeting our Police and Fire pension obligations is a need - not a want
Keeping playground equipment safe for our children is a need - not a want.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Nancy M. Carlson
Address: 3133 S. 31 Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:
I urge you to vote against the amendment proposed by Councilman Christiansen.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Kevin Stoner
Address: 3225 South 40th Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 4023266412
Fax:
Email: kstoner@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:

I urge you all to vote for Councilman Roy Christianson's Budget Proposal. Taxes in Lincoln are too high and it is time to cut expenses and lower taxes. I believe there is too much waste of taxpayers money in the city and upkeep of our streets and other infrastructure is the most important budget consideration at this time along with lowering taxes. Give the taxpayers a small amount of tax relief as in Councilman Roy Christianson's proposal and limit unnecessary spending on new projects and fix what currently needs repaired. Thank you.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: David Piester
Address: 8001 Preserve Lane
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 402-488-7464
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I support the Mayor's budget, with the changes proposed by Leirion Gaylor Baird. Permanent cuts in the budget are not necessary or appropriate at this time. We need to address the potholes and other needs. Overall, the city portion of our property taxes is minor and we should address protecting the integrity of our city's services and resources, not reduce them. Please reject the Christensen proposals. Thanks for considering this request.
Dave Piester

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Petronela Radu
Address: 2765 Rathbone Road
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email: pradu@math.unl.edu

Comment or Question:

We strongly support the proposal that addresses the urgent needs of the community, proposal that is endorsed by Councilwoman Leirion Baird. A balanced budget is essential to the city's present and future well-being.

Your constituent,

Petronela Radu
Associate Professor of Mathematics
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Jodene Roeker
Address: 324 Prestwick Rd
City: Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone: 402-489-6654
Fax:
Email: jroeker@icloud.com

Comment or Question:

Please keep the current tax levy so we do not have a budget deficit next year.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Ron Case
Address: 2420 North 78th St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68507

Phone: 402-464-8969
Fax:
Email: rcase@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:

I endorse Councilwoman's Baird budget proposal. Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut the budget is unrealistic and, not very worthy to the benefit of tax payers. Councilman Christensen even stated that one of the major concerns of constituents is to fix potholes. I don't think a budget cut will achieve that goal. While it sounds nice to cut taxes, what would someone with a \$150,000 home do with the extra \$15 a year? Even in L magazine this morning, there was a house listed for \$1,650,000. Gee, they would get \$165 back per year and they surely need it! Even this small amount is regressive tax policy when the city's needs are great. Why not put some extra money in a sinking fund for the South Bypass. Regardless of what you may think of climate change, it's pretty evident that severe storm events likely will become the rule. Why not improve storm sewer capacity so the city doesn't have to deal with sewers backing up on a frequent basis? And these are on top of needs for fire and police, continued street upgrades, and repairing sidewalks.

Please do not try to placate LIBA and a few constituents by throwing them a crumb of tax relief.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Karla J Cooper
Address: 2424 T Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68503

Phone: 5733447198
Fax: 5733447198
Email: karlajcooper@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

Thank you for serving the city of Lincoln and offering great leadership in so many ways. Just a reminder as you prepare the budget--fixing potholes, pension obligations for our Police officers and Fire Department employees, ensuring our play grounds are safe in the parks where our most vulnerable citizens enjoy recreational activities and balancing the budget are necessary--not options.

Hoping, trusting and believing that you will be guided by your heart to do right in budget allocations.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:49 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Dale McIntosh
Address: 1619 Manatt St
City: Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone:
Fax:
Email: dmcintosh@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:
Good Day,

I am writing in regards to the forthcoming city budget. I would request that you keep in mind what has and is happening to cities around the country. They are falling into ruin and chaos due to the mismanagement of priorities and budgets from years prior. In your own home budget it is necessary to live within your means. You cannot spend more than you have and then wonder why the bill collector is ringing your phone constantly. That is true for cities also.

I therefore ask that you consider only a budget that does not create a deficit in spending. The obligations to the citizens of this city out weight the wants of those that cannot live within their means. There is an obligation to provide excellent streets, excellent fire and police protection, honor the pensions of those past fire and police that served our city faithfully and those that will in the future as examples of some core needs.

The basic needs, not wants of this city have to be dealt with first. We need pools and parks for the kids, safe and productive after school programs as examples. Programs that will get them away from video games and TV's and back into creative thought and physical activity are necessary in creating future citizens of value to the city of Lincoln.

In summary please do what is essential and the right thing that you know is right in your heart. only accept a balanced budget aimed at the critical items required of the city of Lincoln.

Sincerely,
Dale McIntosh CMSgt (ret)
Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

-----Original Message-----

From: WebForm [<mailto:none@lincoln.ne.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 1:22 PM

Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

Name: Richard Moberly
Address: 2600 Rathbone Road
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email: rmoberly2@icloud.com

Comment or Question:

I urge you to adopt Council Member Gaylor Baird's budget proposal - it addresses issues the city needs to fix: it will help fulfill our obligations to police and fire fighters, fix potholes, and provide a safe play space for our children. Part of my job is to hire new faculty members at the University and a big part of my pitch to get them to move her from all over the country is that Lincoln is great place to live and raise a family. We must have a sensible budget that spends money on thing that matter like the quality of public safety and our park space.

Kind regards,
Richard Moberly

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:05 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Judy White
Address: 6339 Bo Creek Ct.
City: Lincoln, NE68516

Phone: 423-4757
Fax:
Email: jjjuwhite@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
Leave budget in its original form or adopt Ms.Baird's proposal.

DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA ADDENDUM

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015

I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR & DIRECTORS' CORRESPONDENCE

MAYOR

1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler's public schedule for the week of August 29, 2015 through September 4, 2015.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Old Cheney pavement repair begins September 8th.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. The 2015 Prairie Jazz Festival will be held Saturday, August 29th, 3 pm to 8 pm at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Media invited to attend.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Four pavement repair projects begin today.

III. DIRECTORS

FINANCE/TREASURER

1. Monthly City Cash Report at the close of business July 31, 2015.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES/ENGINEERING

1. ADVISORY. South 56th Street pavement repair. Normal Boulevard to South Street.
2. ADVISORY. Vine Street pavement repair. 67th Street to 70th Street.
3. ADVISORY. Fletcher Avenue pavement repair. NW 7th Street to NW 1st Street.
4. ADVISORY. South 14th Street pavement repair. Cushman Drive to Old Cheney Road.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP

1. Correspondence between Linda Stephen and Councilman Camp regarding amendment to the City budget and maintenance of City parks.
2. Kurt Geisinger contacting Councilman Camp regarding a complaint against LES with further correspondence.
3. Councilman Camp's reply to Patte Newman's email (#92 below) regarding budget considerations.

V. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS

1. Christa Pope requesting a balanced budget.
2. Betty Medinger in support of Leirion Gaylor Baird's proposed budget.
3. Lois Katt stating we need a balanced budget.
4. Amanda Johnson asking Council to not support Councilman Christensen's budget proposal.
5. Rod Wagner stating if Councilman Christensen proposes a tax reduction beyond a token amount would listen. What cit expenditures will be reduced to offset tax reductions?
6. Susan Kehrili Moore approves Leirion Gaylor Baird's proposed changes to the city budget.
7. Abby Swatsworth opposing Councilman Christensen' proposal to cut the tax levy.
8. Jonathan Stanton and Janet Lewis in opposition to the budget cuts proposed by Councilman Christensen.
9. Beth Burkstrand asking Council to reject Councilman Christensen's submitted proposal.

10. Penny Costello in opposition to Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut the tax levy.
11. Jennifer Meier-Bassen and Trevor Bassen in opposition to Councilman Christensen's proposed cut to the tax levy.
12. Jessica Versaw concerned with the proposal submitted by Councilman Christensen.
13. Jody Schrieber stating a balanced budget is a need.
14. Maren Banwell requesting to not put Roy Christensen's proposal to work.
15. Michelle Bozell. The tax levy mid-budget cut would end up cutting important services, causing a huge negative impact.
16. Nancy Friedemann. Believe in taxes for education and services and hope these services keep working.
17. Jackie Ostrowicki in support of Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget proposal.
18. Mary Schwab asking Council to keep the budget as proposed and do not vote to cut the budget.
19. Nichole Palmer. Do not support the proposal to cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent.
20. Rev. Kim Morrow expressing opposition to the budget proposal put forward by Councilman Christensen.
21. Kathleen Moss stating to forget the tax cut.
22. Tim Sparks prefers Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's proposal.
23. Jennifer Jorges asking Council to please not support cutting the tax levy.
24. Melissa McCoy expressing opposition to cutting the tax levy.
25. Sara Gilliam in opposition to Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut our tax levy.
26. Peter and Ann Bleed. Strongly opposed to cutting the city's tax levy by one cent.
27. Carole Curry. Encourage Council to vote no on the proposal to cut the tax levy.
28. Matan Gill. Vote against the proposal by Roy Christensen.
29. Berwyn Jones asking to not cut vital services. Christensen is wrong.
30. Andy Agena asking Council to vote against Councilman Christensen's proposed cut.
31. Gayla Nelsen requesting Council to not cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent.
32. Katie Dimon Graf. Alarmed by the mid-cycle permanent tax cut proposal.
33. Lloyd Weathermon Sounds good to cut budget and reduce taxes, but it does not balance the budget.
34. Barb Smisek writing in strong support of Leirion Gaylor Baird's position on the budget.
35. Peggy Campbell asking Council to vote against the proposed tax reduction.
36. David Spinar supporting Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget.
37. Jeanne Johnson. Please preserve the city budget to care for our infrastructure.
38. Martha Gadberry. Please do not amend the budget to cut the tax levy.
39. Rita Stranik. Do not want a tax cut.
40. Deb Van Horn Weber. Absolutely against the proposed levy reduction.
41. Ross Smith. Update city ordinances and increase fines to raise Lincoln's income.
42. Carl and Dede Mau. Do not drop the levy by 1 cent or make the \$1.8 million cut.
43. Mary Monahan. Against the levy mid-budget tax cut.
44. Cathy Rustermier asking Council not to cut taxes. Do not let this tax cut go through.
45. Jackie Durst. Saving \$1.25 per tax payer is not worth the loss of services.
46. John Gilliam. Keep the tax levy as it is today.
47. Rebecca McCoy Dean. Please do not adopt the cut in the tax levy proposed by Roy Christensen.
48. Shawn Ryba. The proposed one-time tax cut to lower the city's levy will not balance the budget, but create a structural deficit.

49. Joan Stahly Rouse. Do not make huge cuts that may leave us scrambling to find funds.
50. Sandi Fabry. Disappointed with budget controversy. Please keep things as they are.
51. Richard Bagby. Keep the property tax reassessment revenue.
52. Julia Larson. Not interested in a tax cut that saves me \$1.25 a month at the expense of city services.
53. Nissa Sturgeon. Do not support Roy Christensen's proposed budget cuts.
54. Bob Reeves. Oppose cutting the city budget for a 1 cent reduction in property tax rate.
55. Dave and Sue Van Horn. Vote against the proposed budget change and levy reduction.
56. Patd Eiche. Support the property tax cut. Money needs to be spent more wisely.
57. Angela Paolini. Do not raise property taxes. The city needs to be prudent with tax dollars.
58. Angela Paolini. Adept Roy Christiansen's budget.
59. Erin Froistad. Opposed to the potential tax cut.
60. Lindsey Wylie Larson. Please do not cut the levy taxes by 1 cent.
61. Lynne Herr. Vote against decreasing the tax levy as proposed by Councilman Christensen.
62. Amana Schadwinkel. Disppointed in budget cuts suggested by Councilman Christensen.
63. Jesse Metcalf. Allow for budget surpluses and savings not the proposed mid-year tax levy cut.
64. Diane Steinke. Do not enact a 1 cent tax reduction and leave Lincoln open to future budget and service cuts.
65. Robert Panzer. Appreciate Councilman Christensen's efforts to give taxpayers some relief.
66. Gerise Herndon. Opposed to Roy Christensen' proposal to cut the tax levy mid budget.
67. Marcie Young. Do not cut taxes for such a small amount, worth keeping the services.
68. Maurice Baker. Opposed to the proposed proprty tax decreases, giving reasons.
69. Keith Dubas. Opposed to the budget cut proposed.
70. Dennis Keim. Against the tax levy cut proposed by Councilman Christensen.
71. Mary Lou Meier. Lincon citizens will not benefit from the proposed tax levy cut.
72. Brian Wehling. In favor of the proposed budget that will lower property taxes.
73. Jerry Sukup. Consider lowering property tax in Lincoln.
74. Audrey Hare. Keep things the way which make Lincoln desirable.
75. Krista Van Pelt-Rodriguez. Do not attempt to reduce taxes by cutting the mid-term budget.
76. Robert W. Peters. Support Leirion Gaylor-Baird's proposed amendment to the City budget.
77. Dan Rosenthal. Support the budget amendment to decrease the overall city budget as proposed by Councilman Christensen.
78. Robert Panzer. Support the property tax cut.
79. J. Michael Hemmer. Disappointed Council is considering a tax cut which would permanently reduce the city's budget.
80. S. Wayne Smith. Support Roy Christensen's suggestions to reduce property taxes.
81. Richard Zieke. Cut taxes one dollar.
82. Linda Stephen. Do not vote for Councilman Christensen' proposal to reduce the levy by 1 percent.
83. Catherine Patterson. Raise property taxes, don't cut. Opposed to proposal to cut property taxes by 1 cent.
84. Andy Beecham. Support retaining the property tax levy as is.
85. Pat O'Meara. Vote no on Councilman Christiansen's budget amendment.
86. Rachel Terry. Councilman Christensen's for changes to the mayor's budget will help keep us on track.
87. Cathy Beecham. Do not cut the tax levy.
88. Pat Kahm. Encourage Council to support lowering property taxes in Lincoln.
89. Barbara Haith. Support the property tax cut proposed by Councilman Christensen.
90. Dick Esseks. Very concerned with the proposed tax cut.

91. Laurel Van Ham. Obvious not to accept the tax cut proposal.
92. Patte Newman. Do what is right for the majority of the community, reject a tax cut.
93. Cinnamon Dokken. Reject the budget amendments proposed by Councilman Christensen.
94. Elizabeth Logan. Ask Council to support Councilman Christensen's budget proposal to lower property taxes in our city.
95. Emily Stander. Reasons why not to cut the levy and neighborhood services.
96. Carita Baker. Agree with Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget proposals and do support them.
97. Jena Nicole Lambert. Keep the taxes as they are.
98. Jay Conrad. Do not support Councilman Christensen's proposed budget amendment.
99. Barry Moore. Do not cut programs and people when city departments finally are recovering from reductions.
100. Seth Lambert. Would rather the city keep taxes the way they are and keep neighborhood services.
101. Brenda West. The tiny savings is not worth it.
102. Aubrey Alloway. The proposed cut is very short sighted. Vote against.
103. Maja Harris writing on the biennial operating budget and the Lincoln City libraries.
104. Lacey Losh. Keep the \$1.25 in our taxes and help us keep services.

Date: August 28, 2015

Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of August 29 through September 4, 2015
Schedule subject to change

Tuesday, September 1

- City-County Common meeting - 9 a.m., Bill Luxford Studio, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

Thursday, September 3

- KFOR - 7:45 a.m.

Friday, September 4

- Proclamation presentation to Armin and Birgit Stutz (Armin Stutz is a City Council member from Schwabisch Hall, Germany) - 8:15 a.m., Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Engineering Services Division, 949 West Bond St., Lincoln, NE 68521, 402-441-7711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 28, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Miki Esposito, Public Works and Utilities, 402-441-7566
Jon Mooberry, Engineering Services, 402-405-4772

OLD CHENEY PAVEMENT REPAIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

The “Summer of Progress” on Lincoln streets is continuing with improvements along Old Cheney Road. Pavement repair along Old Cheney Road from Warlick Boulevard to 40th Street is scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 8. The section from 27th to 40th streets is scheduled to be completed by November 2015, weather permitting. All remaining pavement repairs and related work along Old Cheney will be completed by mid-July 2016.

The work will require lane closures, but a minimum of one lane will be open in each direction, and access to adjacent properties will be maintained. Construction will include the repair or replacement of deteriorated concrete panels, joints and curbs; sealing cracks; and the replacement of damaged storm sewer inlet tops and curb ramps that do not meet federal and local standards. Trails along Old Cheney will be temporarily impacted during curb ramp construction, but alternate routes and detours will be provided.

The repair of Old Cheney was moved up two years as a result of \$10 million in Antelope Valley Project saving being added to street maintenance. The new funding more than doubled the City's two-year investment, which now includes improvements to other major City corridors such as 27th Street, North 84th Street, Normal Boulevard, Superior Street and West “O” Street. More information on other City street projects is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: streets).

For more information about the project, visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: Old Cheney) or contact one of the following:

- Jon Mooberry, Public Works and Utilities, 402-405-4772, jmooberry@lincoln.ne.gov
- Jess Sundeen, Public Works and Utilities, 402-416-5341, jsundeen@lincoln.ne.gov
- Mike Tidball, Pavers, Inc., 402-875-1469, mtidball@paversinc.com

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Pioneers Park Nature Center, 3201 S. Coddington, Lincoln, NE 68522, 402-441-7895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 28, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jamie Kelley, Pioneers Park Nature Center, 402-441-8708

The media are invited to attend the 2015 Prairie Jazz Festival from **3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, August 29** at the **Pioneers Park Nature Center, 3201 S. Coddington.**

The fundraising event for the Nature Center, hosted by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center, features Annette Murrell and Jim Williams opening for the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra at 5 p.m. The day will include educational displays, guided prairie walks and tours of the historic Hudson Cabin and one-room school house.

More information is available at prairiejazzfestival.org.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Engineering Services Division, 949 West Bond St., Lincoln, NE 68521, 402-441-7711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 31, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ty Barger, Engineering Services, 402-441-8422

FOUR PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECTS BEGIN TODAY

As the “Summer of Progress” continues, repairs began today on four City streets. The work will be completed using lane closures, with one lane open in both directions at all times. The streets impacted include the following:

- Work on Vine Street from 67th to 70th streets – which involves concrete repairs in the eastbound lane – is expected to be completed by September 4.
- Work on Fletcher Avenue from N.W. 7th to N.W. 1st streets – which involves grinding and replacement of damaged asphalt in the eastbound, outside lane – is expected to be completed by September 4.
- Work on S. 14th Street from Cushman Drive to Old Cheney Road – which involves grinding and replacement of damaged asphalt in the southbound, outside lane – is expected to be completed by September 4.
- Work on S. 56th Street from Normal Boulevard to South Street – involves concrete repair in the northbound lane – is expected to be completed by September 9.

For more information, contact Ty Barger, City Public Works and Utilities Department, at 402-441-8422 or tbarger@lincoln.ne.gov. More information on City construction projects is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: projects).

OFFICE OF TREASURER, CITY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

August 27, 2015

TO: MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: FINANCE DEPARTMENT / CITY TREASURER
SUBJECT: MONTHLY CITY CASH REPORT

The records of this office show me to be charged with City cash as follows at the close of business July 31, 2015

Balance Forward	\$	278,643,128.11
Plus Total Debits July 1-31, 2015	\$	38,959,148.33
Less Total Credits July 1-31, 2015	\$	(34,395,665.49)
Cash Balance on July 31, 2015	\$	<u>283,206,610.95</u>

I desire to report that such City cash was held by me as follows which I will deem satisfactory unless advised and further directed in the matter by you.

U. S. Bank Nebraska, N.A.	\$	4,045,965.07
Wells Fargo Bank	\$	(109,678.47)
Wells Fargo Bank Credit Card Account	\$	(163,719.59)
Cornhusker Bank	\$	(151,828.44)
First Nebraska Bank	\$	5,671.81
Pinnacle Bank	\$	(70,647.93)
Union Bank & Trust Company	\$	94,674.57
West Gate Bank	\$	75,384.51
Idle Funds - Short-Term Pool	\$	25,602,753.33
Idle Funds - Medium-Term Pool	\$	253,201,071.91
Cash, Checks and Warrants	\$	676,964.18
Total Cash on Hand July 31, 2015	\$	<u>283,206,610.95</u>

The negative bank balances shown above do not represent the City as overdrawn in these bank accounts. In order to maximize interest earned on all City funds, deposits have been invested prior to the Departments' notification to the City Treasurer's office of these deposits; therefore, these deposits are not recorded in the City Treasurer's bank account balances at month end.

I also hold as City Treasurer, securities in the amount of \$22,959,527.17 representing authorized investments of the City's funds.

ATTEST:


Teresa Meier, City Clerk




Melinda Jones, City Treasurer

**CITY OF LINCOLN - PLEDGED COLLATERAL STATEMENT
AS OF JULY 31, 2015**

DESCRIPTION	CUSIP	MATURITY DATE	ORIGINAL FACE	CURRENT PAR	MARKET PRICE	MARKET VALUE
FHLMC REMIC 2776 CG 15DD	31394WJC3	04/15/2019	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00		
FNMA POOL #254548 5.5%	31371KWH0	12/01/2032	\$641,255.72	\$28,674.24		
FHLB 1.25%	3130A5PX1	08/28/2018	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00		
CORNHUSKER BANK		TOTAL PLEDGED	\$2,641,255.72	\$2,028,674.24		
FNMAU	3136FTS83	02/28/2017	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00		
FNMA GTD PASS THRU POOL #AU5145	3138X4WF3	08/01/2028	\$515,000.00	\$515,000.00		
FNMA GTD PASS THRU POOL #AU5145	3138X4WF3	08/01/2028	\$640,000.00	\$640,000.00		
UNION BANK AND TRUST		TOTAL PLEDGED	\$1,655,000.00	\$1,655,000.00		
LOC 517792		11/02/2015	\$7,000,000.00	\$7,000,000.00		
USBANK		TOTAL PLEDGED	\$7,000,000.00	\$7,000,000.00		\$7,000,000.00
FHLMC REMIC SER K-707 A2 2.22%	3137ANMN2	12/25/2018	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00		
LINCLN CNTY NEB SCH DIST 56-0 S 2010	533293BH8	12/15/2018	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00		
MORRILL NEB ELEC UTIL REV 1.40%	617785AU4	02/15/2018	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00		
PIERCE CNTY WAS SCH DIST NO 3 2%	720544KM6	12/01/2016	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00		
PINNACLE BANK		TOTAL PLEDGED	\$5,450,000.00	\$5,450,000.00		



Summer of Progress Continues!

August 28, 2015

S. 56th Street Pavement Repair Normal Blvd to South Street

The City of Lincoln will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015. This work will involve concrete repair in the northbound lane. This repair work is expected to be complete by Wednesday, September 9, 2015.

This pavement repair will help maintain and improve the driving surface of the existing roadway. Improvements are needed based upon overall conditions and visual inspections.

Work will be completed under lane closures. A minimum of one lane will be open to each direction of traffic at all times.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Ty Barger, Public Works Maintenance Manager
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-441-8422
Email: tbarger@lincoln.ne.gov

Mike Hardekopf, Project Supervisor
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-432-8705
Email: mhardekopf@lincoln.ne.gov



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY

lincoln.ne.gov

Summer of Progress Continues!

August 28, 2015

Vine Street Pavement Repair
67th Street to 70th Street

The City of Lincoln will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015. This work will involve concrete repair in the eastbound lane. This repair work is expected to be complete by Friday, September 4, 2015.

This pavement repair will help maintain and improve the driving surface of the existing roadway. Improvements are needed based upon overall conditions and visual inspections.

Work will be completed under lane closures. A minimum of one lane will be open to each direction of traffic at all times.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Ty Barger, Public Works Maintenance Manager
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-441-8422
Email: tbarger@lincoln.ne.gov

Terry Gustafson, Project Supervisor
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-326-0686
Email: tgustafson@lincoln.ne.gov



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY

lincoln.ne.gov

Summer of Progress Continues!

August 28, 2015

Fletcher Avenue Pavement Repair
NW 7th Street to NW 1st Street

The City of Lincoln will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015. This work will involve grinding and replacement of damaged asphalt in the eastbound, outside lane. This work is expected to be complete by Friday, September 4, 2015.

This pavement repair will help maintain and improve the driving surface of the existing roadway. Improvements are needed based upon overall conditions and visual inspections.

Work will be completed under lane closures. A minimum of one lane will be open to eastbound traffic at all times.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Ty Barger, Public Works Maintenance Manager
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-441-8422
Email: tbarger@lincoln.ne.gov

Kris Mayer, Project Supervisor
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-525-5610



Summer of Progress Continues!

August 28, 2015

S. 14th Street Pavement Repair Cushman Drive to Old Cheney Road

The City of Lincoln will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015. This work will involve grinding and replacement of damaged asphalt in the southbound, outside lane. This work is expected to be complete by Friday, September 4, 2015.

This pavement repair will help maintain and improve the driving surface of the existing roadway. Improvements are needed based upon overall conditions and visual inspections.

Work will be completed under lane closures. A minimum of one lane will be open to southbound traffic at all times.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Ty Barger, Public Works Maintenance Manager
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-441-8422
Email: tbarger@lincoln.ne.gov

Doug Hanson, Project Supervisor
City of Lincoln
Phone: 402-326-0691
Email: dhanson@lincoln.ne.gov

Mary M. Meyer

Subject: FW: InterLinc: Council Feedback--Budget

Thank you, Jon.
Really appreciate your experience and thoughtfulness.

Thank you for your service to Lincoln.

Linda Stephen

-----Original Message-----

From: Jon Camp [<mailto:joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:05 AM

To: lstephen1@windstream.net

Subject: RE: InterLinc: Council Feedback--Budget

Linda:

Thanks for your comments on the VA Campus meetings.

Regarding the budget, I appreciate your thoughts. Last year the City Council added substantial dollars in the budget for Parks. I share your concerns for Lincoln's parks. I am hearing two major messages from other constituents:

1. Fund the Police and Firefighters Pension Plan (\$88 million unfunded liability as of 8-31-2014 and probably over \$100 million as of today).
2. Give the "excess" revenue back to the taxpayers (between \$600-700,000 extra property tax collections).

I want to accomplish these two requests. I have always recommended putting more into the Pension Trust (I used to own an actuarial pension firm and know the problems of underfunding those plans--for 16 years I have been encouraging higher contributions).

I have witnessed the City increasing taxes and also getting the benefit of inflationary revenue increases, transferring millions of dollars from Enterprise Funds (e.g. Lincoln Electric System, Parking Enterprise Fund, Landfill Fund, Golf Enterprise Fund), and higher fees in all categories.

At the same time, I remain concerned that the elected officials are not adequately funding needs first and then carefully "prioritizing" wants and budget accordingly. I will be encouraging the Mayor and my colleagues to step back and identify what each person deems as his or her priorities by categories and specifics within each category. Then let's develop a better budget that actually funds those. Our current biennial budget has excess funds in so many departments. . .there is a tendency for department heads to budget for items that are later never completed. . .the budgeted amounts get transferred and spent elsewhere.

As a native Lincolnite, I value the quality of life for our citizens.

Having been fortunate to travel the world, I am always more appreciative of our quality of life when I return home to Lincoln.

Thank you and your family for also choosing to stay in Lincoln. We are blessed with many amenities, a safe community, and great educational institutions.

Best regards,
Jon

JON A. CAMP
Lincoln City Council

200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
P.O. Box 82307
Lincoln, NE 68501-2307

Office: 402.474.1838/402.474.1812
Fax: 402.474.1838; Cell: 402.560.1001; Email: joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com

-----Original Message-----

From: WebForm [<mailto:none@lincoln.ne.gov>]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

Name: Linda Stephen
Address: 7330 S. Wedgewood Drive
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-483-0747
Fax:
Email: lstephen1@windstream.net

Dear Jon,

Thank you so much for attending so many of the meetings regarding the VA Development changes for Victory Park and for supporting the neighbors in our concerns. I really appreciated your early and ongoing support, and we were so thankful that the developers incorporated so many of our proposed changes.

I am writing regarding today's hearing on the city budget. I would ask you to NOT vote for Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut \$1.8 million from the city budget and reduce the levy by 1 percent. I fear that these cuts would reduce the quality of life in Lincoln.

I have lived overseas and in six states. I moved my business and my family to Lincoln from New York 10 years ago planning only to stay for 3 years until my husband finished a doctoral program. Because of the quality of life for my children - especially parks, sidewalks, bike trails, libraries and safe neighborhoods, we plan to stay for at least another 10 years.

Savings of \$15 a year is of no value compared to losing services that we use every week.

I urge you to use any extra moneys in the budget to help with park and playground repairs. Public park playgrounds provide safe and "free" (at the time) entertainment that helps kids and families be active and strong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Stephen

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or

Mary M. Meyer

Subject: LES complaint

From: Kurt Geisinger [mailto:kgeisinger@buros.org]
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Jon Camp; rvanlaningham@les.com; Kurt Geisinger
Subject: Re: LES complaint

Dear Jon,

Thank you for your quick reply with a promise to look into this matter. I previously had simply forwarded my BBB complaint to you. I probably need to add a detail or two. We do have a transformer box in the back corner of our lot. Apparently, LES has access to that, although I do not remember seeing anything in the purchase agreement when we bought this house from the Rudersdorf's in 2006. It may be there.

We understand that LES needs access in emergencies. However, we question the appropriateness of such access at other times, especially without notice. On Friday at around 8:00 am two men entered our backyard. I was upstairs showering and my wife, who had the day off, was watching news downstairs in her pajamas. Our dogs went crazy inside the house. My wife had to go out to find out what they were doing here, as they gave us no prior notice...did not even ring the doorbell to inform us that they desired access to our yard. Then, to make matters worse, they turned off our electricity, which LES has stated to us was a mistake. I was literally in the shower in the dark. When they switched the power back on, it meant that our washer cycle had to start all over.

After I got dressed, I talked to the two men before they left. I asked them why they did not let us know that they needed access to our yard. They said that they did not need to do so as they have legal access to our year. I find this situation intolerable. Suppose we had a party in the backyard, our dogs were loose in the backyard, or my wife was sunbathing? So I asked for a way to reach their supervisor. They gave me his name and phone number. I talked with him and he said he could do nothing about this and I needed to talk to his supervisor, whom he told me he would call and that individual would call me back. Late in the afternoon, I called this individual (a Mr. Hyman) once again to let him that no one had called me back. He told me that he had sent an email and there was nothing else he could do. I then called city hall was told to inform you of the situation and/or LES. When I talked with LES, I did get a sympathetic woman who understood our concerns and said she would look into it. A little while later, a Mr. Dan Pudín (sp?) called me back from LES and insisted once again that they have unbridled access to our yard and they do not need to inform us.

I hope that the City Council will look into this. No one objects to their access when there are emergencies. However, to insist that they have total access under any circumstance, without prior information, seems abusive at best. I would suggest that they should provide written notice in advance of such a need when it is not an emergency.

I wanted you and your colleagues to have all the information I had. Thanks again. I hope something can come of this.

Kurt Geisinger
6300 Rainier Court
Lincoln, NE 68510

From: Jon Camp <joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com>

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:43 PM

To: Kurt Geisinger

RE: LES complaint

Kurt:

First, I want you to know you live on the lot that my former wife and I tried to purchase and on which we wanted to build our home. Unfortunately, in 1980, the developer would not sell unless we let him build for us (we preferred another builder), so we purchase the same lot one block north at 6300 Yellowstone Circle. The developer ultimately declared bankruptcy but we had commenced construction by that time. Beautiful location. . .in fact, I consider it the best in Lincoln, especially as it lies adjacent to the Unitarian Church play area.

On to your situation. . . I will check with LES and get to the root of the matter. I suspect a subcontractor performed the work. Just earlier this week I had another complaint about entry into the backyard of a resident. In fact, I am copying Roger Van Laningham on this email as he assisted me with the other matter.

Best regards,

Jon

JON A. CAMP
Lincoln City Council
200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
P.O. Box 82307
Lincoln, NE 68501-2307

Office: 402.474.1838/402.474.1812

Fax: 402.474.1838; Cell: 402.560.1001; **Email:** joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com

From: Kurt Geisinger [<mailto:kgeisinger@buros.org>]

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 2:37 PM

To: Jon Camp

Subject: LES complaint

Dear Mr. Camp:

I have filed an LES complaint with the Better Business Bureau. I called the Lincoln utilities office and they suggested I contact you about this matter and/or the Better Business Bureau. You can see my complaint below, which I hope explains my concerns.

Thank you for using the Better Business Bureau's Online Complaint System.

Your complaint has been assigned case # 300122380.

Correspondence regarding this complaint will be emailed to : kurtgeis1@aol.com

Please print a copy of this for your records.

Filed on : August 28 2015

Filed by :

Kurt Geisinger
6300 Rainier Court
Lincoln NE 68510

Filed against :

Lincoln Electric System

Complaint Description:

LES service workers entered our backyard this morning w/o prior notification, turned our power off for some time, and were not pleasant. Among other

things they turned our power off for some time, then back on. Took some time to fix. Also cost us time and energy since the washing machine was going at the time and I was in the shower.

Your Desired Resolution:

We do not ever wish such employees to enter our backyard without prior permission at least 48 hours in advance, preferably in writing.

This case will be reviewed by a complaint specialist at the Better Business Bureau, and then forwarded to the business for their response. It is our policy to allow the business no more than thirty working days to respond to your complaint. Within those thirty days, we will write, fax, email or phone the company in an effort to seek a resolution to your case. You will be notified when the business has responded.

What would you like to do next?

[View the status of your complaint](#)

[Return to the BBB Homepage](#) [BBB Privacy Policy](#)

Mr. Camp, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kurt Geisinger

Kurt F. Geisinger, Ph.D.

Meierhenry Distinguished University Professor and Director, Buros Center for Testing

Editor, *Applied Measurement in Education* (2006-Present)

21 Teachers College Hall

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lincoln, NE 68588-0353

(402) 472-3280 (Office)

(402) 472-6203 (Secretary)

(402) 472-6207 (Fax)

kgeisinger2@unl.edu

Mary M. Meyer

Subject: Budget considerations

From: Jon Camp [<mailto:joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 12:31 PM
To: pattnewman@gmail.com
Subject: Budget considerations

Patte:

Thank you for expressing your opinion on budgetary matters. You made several erroneous comments. I will settle for saying that I prefer to deal with the facts.

One fact that needs attention for clarification is your statement that I have “done nothing” with reference to the underfunding of the Police and Firefighters Pension Trust. For 16 years I have emphasized to my sitting City Council colleagues (including your 4 years on the Council) of the need for greater funding of the PFFPT. I am proud that intervening budgets have witnessed increasing contribution levels although insufficient to stem the rising tide of deficits. I authored an amendment two years ago that stipulated “excess revenues” that would be received over budgeted amounts would be contributed to the PFFPT. Revenues did exceed projections that year and the PFFPT benefitted.

Please deal with facts. Lincoln is great community with great citizens. There are boundless “wants”, most of which are very meritorious. But, Lincoln first must fund basic needs, which includes the PFFPT. We also owe the citizens transparency and fiscal restraint in light of the many tax increases, increased revenues, fee increases, and transfers from enterprise funds that have occurred in recent years.

Jon

JON A. CAMP
Lincoln City Council
200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
P.O. Box 82307
Lincoln, NE 68501-2307

Office: 402.474.1838/402.474.1812; **Fax:** 402.474.1838; **Cell:** 402.560.1001
Email: joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com

From: pattnewman@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:51 AM
Subject: This Year's INTERIM Budget

To the Lincoln City Council members:

Lincoln as a community has a lot of things that need to be funded. SE and NE Lincoln need fire stations, and LFR has an aging fleet and some less than stellar emergency response times in areas that TWO of you represent. Staffing WILL be an issue in order to cover Lincoln's growth with both fire and police. Long term planning and budgeting is a priority.

We recently heard criticism of the Council from the public for not setting aside funds for an outdated public safety communication system resulting in having to pass a bond issue.

Annually, Councilman Camp complains about the pensions being woefully underfunded and does nothing. And you would kick that can down the road for someone else to deal with because you can “COUNT TO FOUR”?

Whatever political hay you think you can make by proposing cuts equivalent to \$15/year per household will have ramifications next year and the year after. The huge cut in property tax rates that Mayor Johanns implemented was the start of a long standing, deferred maintenance hole this City has fallen into. Had the levy remained even a couple cents higher from the '90s on – keeping up with many necessities of a growing city (road maintenance, updated fleets for police and fire, etc.) would not have been so difficult.

I don't believe my writing this will make a lick of difference in changing any of your opinions, but am weighing in nonetheless. The two year budget was set up as a TWO year budget and no changes should even be on the table until next year. It is stupid to play political games with the health and safety of this community just because you can count four fingers on one hand like most kindergarteners in Lincoln Public Schools.

Be adults. Play well with others. Look long term and not what you think makes a couple loud mouths in the community happy. Do what is right for the majority of the community.

Patte Newman

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Christa Pope
Address: 2900 Stratford Av
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 4027302321
Fax:
Email: cmhpope@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

In regard to the upcoming vote:

A balanced budget is a need - not a want.

Fixing potholes in our roads is a need - not a want Meeting our Police and Fire pension obligations is a need - not a want

Keeping playground equipment safe for our children is a need - not a want.

Please vote accordingly.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Betty Medinger
Address: 5500 Stockwell Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 402-429-5031

Fax:

Email: betty.medinger@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:

Lerion Gaylor Baird submitted a budget request that supports a balanced budget, fixing roads, meeting pension obligations to our police and fire fighters, and playground equipment with one time funds. Roy Christensen's budget provides small tax relief with no suggestion of how to cover future expenses. It takes tax dollars to keep Lincoln a community we all want to live in. Let's not be short sighted, grabbing the shiny star of a nominal tax break, while ignoring future needs and the common good.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Lois Katt
Address: 901 Phillips Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone: 4024768878
Fax: 4024768878
Email: gmakatt@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
We need a balanced budget...

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Deb Van Horn Weber
Address: 6100 Vine Street H47
City: Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone: 402-440-9357
Fax:
Email: deb.weber1979@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

I am absolutely against the proposed levy reduction. Our citizens deserve the services we need to remain safe and to prosper. And those services require funds. Please do not put us into a deficit budget or take away the services. Thank you.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Susan Kehrli Moore
Address: 1634 Harwood
City: Lincoln, NE, 68502

Phone: 402-488-6746
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I approve of Leirion Baird's proposed changes to the city budget, not those advanced by Roy Christensen.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Abbi Swatsworth <abbiswatsworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:11 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Christensen budget proposal

Council members -

Thank you for your service to our great city. I do believe it is great because we have an excellent quality of life thanks to well-cared for parks and trails, libraries, clean downtown areas, services for seniors and more.

Respectively speaking, I am flatly opposed to Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut the tax levy. This permanent cut would create an unnecessary deficit and endanger our greatness.

Lincoln has not made list after list of top cities to live, raise a family, or retire because we pinched pennies to appease a vocal minority. We have made those lists because we prioritize quality of life and make small sacrifices to invest in our community.

You can keep my \$1.25 in tax savings and I will continue working to make sure my great city stays great.

Please vote no on this unnecessary and dangerous proposal.

Abby Swatsworth
Home Owner

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jon Stanton <jstant76@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:18 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Councilman Christensen's Proposed Budget Cuts

Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

I am writing to oppose the budget cuts recently proposed by Councilman Christensen.

While I am a firm believer in the necessity of efficient and lean government, the cuts he proposed, in my opinion, would be much more detrimental to our community than any benefit from a \$1.25 per month savings for the average homeowner.

A one cent reduction is clearly based simply on the principle of always cutting or reducing taxes even when it doesn't make sense to do so. This is not any meaningful tax relief, rather its showmanship, in my opinion.

Please do not approve of the one cent reduction or the proposed cuts. Our family moved to Lincoln three years ago from a city and state whose budgets had been repeatedly slashed to the point where the city actually posted signs at major entry points to the city saying "enter at your own risk" because police response time was often an hour or more. We love Lincoln, it's parks, it's positive attitude, and it's reasonable taxes for the services we receive. These cuts are unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stanton and Janet Lewis
1501 Arapahoe Street

Mary M. Meyer

From: Beth Burkstrand <beth.burkstrand@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: No cut.

Please reject City Councilman Roy Christensen's submitted proposal to cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent – creating a permanent budget shortfall. It's bad for Lincoln. I am happy to pay to keep our city strong!

-Beth Burkstrand-Reid

Mary M. Meyer

From: Penny Costello <penny.costello@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:35 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Opposition to Councilman Christensen's Proposal

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut the tax levy. As a tax paying citizen of Lincoln, I would prefer that the \$1.25 per month I might save as a result of this tax cut, instead would continue to go to road maintenance and repair, parks, pools, libraries, and other amenities that make Lincoln a great place to live.

Great schools, parks, libraries, and pools are critical have a positive impact on all citizens, transcending all social and economic strata. Please continue to support these elements that are vital to Lincoln's quality of life. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Penny Costello
3648 Woods Avenue
Lincoln, NE. 68510

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jenn Bassen <jennbassen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:13 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tax levy budget

Two days ago, City Councilman Roy Christensen submitted a proposal to cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent – creating a permanent \$1.8million dollar hole.

These PERMANENT cuts would end up cutting important services like Parks, Pools, Sidewalks and Pothole Repairs, and Libraries. This would absolutely impact all the things that make Lincoln a great place to live, work, retire, start a business, or raise a family!

How much would the average Lincoln taxpayer save under this proposal? \$1.25 per month.

Please keep the \$1.25. I would much rather have our parks, pools, playgrounds, smooth streets and sidewalks!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Meier-Bassen &
Trevor Bassen

Mary M. Meyer

From: Versaw <jessica@versaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:08 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Cutting the Tax Levy

As a resident of Lincoln, I would like to voice my concerns regarding the proposal submitted by City Councilman Roy Christensen.

I am more than happy to continue paying these taxes in order to maintain and build upon the things that not only drew me to Lincoln from the east coast, but also encouraged me to stay in Lincoln after graduating from UNL as a young professional.

Our parks and trails are critical to encouraging young talent to relocate to Lincoln or remain in Lincoln after graduation. For the future of the city, please don't cut funding for these programs that make Lincoln the city I love.

Thanks,
Jessica Versaw

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:19 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Jody Schrieber
Address: 2323 Grainger pkwy
City: lincoln, NE 68512

Phone: 4024202554
Fax:
Email: jodyschrieber@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:

A balanced budget is a need - not a want.

Fixing potholes in our roads is a need - not a want Meeting our Police and Fire pension obligations is a need - not a want

Keeping playground equipment safe for our children is a need - not a want.

Mary M. Meyer

From: maren banwell <marenkbanwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:33 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Roy Christensen proposal - just say NO

Please do not put Roy Christensen's proposal at work. We enjoy our parks, pools, and libraries. They are integral parts of our community and well worth what his proposed permanent tax break would save Lincoln citizens. People spend more on a weak cup of coffee from Starbucks than this tax break would save them in an entire month. This is not a good idea.

--

Maren Banwell

"Brighten the corner where you are, and you will light the world." Dean Koontz

Mary M. Meyer

From: Michelle Bozell <michellebozell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:59 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax levy mid-budget cut

These cuts would end up cutting important services like Parks, Pools, Sidewalks and Pothole Repairs, and Libraries.

This would have a huge negative impact on all the things that make Lincoln a great place to live, work, retire, start a business, or raise a family!

The average Lincoln taxpayer will only save \$1.25 per month under this proposal.

Keep the \$1.25 and let us keep our parks, pools, playground, smooth streets and sidewalks.

Thank You

Mary M. Meyer

From: nancy friedemann <nanfriedemann@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:42 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: cuts

Dear Councilman Christensen:

Five years ago I moved from Brooklyn, New York to Lincoln. I moved because public schools in NYC were not good enough for my elementary school child. I also moved because the city has issues with it's traffic, roads and many other services to the city. My reasoning to move to Lincoln was that it was a city that worked, that was beautiful and that it reminded me of the US when everything worked every where. I believe in taxes for education and for services and I hope that you work to keep those services working for the people that you serve. As our representative, it is your responsibility to keep the city working well. And, It is my responsibility as a citizen to pay those those taxes to keep those services. I am sure that you will uphold your duties.

Best regards,

Nancy Friedemann

--

www.nancyfriedemann.com
www.fiendishplots.com

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 5:27 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Jackie Ostrowicki
Address: 2804 Sheridan Blvd
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 402.617.3324
Fax: NA
Email: jackie.ostrowicki@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
City Council members,

As you consider the city budget on Monday, please consider a balanced budget that does not put our city services at stake--and one that addresses the needs of our community.

As Councilwoman Gaylor Baird has recommended, using savings from reserves to address one-time, urgent needs is a common way for governments (whether city or state) to deal with non-recurring priorities and is a prudent use of money saved. Reallocation of existing dollars to meet needs like maintaining city infrastructure makes sense. (I am noting that this is to maintain to a reasonable level of usability, not necessarily to improve.) Roads and playgrounds must be kept safe.

Additionally, it does not make sense to permanently reduce the city levy without making permanent or ongoing cuts to balance the reduced available dollars. This is a band-aid solution that will only hurt the city in the not-so-long run and is very short-term thinking when it comes to budget planning.

Lincoln is my home, and to maintain it is important to me. America's cities are a smart investment in taxpayer dollars, and I am happy to put my money where my mouth is. I am also a homeowner, and the individual savings in reducing the city's levy is not significant enough to overcome the deficit it would create.

A city's citizens must support maintaining that city, and support cannot be unevenly focused on exciting expansion or updates but overlook maintenance on non-glamorous but necessary upkeep. I have seen this happen too many times at both the city and state level.

I support Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget proposal and hope you will do the same. Additionally, I urge you to pass a budget that is balanced both this FY and in ongoing FYs.

Thank you,

Jackie Ostrowicki

Mary M. Meyer

From: Ohair42@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: DO NOT CUT THE BUDGET

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

I AM ASKING YOU TO VOTE TO KEEP THE BUDGET AS IT WAS PROPOSED AND DO NOT VOTE TO CUT THE BUDGET.

I JOIN THE PEOPLE OF LINCOLN WHO WANT TO KEEP THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF LINCOLN IN GOOD CONDITION, INCLUDING LIBRARIES, PARKS AND STREETS(POTHoles)

Mary Schwab
3510 Woods Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68510

Mary M. Meyer

From: Nichole <nichole@knotsandtots.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:44 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tax levy proposal

Council Men and Women,

I **do not** support the proposal to cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent. I am proud of our Lincoln Parks, pools and libraries. We need these public spaces to remain clean and safe for those that use them. These areas are also a reflection of our city.

Thank you!

Nichole Palmer
3033 Georgian Court

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 8:24 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Rev. Kim Morrow
Address: 4500 Meadow Lane
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 402-405-9425
Fax:
Email: kmorrow2530@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

I am writing to express my opposition to the budget proposal put forward by Councilman Christensen. His proposal would take away critical funding for much-needed programs without creating any real benefit for taxpayers. We must protect funding for public services, repair our roads and preserve our parks. I am proud to live in Lincoln and I highly value the quality of our city services. Taking those away would be a loss for our standards for Lincoln.

I urge you to vote to adopt Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget proposal on Monday. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Kim Morrow

Mary M. Meyer

From: Kathleen Moss <kathleenmoss3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax cut

Forget the tax cut. Keep up our parks, sidewalks and pools! ,!

Sent from my iPad

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jon Camp
Subject: FW: Urgent: I need your help!

-----Original Message-----

From: Sparks, Tim [<mailto:Tim.Sparks@molex.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:45 PM

To: leirion@leirionforlincoln.org; Jon Camp; Roy A. Christensen; Carl B. Eskridge; Trenton J. Fellers; Cyndi Lamm; Jane Raybould

Dear Council members,

Although everyone likes to get tax cuts, I like Leirion's proposal to pull funds that are available to do the important issues around the city of Lincoln. Let's do our best to keep our budget balanced. That is how I would prefer that you vote.

Gaylor Baird's package includes the following:

- The \$120,603 remaining in the 2014-15 snow removal budget would be used for residential street repair. "We must continue to invest in our city's infrastructure, fixing potholes that annually plague our roads," she said.
- Interim Finance Director Steve Hubka estimates that at least \$100,000 in unspent funds budgeted for labor settlements will be available after the last City labor contract is finalized. Gaylor Baird proposes those funds be used to meet the City's obligation to the Police and Fire Pension Fund.
"It's important to taxpayers that we keep up with our obligation on the Police and Fire pension."
- Budget changes proposed by Mayor Chris Beutler would use \$510,000 in Keno revenues to support the Woods Tennis Center project and the "N" Street Bikeway. Gaylor Baird instead proposes to fund those projects by reducing the allocation to Pershing Center, and using leftover FY 2014-2015 funds budgeted for City election expenses and shared corrections services. She said that would free up the Keno funds for their intended purpose – parks maintenance. "Keno revenues are the primary source of Parks and Recreation maintenance funding," Gaylor Baird said. "Identifying a different source for the city's share of the Woods Tennis Center not only helps parks maintenance, it makes sure that the structural integrity issues of the roof "bubble" over these public tennis courts is addressed."
Gaylor Baird's proposal includes just over \$70,000 to address two playgrounds in need of repair and replacement: Easterday Park in northeast Lincoln and Neighbors Park in southeast Lincoln.

Thanks for your service.

Tim Sparks

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jennifer Jorge <jjorges@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:09 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Do NOT support the tax levy

Dear City Council,

I am asking you as a citizen of Lincoln to please not support cutting the tax levy-please keep the \$1.25 I would save to maintain our parks, pools and sidewalks. What makes Lincoln one of the best places to live is just those things this tax cut would propose to not maintain. Keep Lincoln #1.

Jennifer Jorge
Concerned citizen-mom of three Lincolnites

Mary M. Meyer

From: Melissa McCoy <melissa.mccoy@unl.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax Cut Proposal

Greetings,

I am writing to express my opposition to cutting the tax levy. I love Lincoln the way it is and it is more than worth it to me to continue to pay the \$1.25 per month that I would save if taxes are cut. I want to keep funding the public services and facilities that my tax dollars currently support.

Thank you.

--

Melissa McCoy
Assistant Director of Admissions
University of Nebraska College of Law
402-472-8394

Nebraska Law
University of Nebraska

Mary M. Meyer

From: Sara Gilliam <sarapipher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed Tax Levy Cut

Dear Members of the Council,

I believe that paying taxes is a part of being a good citizen. While I don't love receiving tax bills, I DO love Lincoln's amazing parks, green spaces, public pools and services, well maintained streets and infrastructure, and so on.

I DO NOT support Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut our tax levy. Savings to Lincolnites would be nominal, but the damaging effects on our city of this lack of tax funds would be devastating.

Please--let us do our job as citizens, by providing tax funds that keep our amazing city just that... amazing.

Sincerely,

Sara Gilliam

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Peter and Ann Bleed
Address: 1315 N 37th St
City: Lincoln, NE 68503

Phone: 402-466-6805
Fax:
Email: ann.s.bleed@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

We are retired and live on a fixed income. Thus, we are concerned about our tax bills. If there are prudent cuts we can make to balance the budget, the city should make those cuts.

However, these budget cuts should be made only if they will not significantly sacrifice the many characteristics that make our city great. The quality of life we have in Lincoln matters greatly to us. As retirees, we could live elsewhere, but the vibrancy of our downtown, the quality of our parks and recreational trails, the actions the city has taken to protect our environment, and the overall health and safety of our community and neighborhoods, keeps us here. No doubt these amenities also attract other families, businesses, and industries.

Moreover, I am strongly opposed to a cutting the city's tax levy by 1 cent, which would have long-term impacts on the future of Lincoln. The value to us of making such a cut to our tax bill is far outweighed by the amenities that the city could provide by maintaining those revenues.

In sum, cutting the tax levy by 1 cent and passing a budget that will lower the very quality of life that makes Lincoln a great place to live and work, is not a responsible answer to fixing our budget deficit.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Schelly <cscurry10@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Councilman Christensen's budget cut proposal

I am opposed to this tax levy cut proposal which would put many of our city services at risk. Saving the money at this time does not seem very forward thinking.

I encourage council members to vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you.

Carole Curry
3300 Woods Ave
Lincoln, Ne. 68510

Sent from my iPad

Mary M. Meyer

From: Matan Gill <matan.gill@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax Cut Proposed by Roy Christiansen

Good morning,

I would encourage you to vote against the proposal by Roy Christiansen.
Please use the money to improve our parks, polls, sidewalks and repair potholes.

Yours,

Matan Gill
Business Owner
1131 S 10th #4
Lincoln, NE 68508

Mary M. Meyer

From: Berwyn Jones <berwynjones@windstream.net>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 10:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Budget

Please do cut vital services. Christiansen is wrong, wrong, wrong.

Berwyn Jones
6220 Andrew Ct
Lincoln, NE 68512
berwynjones@windstream.net

Mary M. Meyer

From: andy akena <andy.akena@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: please vote against councilman christensen's proposed 1¢ cut

dear council:

please vote against this proposed cut. the savings in property taxes is laughable for what we would lose in terms of our quality of life.

indeed, i wonder if councilman christensen has received gray money from the likes of the koch brothers and their ilk. this really smacks of their agenda.

thank you,

andy akena
2030 c st
lincoln ne 68502-1651

Mary M. Meyer

From: gnelsen@neb.rr.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:11 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Roy Christensen's tax cut proposal

Please do not cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent. It is not a good plan.

Gayla Nelsen
3050 Puritan Ave.
Lincoln, NE. 68502

Mary M. Meyer

From: kgraf@neb.rr.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed levy tax cuts

Dear City Council Representatives,

Please count me among the many voices who are alarmed by the recent mid-cycle permanent tax cut proposal recently offered. I, for one, would much rather continue to pay the pittance of an additional \$1.25 a month to maintain some of the city services that create a high quality of life in our city - parks, pools, libraries, street repair. For this tiny amount, these services seem to me to be quite a bargain. I also would like to point out that it seems disingenuous to complain about issues like education and obesity, then turn around and cut public funding for outdoor exercise and recreation like parks and pools, and accessibility to books, periodicals, computers and all of the other educational opportunities available at libraries offered at little to no cost. Limiting education and increased obesity rates will cost citizens in this community far more than \$1.25 a month. Further, for those folks screaming "why are we putting money into the arena/Haymarket/downtown when there are streets to fix," why would you make this cut? Why not maintain at least the levels of repair we manage now and find more creative ways, as Mayor Beutler has, to address this issue? Not every cut is a true savings to citizens, and the losses in this instance far exceed the token amount of "savings" this proposal promises.

Thank you,

Katie Dimon Graf

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: lloyd weathermon
Address: 4739 s 70th st
City: Lincoln, NE. 68516

Phone: 402-484-7391
Fax:
Email: w155947@windstream.net

Comment or Question:

I approve of moving unused funds to cover other needed expenses. I=like most other people would like to see taxes lowered but common sense says to keep up with the bare minimum expenditures takes money and there is precious little places to make budget cuts so taxes will need to be raised to keep the city afloat.

It sounds good to cut budget by 1.8 mil and reduce taxes by a small amount but it still does not balance the budget.

Lloyd weathermon

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Barb Smisek
Address: 6621 Rexford Drive
City: Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I strongly support Leirion Bairds position. I support a balanced budget, but even more so that we meet our obligation to the people who put their lives on the line every day, our police, fire men and women. A safe infra structure is important as well as creating safe and meaningful recreation experiences for our children. For many children, the out-of-doors is their only sanctuary. Any program that benefits the development and welfare of our children should take precedence. I feel the tax savings this measure would afford does not justify the deficits it would cause in the other four areas of our communities life.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Peggy Campbell <peggycampbell101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:25 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed tax reduction

Please vote against the proposed tax reduction . I am more than willing to pay about \$ 1.25 a month to keep our schools, parks and other services at our current levels. Indeed, I will pay higher taxes to keep our schools strong. Peggy Campbell

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: David Spinar
Address: 9611 Hollow Tree Dr
City: Lincoln, Nebraska, 68512

Phone: 4023045980
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

Please accept this message in connection with your 8/31 budget vote. I write to express my support for Councilwoman Gaylord Baird's budget. Now is not the time to risk the developmental momentum Lincoln is achieving. Of course you all must be prudent stewards of the city's finances and producing a balanced budget is one way to meet that objective. At the same time we expect elected leaders to invest in the safety and well being of our community. Councilwoman Gaylord Baird's budget offers the best balance of these priorities. I support her plan and ask you all to do the same.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Jeanne Johnson
Address: 4900 South Haven Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Please preserve the city budget to care for our infrastructure. It makes no sense to let things fall into further disrepair.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Martha Gadberry <mgadberry@windstream.net>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Carl Eskridge; Cyndi Lamm; Jane Raybould; Jon Camp; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Roy A. Christensen; Trenton J. Fellers
Subject: Pending Budget

Dear Council Members,

I am terribly distressed that at this late date there are amendments to the second year of the biennial City Budget that have not had the opportunity to be fully discussed by the public.

In particular, I am concerned about the tax reduction that will affect many agencies who have saved back money to accomplish predetermined projects. Agencies who are encouraged to be prudent, rather than spend all their money so they will get more the next time around is good management practice. Let's don't punish them for planning for the future.

\$15 is not going to make much difference in the lives of those who live in a \$150,000 house. Spread across the populace that amount of money in the city budget, dedicated to projects that have already been planned, will make a huge amount of difference in the quality of life in the city to those who live on less than \$15,000 per year incomes.

Please do not amend the budget to cut the tax levy.

With respect to Council Member Gaylor Baird's proposals, adding to the pensions to make up for the loss in the stock market makes sense to me. There has not been enough information for me to judge the merits of the other proposals.

With gratitude for your willingness to serve us on the council,

Sincerely,
Martha Gadberry
mgadberry@windstream.net
402 489-2667
1530 Janssen Dr.
Lincoln, Ne 68506 (Jon Camp's district)

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Amanda Johnson
Address: 839 goodhue blvd
City: Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone:
Fax:
Email: Amandajohn1990@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

Dear city council members,

Please do not support Councilman Christiansen's budget proposal. A \$1.8 million deficit is not worth \$15 per year to homeowners when it comes at a cost to public safety. There are too many Lincoln roads and bridges that deserve attention, and city pensioners don't deserve the added risk to their pensions.

Our city budget should be balanced.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Rita Stranik <ritayana@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:30 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tax levy

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to state that my husband and I are happy to pay our city taxes to support our public services such as pools, libraries, and our streets. We don't want a tax cut.

It should also be noted that these kind of cuts hurt poor families disproportionately. We belong to a private club where our kids swim and while we use the library, we can also afford to purchase books. What about the kids who don't have these opportunities?

We all need safe sidewalks and streets. Let's keep Lincoln beautiful and functional!

Thank you for your service,

Sincerely,
Rita Stranik
2908 S 25th St
Lincoln NE 68502

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Deb Van Horn Weber
Address: 6100 Vine Street H47
City: Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone: 402-440-9357
Fax:
Email: deb.weber1979@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

I am absolutely against the proposed levy reduction. Our citizens deserve the services we need to remain safe and to prosper. And those services require funds. Please do not put us into a deficit budget or take away the services. Thank you.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:36 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Ross Smith
Address: 3830 Cape Charles Court
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 402-420-2422
Fax:
Email: crs1114@inbraska.com

Comment or Question:

Excuse me! Save \$15/year--\$1.25/month--less than 5 cents/day!!! You know and I know that most people will not even lean over to pick up a dime, let alone a nickel! There is a way to bring about additional funding for Lincoln's needs without costing the law-abiding taxpayer any additional taxes, and would, in deed, generate substantial income for all kinds of city funding needs. Trouble is most of you, I'm sorry to say, would not want to pay much heavier fines and court costs if our ordinances were brought up to date, and our fines and court costs would reflect what they should be based upon the cost of living over the past 30 to 40 years. How many of you fully stop at stop signs or red lights? Would you if the fines for first, second, and third offense were \$100, \$300, and \$500? Figure out Lincoln's income if you stop to observe how many individuals don't stop--or even hesitate--at these traffic control devices, AT ANY INTERSECTION THROUGHOUT THE CITY! Isn't it a great example we set for our youngsters and youth when parents figure that those ordinances are MADE FOR OTHERS, NOT FOR THEM! The cost to do this updating of ordinances and hiring additional police--which would be needed--would be recovered in a few months! (Do the math!) AND NO LAW-ABIDING TAXPAYER WOULD BE AFFECTED, but would actually be safer driving in your city and mine. I'd like to know a good reason why this could not be done--aside from the fact that it would very likely be MOST OF YOU ON THE COUNCIL who would feel the impact of these changes in YOUR BILLFOLD OR PURSE. YOU KNOW HOW YOU DRIVE, AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR OTHERS. IF THE SHOE FITS....

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Carl & Dede Mau
Address: 1035 South 32nd Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-450-6825
Fax:
Email: carlwmau@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

Our thoughts on the budget proposal is to NOT drop the levy by 1 cent or make the \$1.8M cut. In our opinion the very slight tax savings is in no way worth the possible consequences if the 1 time cut & lowering the levy passes. City street & park projects are well worth the cost along with shoring up the retirement / financial plans for the folks that keep our city safe.

Thank you for your time.

Carl & Dede Mau

Mary M. Meyer

From: Mary Monahan <maryemon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: do not cut the tax levy mid-budget by one cent

Dear City Council,

I am writing to say that I am against the levy-mid budget tax cut. I am happy to pay the extra \$1.25 per month. I'm a stay-at-home mom to three kids and I love our parks, pools, playgrounds, and sidewalks. Those city amenities are one of the things that make Lincoln so great!

Sincerely,
Mary Monahan

Mary M. Meyer

From: Cathy Rustermier <cathyrustermier@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 2:17 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: We do not need to cut taxes

Dear City Council Members,

Please do not cut taxes. Keeping the city of Lincoln parks, pools, library's, side walks, etc. supported is very important and worth much more than \$1.25 per month to me. The people that pay these taxes can afford to keep paying these taxes for what makes Lincoln such a great place to live. Please do not let this tax cut go through.

Thank you

Cathy Rustermier

Sent from my iPhone

Mary M. Meyer

From: jdurst1@neb.rr.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: August 28, 2015 Council Meeting

Don't cut taxes for our parks and city pools.

The \$1.25 savings per tax payer is not worth the loss of these services!

Jackie Durst
5942 Billings Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

Mary M. Meyer

From: John Gilliam <wahoojohnny@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Don't cut the tax levy

City Council,

I've called Lincoln home since 1989. I love it here. Some of the reasons I love Lincoln are the wonderful parks, pools, libraries and other public amenities that have been maintained by our property taxes. I fully support keeping the tax levy at is it is today. Please don't make Lincoln less by removing funding for important things that we need in our city. Please do not cut the levy by one cent.

Thank You,
John Gilliam
3115 Sheridan Blvd.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Rebecca Dean <beckmcdean@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax levy cut proposal

Dear Members of the Lincoln City Council:

It is my understanding that one of you, Roy Christensen, has proposed a 1-cent cut in the tax levy. Please do not adopt such a cut. I love this city and its parks and libraries, and I am appreciative of the improvements that have been made to its streets. I have heard that this proposed cut would be permanent and would therefore create a shortfall in revenues that could affect the quality of life that we people of Lincoln currently enjoy. Please do not advance this idea of a 1-cent cut in the tax levy. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion about Council Member Christensen's proposal.

Sincerely,
Rebecca McCoy Dean
449 S. 30th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-770-9221
beckmcdean@gmail.com

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Shawn Ryba
Address: 4411 N. Park Boulevard
City: Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone: 402-416-8686
Fax:
Email: shawn.ryba@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
Dear Council Members,

I am deeply concerned by the proposed one-time tax cuts to lower the city's levy. This will not balance the budget, but will create a structural deficit. These one-time proposed cuts will not balance the budget, but cause a substantial deficit for the biennial budget 2016-18.

Keep my \$15.00 and keep the City's levy where it is at! Please do your job to find new ways to generate revenue to help move our city forward. Cutting basic city service (pools, libraries, parks, trails, infrastructure maintenance, neighborhood investment) is not a sign of progress and vitality. No one has ever been heard saying, disinvestment makes a city healthy, strong and vital. Never!

Please stop playing party politics. Property taxes are an investment in the future of our city and the citizens that live here. Keep my \$15.00, maintain my city services and please provide me an explanation (via phone or e-mail) of how these tax cuts will benefit my city as a whole. I am looking forward to a response. Also, please provide leadership that will creatively find new revenue to not only maintain city services, but to provide more/better services.

Please leave the city budget alone and use the next year to engage your constituents in the budget process. Learn more about how the proposed cuts will impact all citizens of Lincoln. That is your duty as a city council member. We can do better!

Best,
Shawn Ryba

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Rod Wagner
Address: 3205 West Pershing Road
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I favor property tax relief but Nebraska's property tax burden is largely due to school district assessments. The City of Lincoln's property tax assessment is only one of many property tax assessments and the city's is far less a factor in the overall scheme. If Mr. Christensen wants to propose a tax reduction that is beyond a token amount, let's hear what he has in mind. At the same time, I'd like to know, as I'm sure others would, what city expenditures will be reduced to offset tax reductions.

By the way, the street in front of my house and in my neighborhood is way overdue for resurfacing. The cracks are getting wider and wider as the years go by. Please don't cut the city's street maintenance budget!

Best wishes to you all as you work through budget issues and keep our great city moving forward.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 4:10 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Joan Stahly Rouse
Address: 315 So. 29th Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I would like to express grave concern about having the city budget be supposedly balanced by creating a deficit of 1.8 million. It seems to me this would mean starting the 2016-18 budget years with a huge deficit. It seems expedient to utilize some savings from the 14-15 budget for one time expenses that take care of some of the city's problems such as streets that need repair, park maintenance, and public safety. I do not have an issue with paying my fair share of taxes as long as the city provides valuable and quantity needed services such as safety, good roads, contributing to pension plans for those who have served our city for public safety. I do not agree with Keno funds being used for Woods Tennis Center Project as I feel that project will be able to generate it's own resources. The tennis center is a good idea, yet it will not serve all the citizens of the city (low-income will be left out). I encourage the council to look at all facets of the budget and not make huge cuts now that may leave us scrambling to find funds for the next budget year. It would seem the time to balance a budget is at the start of the budget planning session. Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Sandi Fabry <sandi.fabry@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: The Budget

I'm disappointed with the budget controversy. Please keep things as they are.

--

Sandi Fabry
(402) 202-8890
sandi.fabry@gmail.com

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

Maya Angelou

Mary M. Meyer

From: Richard Bagby <rpsgt@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2015 7:02 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Property Tax Revenue

Hello Council members,

I support keeping for city use the property tax revenue increase that results from county-wide property reassessments. Lincoln has many funding shortfalls, both in wants AND in needs, that are in want of funding. Many of these are priority projects. To reject this funding source in time of unmet priorities is, quite frankly, foolish.

Setting aside needs and wants for a moment, I offer this was well - Lincoln's property tax rate is among the lowest of any cities of size in Nebraska. If you think property taxes in general are too high, Lincoln is not the cause.

Please recall that this year's increases in property assessments in Lincoln are in large part resulting from the residential real estate market catching back up to value lost during the great recession. A good part of it is not new valuation, bit simply restoring that which was lost.

I further urge you to support the current proposal to adjust the city budget, re-allocating some monies and spending some of this property tax revenue. The needs and wants in the current proposal are modest and will serve the community well. Please do not let this opportunity to support and better the community slip by.

If you cannot support the current proposal to use some of this money to fund budget changes, I urge you to find budget priorities that you can support. There are many from which to chose.

Please keep the property tax reassessment revenue.

Richard Bagby
389 S 47th
Lincoln, NE 68510

402-488-8567

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."
-- Abraham Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

From: Julia Larson <jlarson9342@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Budget

I'm not interested in a tax cut that saves me \$1.25 a month at the expense of road repairs and other city services.

Sent from my iPhone

Mary M. Meyer

From: Nissa <njsturgeon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2015 12:36 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Christensen cuts are bad idea!

Our family does not support Roy Christensen's proposed budget cuts. We utilize and support our community infrastructure such as libraries, parks, swimming pools, smooth streets and sidewalks! We are happy to pay the taxes to support these services and resources.

Nissa Sturgeon
3195 Vandorn

Mary M. Meyer

From: Bob Reeves <bobreeves63@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 8:25 AM
To: Council Packet; Trenton J. Fellers; Leirion Gaylor Baird; rchistensen@lincoln.ne.gov; Carl B. Eskridge; Jon Camp; Cyndi Lamm; Jane Raybould; mmmeyers@lincoln.ne.gov
Subject: oppose cutting city budget this year

I oppose cutting the city budget merely to allow a 1-cent reduction in the property tax rate. This cut could jeopardize future funding for parks, libraries and other valuable city services. As the Journal Star editorial pointed out this morning, if one-time savings have been found this year, it would make better sense to put them in the police and fire pension fund, rather than a tax cut that would amount to only \$15 a year on a \$150,000 house.

We elected City Council members to maintain and improve city services. None of us want to spend money unnecessarily, but the current city budget was well thought out and vetted when approved last year. Why change it?

Bob Reeves
3236 Dudley St.
Lincoln, NE 68503
402-464-1803
bobreeves63@gmail.com

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Dave & Sue Van Horn
Address: 2840 Winthrop Road
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 402-488-8407
Fax:
Email: d-svanhorn@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:

We urge you to vote against the proposed budget change and levy reduction. Those of us who live in the older parts of the city have been thrilled with the street and public area improvements that we have experienced in just this past year. We have waited a long time for our city to be able to once again afford street maintenance and improvement and we know that there are ever growing needs that must be addressed to maintain the quality of our city--not just street maintenance but also public safety and parks. Please do not endanger our progress with a levy reduction that is only about politics and bragging rights.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Patd Eiche
Address: 1501 West Manor Drive
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 402-890-1536
Fax:
Email: pat-eiche-05@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:

Please support the "Property Tax Cut." It gets harder each year to live on a fixed income even when you have prepared financially for retirement. Money needs to be spent more wisely.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: angela paolini
Address: 1732 sw 16
City: Lincoln, NE 68522

Phone: 4028021567
Fax:
Email: angela@smpbm.com

Comment or Question:

Please do not raise property taxes. Please cut city spending and save money. I support making investments in the city but I personally feel that it's time for the city council to be prudent with tax dollars instead of raising taxes.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 10:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: angela paolini
Address: 1732 sw 16
City: Lincoln, NE 68522

Phone: 4028021567
Fax:
Email: angela@smpbm.com

Comment or Question:
Please adopt roy christiansen's budget.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Erin Froistad <efrois442@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax cut

I am opposed to the potential tax cut, which will be discussed during Monday's meeting. I would much rather prefer to have well maintained city resources, like decent streets, pools, libraries, etc.

Thank you,
Erin Froistad

Mary M. Meyer

From: Lindsey Wylie Larson <lwylie01@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: do not cut tax!

Hi,

Councilman Christensen, please do not cut the levy taxes by 1 cent. I would rather pay the small amount than lose all the public resources that make Lincoln a great place to live.

Lindsey Wylie Larson

Mary M. Meyer

From: Lynne Herr <lynneherr1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: please do NOT cut tax levy

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Lincoln I ask that you vote against decreasing the tax levy as Councilman Christensen is proposing. I value high quality city services, parks, streets, libraries, etc., and I want them adequately funded.

Lynne Herr
2210 N 91st ST
LINCOLN, NE 68505

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Amanda Schadwinkel
Address: 2771 S 39th
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:
Greetings,

I'm writing to send the message that I am disappointed in the last minute budget cuts suggested by councilman Roy Christensen. I'm interested in supporting a budget that not only works for this year, but has carefully thought through future years budgets and supports them with a healthy foundation from the previous year(s). I don't believe that the savings the tax payers would receive in this proposed budget would be worth what we would be losing. I'm interested in addressing long term priorities from our budget, not short term relief that hasn't been as collaborative as expected.

Thank you for the work you all do. Please vote for the most responsible budget based on the needs of the community. This shouldn't always be on obvious party lines or counting to four and assuming it's a sure thing since one party has a majority. The people of Lincoln count on you to vote for the most appropriate plan regardless of who created it.

Respectfully, Amanda

Mary M. Meyer

From: madcap.comedy.hour@gmail.com on behalf of Jesse Metcalf
<jesse.metcalf@windstream.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tex Levy Cut

I was informed that City Councilman Roy Christensen has proposed a mid-year tax levy cut. While as a resident I appreciate any attempts to save money, I believe broad cuts and returning unspent money is not in the best interest of Lincoln. If there are future budget shortfalls, these would be exasperated by these cuts. I believe a better solution for Lincoln would be to allow for budget surpluses and savings to be placed in a rainy-day fund to help alleviate potential budget shortfalls and future necessary budgetary increases. Then, if that rainy-day surplus hits an agreed-upon percentage of the overall budget, we can vote to return that surplus to tax payers. This would potentially prevent future increases in taxes as well as returning some of the overages in the future to the residents of this town.

Please do not use the good fortunes of today to potentially shortchange the tax payers of tomorrow. The city of Lincoln could set a good example of financial stewardship through savings to both the citizens of Lincoln and the rest of the country.

Respectfully,

Jesse C. Metcalf

Mary M. Meyer

From: Diane Steinke <dianesteinke@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tax cuts and budget vote

Dear Council Members,

Twenty years ago, I moved to Lincoln from Iowa to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After I received my degree, I moved to California in search of a better job and a more exciting life. While I found the job, I never found a place that felt like home. My husband and I moved back to Lincoln in 2006 to start our family and, so far, have not regretted that choice. However, it sounds like our city council does not share our family's values and we may have to rethink whether this will be our forever home.

The schools, parks, trails, libraries, and public pools are some of the best things about this community. I am weary of hearing about how terrible traffic is and how we need to widen our roads and make it easier to get our gas-guzzling vehicles across town in a hurry. Where we lived in Sacramento, we had a six-lane road past our house and commuted on an eight-lane freeway that frequently turned into a parking lot at rush hour. We were unable to bike to the grocery store a mile away because there were no safe roads on which to do so. Fortunately, we have been able to avoid this in Lincoln. My husband and I use the trail system almost daily to exercise and to commute to our offices downtown. One thing the city can do to improve traffic flow is encourage the use of our fantastic trails. We can do this is by continuing to spend money on our parks and maintaining and even improving the trail system, including the protected bikeways downtown.

We are fortunate to live in a district where almost all of the schools are thriving. We have fantastic schools (Rousseau, Irving, Southeast), a library (South Branch), and a public pool (Irvingdale) within walking distance, as well as several parks and our beloved Rock Island trail. Proximity to these services is precisely what led us to choose our current home. A small reduction in property taxes would not benefit us in any real way, but we would definitely feel the pain of losing any of the amenities that we use and enjoy daily. Our district should maintain a reserve of funds to ensure smooth operation and continuous service through times of potential economic or other crises. We should look at systems like California's and learn from their mistakes.

My husband works for a small business with employees in Washington, D. C., Atlanta, and Lincoln. The quality of life in Lincoln is a unique feature that has enabled him to bring employees and clients to Lincoln on a regular basis. Many of these people remark that the schools, parks, and other amenities that we enjoy are not available in their neighborhoods at any price. Please don't become penny wise and pound foolish by enacting a 1 cent tax reduction and leaving our fair city open to future cuts to budgets and services.

Thank you,

Diane Steinke
3500 S. 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.802.7650

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 6:00 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Robert Panzer
Address: 7415 Birch Creek Place
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 402-430-0987
Fax:
Email: rapanzer@aol.com

Comment or Question:
Roy:

I appreciate you in your efforts to get the taxpayers some relief. I hope you succeed.

Take Care

Bob Panzer

Mary M. Meyer

From: Gerise Herndon <geriseherndon@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Against Christensen's proposal

Dear Lincoln City Council and Rep. Lamm,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Roy Christensen's proposal to cut the tax levy mid budget by one cent, creating a permanent \$1.8 million hole.

I would much rather pay \$1.25 per month than see pothole repairs, sidewalk repairs, parks, and libraries suffer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gerise Herndon
5403 Walker
Lincoln NE 68504

Mary M. Meyer

From: Marcia Young <marcie.primerica@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 7:53 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: proposed tax cut

Councilmembers:

Please DO NOT cut taxes for such a small amount that would have a large impact on our quality of life. It's worth it to keep the services.

Thank you for your attention,
Marcie Young

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 8:35 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Maurice Baker
Address: 3259 Starr Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68503

Phone: 402-46-1864
Fax: 402-464-1864
Email: mbaker35@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:

I oppose the proposed property tax decrease for the following reasons:

1. Our failure to keep up with street, sidewalk and parks maintenance is a result of failure to raise sufficient revenues that are associated with the lack of political courage of public officials.
2. People want lower taxes but cannot identify what should be eliminated if this takes place.
3. What may be politically prudent in the short-run often contributes to major problems in the long-run.
4. Postponing expenditures into the next fiscal year is prudent rather than following the practice of spend it or lose it. Using the prudent management of resources as a source of tax reduction only encourages long-term mismanagement.

Because Lincoln has failed to maintain parks, it has been suggested that future parks should be financed by those property owners in the neighborhood where the park is located. This makes as much sense as saying that because we have not kept up the streets, streets in new neighborhoods should be funded by property owners of the neighborhood.

Cutting property taxes while politically popular, makes as much sense as having the parks and streets paid for by the neighborhood property owners.

VOTE NO ON THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:12 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Keith Dubas
Address: 1712 E Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 4024380171
Fax:
Email: kwDubas@windstreaqm.net

Comment or Question:

I wish to express my opposition to the budget cut that Roy Christensen has proposed. The importance to the quality of life in Lincoln that such cuts would affect impact the day to day living in our city. The cuts that Christensen proposes have long-term consequences that I do not want to be exposed to. Saving \$15 on my \$150K property is not worth the sacrifice for a one-time saving. Please reject this ill-conceived notion to affect property taxes.

I do wish to express support for Councilwoman's Gaylor Baird's proposal to the budget which makes several transfers of one-time savings from 2014-2015 Budget and puts them to use for one-time expenses that address priority needs of the City: potholes, pensions, and parks: all that impact the quality of my life more than a savings of \$15.00 of property taxes. Thank you.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Dennis Keim <webfarmer2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: The Proposed Tax Cut

Dear Council Members:

This is just to let you all know that I'm against the tax levy cut that Councilman Roy Christensen has proposed that would supposedly save us a whole \$1.25 on average per taxpayer.

If you want to change the budgets, do it the normal way.

Thank you.

Dennis Keim
P.O. Box 6494
Lincoln, NE 68506

Mary M. Meyer

From: V Miller & ML Meier <louvicm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:54 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed cut to tax levy

Dear City Council Members,

Lincoln has been named on of the top cities in the country for living well and raising a family in a healthy community. Our parks, biking/walking paths, neighborhood pools and established infrastructure all contribute to the quality of life and assist in enticing businesses to establish in Lincoln. I'm not sure who would benefit from this proposed cut to the tax levy, but it wouldn't be Lincoln's citizens. These healthy living markers would all be jeopardized by such a cut. Please vote no to this proposal to continue your part in enriching our community, being good stewards of the trust your constituents have placed in you and making Lincoln a wonderful and healthy place to live.

Thank you,

Mary Lou Meier
4503 So. 67th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 6:14 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Brian Wehling
Address: 3435 S 46th St
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone:
Fax:
Email: bmwehling@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
Thank you for your service.

I wanted to let you know that our family is in favor of Councilman Roy Christensen's proposed budget that will lower property taxes and still provide money for government services.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Jerry Sukup
Address: 941 Sycamore
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-890-7500
Fax:
Email: jsukup44@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:
Please consider lowering property tax in Lincoln.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Audrey Hare <audreyjhare@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 7:12 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed tax cut

It has come to my attention that there is a vote to cut citizen services today through a nominal tax cut. While I know that only cuts to the tax income are on the table library, parks and rec, city maintenance and the like will be effected. Voting to cut library funding in this time where family income purchasing power is in rapid descent takes the cake. We get all of our books from the library.

Nebraska (especially Lincoln) has many great things to offer families, which is why we usually rate high in livability. However, Nebraska offers low wages. Keep the things that make the city desirable there for us and for future generations.

--

Audrey

Mary M. Meyer

From: vanpeltrod@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 9:01 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax levy

Dear Roy Christensen,

Just a quick note to implore you NOT to attempt to reduce taxes by cutting the mid-term budget for city pools, libraries, and sidewalks. Using the information I have received about this budget cut from a trusted friend, it is apparent to me that citizens would see no real tax savings, but would see a beautiful and unique neighborhood begin to crumble.

Taxes can be helpful in many ways. I am willing to pay my fair share in order to maintain a high quality of life in my neighborhood and in neighborhoods around the city. Money well spent!

Sincerely,

Krista Van Pelt-Rodriguez
3001 South 26th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Mary M. Meyer

From: Bob Peters <bob4psu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 8:45 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Roy A. Christensen; Jane Raybould; Trenton J. Fellers; Carl B. Eskridge
Cc: Leirion Gaylor Baird
Subject: Council Person's Budget Amendment

Dear City Council Members:

I support Leirion Gaylor-Baird's proposed amendment to the City's budget. It makes sense. We need to upgrade our street repairs. We need to keep our Police and Fire Pension Fund solvent. I also support using Keno funds for the exclusive use of the Parks Department.

The perpetual cry to "reduce taxes" had gotten old. This cry is nothing but pandering to voters and it needs to cease. I am not impressed with the lowering of my City taxes by some \$15-20 a year - that is less than \$2 a month. Get real.

Please approve Leirion's proposal as it makes more sense than any of the other proposals.

Sincerely yours,
Robert W. Peters
1745 S. 25th St.
Lincoln, NE 68502
402-474-0061

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Dan Rosenthal
Address: 7211 Woody Creek Lane
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Councilman Camp, I encourage you to support the budget amendment to decrease the overall city budget as proposed by City Councilman Roy Christensen.

Thank you for what you do for the city of Lincoln.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 5:55 PM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Robert Panzer
Address: 7415 Birch Creek Place
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 402-430-0987
Fax:
Email: rapanzer@aol.com

Comment or Question:
Please support the property tax cut.

Sincerely

Robert Panzer

Mary M. Meyer

From: J Michael Hemmer <jmichael.hemmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 7:24 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; lgaylordbaird@lincoln.ne.gov; Roy A. Christensen; tfeliers@lincoln.ne.gov
Subject: Comments on Proposed Tax Reduction from J. Michael Hemmer, 3014 Puritan Ave., Lincoln

Dear Council Members:

I was very disappointed to learn that the Council is considering a tax cut that would permanently reduce the city's budget without determining or disclosing to voters how the cuts would curtail city services. In my opinion, this would not constitute responsible leadership. No one has made the case that Lincoln's city government is wasteful, or identified services that the city should not provide.

If you want to know how governing by cutting budgets first and worrying about the consequences later works, go spend some time in Kansas. Talk to teachers and parents who are watching the state's school systems collapse, especially the teachers who are being forced out of the state for better jobs elsewhere, creating a teacher shortage. Somehow Kansas has managed to become by some measures the least prosperous of the 50 states.

I don't want that type of irresponsible government to spread to this lovely city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 8:59 PM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: S Wayne Smith
Address: 6345 S 35th Ct
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 4023272085
Fax:
Email: swaynes1@windstream.net

Comment or Question:
Please support Roy Christensen's suggestions to reduce property taxes.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:22 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Richard Zierke
Address: 4021 Frederick Circle
City: Lincoln, ne

Phone: 402-570-6190
Fax:
Email: rzierke@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:
Mr. Camp,
Can you cut taxes \$1?
Richard

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Linda Stephen
Address: 7330 S. Wedgewood Drive
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-483-0747
Fax:
Email: lstephen1@windstream.net

Comment or Question:
Dear Jon,

Thank you so much for attending so many of the meetings regarding the VA Development changes for Victory Park and for supporting the neighbors in our concerns. I really appreciated your early and ongoing support, and we were so thankful that the developers incorporated so many of our proposed changes.

I am writing regarding today's hearing on the city budget. I would ask you to NOT vote for Councilman Christensen's proposal to cut \$1.8 million from the city budget and reduce the levy by 1 percent. I fear that these cuts would reduce the quality of life in Lincoln.

I have lived overseas and in six states. I moved my business and my family to Lincoln from New York 10 years ago planning only to stay for 3 years until my husband finished a doctoral program. Because of the quality of life for my children - especially parks, sidewalks, bike trails, libraries and safe neighborhoods, we plan to stay for at least another 10 years.

Savings of \$15 a year is of no value compared to losing services that we use every week.

I urge you to use any extra moneys in the budget to help with park and playground repairs. Public park playgrounds provide safe and "free" (at the time) entertainment that helps kids and families be active and strong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Stephen

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Catherine W. Patterson
Address: 1015 S. 48 Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Raise property taxes, don't cut. I want a better library, better parks, better police, solid pension plans, a great city.

I am deeply opposed to Roy Christensen's proposal to cut property taxes by one cent. That would save my household \$15 whole dollars. What a bunch of shit. This undercuts every department's ability to make mid-cycle corrections. We are in the middle of a two year budget cycle. We formerly had a 1 year budget cycle. If the Council wanted to make changes once a year then the Council should have stuck to one year budgets.

I value my city services. I want a better library system. I want better parks. I don't care much for the condition of our streets. We need an adequate police force.

I would greatly prefer to Raise property taxes by one cent. I want you to propose that. Inwant you to oppose Roy Christensen.

Do not change the city budget.

Catherine W. Patterson

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: William A Beecham
Address: 3024 Stratford Ave
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone:
Fax:
Email: andy_beecham@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:
Dear Councilmember,

I am writing in support of retainin the City's property tax levy as is and do not lower the levy as proposed by Councilmen Christensen.

Mr. Christensen's amendment will reduce the City's levy without making on-going cuts to the budget. That doesn't balance the budget, it creates a structural deficit. If the Council passes his proposal, we will start the 2016-18 biennial budget with at least a \$1.8 million hole to fill. That's not okay.

A balanced budget is a need, not a want.
Fixing potholes in our roads is a need - not a want.
Meeting our Police and Fire pension obligations is a need - not a want.
Keeping playground equipment safe for our children is a need - not a want.

Together, the Mayor and Council have been reducing budgets and working to eliminate structural deficits over the last several years. I feel the city is in pretty good shape and Mr. Christensen's proposed change is neither warranted nor necessary.

Andy Beecham
Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 9:04 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Pat O'Meara
Address: 2810 Kucera Drive
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 4024233634
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Vote "NO" on Councilman Roy Christiansen's budget amendment to cut our tax levy by 1¢.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 9:39 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Rachel Terry
Address: 3830 Sheridan Blvd
City: Lincoln, NE, 68506

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

Thank you for the time and energy you expend in watching over our city. I applaud your efforts to make Lincoln a healthy and prosperous city, and I think Councilman Christensen's suggestions for changes to the mayor's budget proposal will help keep us on track. The weight of property taxes in Lincoln hampers citizens' abilities to save for the future, start businesses, and sometimes just make it from paycheck to paycheck. If the individual households are not financially secure, the city as a whole can never be secure, no matter how much money is in the city's reserve account. Thanks for your time, and please continue to work toward reducing our property tax burden.

Sincerely,

Rachel Terry

Mary M. Meyer

From: Cathy Beecham <cathy_beecham@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: Tax Levy

Hi Jon,

I am writing to ask the council not to hurt hard-working citizens by cutting the tax levy. The first items that get removed by such cuts are services on which families and retirees rely.

The \$1.25 month the average Lincolnite would receive does cover the cost of having to build a pool for the hundreds of children who participate in summer swim teams; it will not buy the many books and programs we can access at our local library; it can't repair our sidewalks or the potholes in our local streets.

Kids who don't live in homes with large yards with play structures rely on local parks and play equipment. \$1.25 is not enough to allow a family to purchase a private play structure (even if they have a yard - which many families do not).

The money from the levy provides important services to Lincoln's citizens that many people could not afford on their own. Please do NOT harm our services by cutting the levy.

Thanks for your time and your service to our community.

-Cathy B.

Cathy Beecham
3024 Stratford Ave
Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:04 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Pat Kahm
Address: 6711 Park Crest CT
City: Lincoln, NE, 68506

Phone: 4024836711
Fax:
Email: pkahm@aol.com

Comment or Question:

I would encourage you to support lowering property taxes in Lincoln. Many home owners grow to fear the assessments on their homes. In particular my home has been raised in value almost every time over the last 4 assessments and as I shift to my retirement age, I wonder; this will be one of my largest expenditures. Is there never a time to be more prudent on behalf of the tax payer?

I believe there are ways for government to be more cost effective without jeopardizing the contributions that city government makes to the community. It is this Can Do spirit that will keep us a strong, viable city.

It is your role to encourage this and to mandate it as needed. Please demonstrate the courage to say yes to property tax reduction and utilize a positive approach to offer the government the motivation to do better. Every step in the right direction is important and every time you abdicate your role to keep peace you erode the trust the citizens place on you to be stewards. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Barbara Haith
Address: 2010 So. 80th
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 402-489-0093
Fax:
Email: barbhaith@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

I am so happy to see Christensen's continued efforts to return monies to taxpayers rather than hoarding it for another year. Is it our fault that the city continues again with the fiasco it had several years back regarding the "buy the fire trucks all at once" due to very poor budgeting and planning? And frankly, I am tired of the scare tactics of if we take this money away next year we might have to close pools and libraries. BUNK! Why are there so few politicians that can't see what's right for the taxpayers. It certainly isn't bike paths. (Do riders pay taxes?) How hard are most of you really looking for efficiencies? I fail to see it.

I completely SUPPORT THE PROPERTY TAX CUT.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Dick Esseks
Address: 7911 Colby St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone: 402-420-7678
Fax:
Email: jesseks@msn.com

Comment or Question:

I am very concerned about the proposed tax cut. Our city has earned a positive reputation as a desirable location for both new and expanded businesses and for the professionals, skilled workers, and others individuals needed to staff those businesses.

The experiences of many other cities around the country show that significant city budgetary deficits and the conflicts they create discourage new investors. They prefer to locate elsewhere. Moreover, good streets, parks, and other services persuade needed new employees to move to Lincoln.

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Laurel Van Ham
Address: 4150 South Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone: 402-484-8467
Fax:
Email: lvaham@windstream.net

Comment or Question:

Hmm--I save \$15 on my taxes, but my city faces a budget deficit of nearly 2 million dollars next year? Or my taxes don't change, but we get some of our potholes fixed, plus a couple other good things? I hope the choice is as obvious to the city council as it is to me.

Mary M. Meyer

From: pattenewman@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: This Year's INTERIM Budget

To the Lincoln City Council members:

Lincoln as a community has a lot of things that need to be funded. SE and NE Lincoln need fire stations, and LFR has an aging fleet and some less than stellar emergency response times in areas that TWO of you represent. Staffing WILL be an issue in order to cover Lincoln's growth with both fire and police. Long term planning and budgeting is a priority.

We recently heard criticism of the Council from the public for not setting aside funds for an outdated public safety communication system resulting in having to pass a bond issue.

Annually, Councilman Camp complains about the pensions being woefully underfunded and does nothing. And you would kick that can down the road for someone else to deal with because you can "COUNT TO FOUR"?

Whatever political hay you think you can make by proposing cuts equivalent to \$15/year per household will have ramifications next year and the year after. The huge cut in property tax rates that Mayor Johanns implemented was the start of a long standing, deferred maintenance hole this City has fallen into. Had the levy remained even a couple cents higher from the '90s on – keeping up with many necessities of a growing city (road maintenance, updated fleets for police and fire, etc.) would not have been so difficult.

I don't believe my writing this will make a lick of difference in changing any of your opinions, but am weighing in nonetheless. The two year budget was set up as a TWO year budget and no changes should even be on the table until next year. It is stupid to play political games with the health and safety of this community just because you can count four fingers on one hand like most kindergarteners in Lincoln Public Schools.

Be adults. Play well with others. Look long term and not what you think makes a couple loud mouths in the community happy. Do what is right for the majority of the community.

Patte Newman

Mary M. Meyer

From: cinnamon dokken <cinnamondokken@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:22 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: No tax cuts

Council members,

Please reject the budget amendments that have been proposed by Roy Christensen. That plan would leave the city with \$1.8 million dollar deficit in 2016 - and he doesn't seem to have a plan to make up the difference. The minuscule refund to taxpayers isn't worth it - especially if money to make up the shortfall is taken from our libraries, parks, Community Learning Centers, etc.

I am proud to live in a city that values services like pools, parks, sidewalks & libraries. Those amenities raise the quality of life for all - at a pretty low cost to me as a taxpayer.

There are cities in the country with lower property taxes - but I'd rather live here, where my \$1.25/month, that Roy wants to return to me, can join with everyone else's to preserve and improve the things we value. Please don't make these cuts.

Sincerely,
Cinnamon Dokken

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: ELizabeth Logan
Address: 5631 NW Fairway Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I would ask that you support City Councilman Roy Christensen budget proposal to lower property taxes in our city, but it still provide for some of our most urgent needs.

Thank you!

Mary M. Meyer

From: emilya@huskers.unl.edu
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 12:43 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Why I actually don't mind paying my taxes: i.e., please don't cut the levy and slash services: everybody loses then.

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Here's why I actually don't mind paying my property taxes. These are the reasons I am against you choosing to cut the levy and slash neighborhood services:

1. Most importantly, I have a child who has some medical needs, so if I must call 911, I am hoping the response time will be excellent. I don't want to jeopardize anyone's response time by getting a negligible amount back through "property tax relief" that equates to less than \$20 a year for our family.
2. I love my home and am glad to have it, along with nice streets to drive on to get to it. That means I like it when potholes are fixed.
3. We USE services, like the library. My emerging reader had a lovely time with the Summer Reading Challenge. I need his enthusiasm for reading to be focused into reading on his own, and the librarians help me with that. His school actually has the Bookmobile come, and he is VERY EXCITED to check out books there.
4. We love the bike trails and the increased quality of life they have given us.
5. The added value I get as a citizen from these services far eclipses any satisfaction I would get from that amount of money at the end of the year.
6. I realize my fortune and privilege and appreciate being able to help provide services and pay for those who need a place to go that has air conditioning in the summer and internet access (i.e., a library).

I'm sure I could think of a number of other reasons, but I want to be succinct, as I'm hopeful you have a number of other emails to digest before your 5:30 p.m. meeting. I am a faithful voter and user of city services, so please take my thoughts into consideration as you make your decision tonight.

Thank you for your work and for reading my e-mail.

Sincerely,
Emily Stander
2615 SW 14th St.
emilya@huskers.unl.edu

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Carita Baker
Address: 908 So. 50th St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 4024765080
Fax:
Email: caritabaker@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:

I have read the highlights of Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's budget proposals and support them. I do not want the levy cut!

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jena Nicole Lambert <jenanicole@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tax levy

To whom it may concern;

I am a homeowner in the Country Club neighborhood and I would much rather pay the additional taxes and maintain services across the city. Please vote to keep the taxes as they are, as well as our beautiful city as it is.

Thank you,

Jena Nicole Lambert

Mary M. Meyer

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Jon Camp

Name: Jay Conrad
Address: 2745 Anderson Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

I do not support Councilman Christensen's proposed budget amendment. His one-time cuts to pay for a recurring reduction of Lincoln's property tax levy seem hasty and short sighted. His plan would force Lincoln into a \$1.8 million deficit for 2016 without a plan to make up the difference. This \$1.8 million deficit would save only pennies a day - at the likely expense of police/firefighter pension funds, parks and playgrounds and libraries.

Councilwoman Gaylor Baird's proposed budget package identifies sensible changes to Mayor Beutler's budget by making relatively small transfers of one-time savings from the current year and putting them to use for one-time expenses that address priorities for our community - potholes, pensions, and parks.

We need to invest in our community, not weaken it.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Barry Moore <moore54@inebraska.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 12:41 PM
To: oped@journalstar.com
Cc: Roy A. Christensen; Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Trenton J. Fellers; Jane Raybould; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Carl B. Eskridge
Subject: Tax Proposal

As a retired educator and property taxpayer, I am surprised that a proposal to change the City's levy in the middle of a biennial budget period has been offered. I thought a two-year budget really meant two years with modest adjustments. I served on the Aging Partners Advisory Council for many years and watched as programs and staff were eliminated due to deep budget cuts. Aging programs, libraries, parks and the health department seem the most vulnerable. I understand that this could mean a \$15 reduction of my property tax. If that is what is needed, this homeowner will write a check. Do not cut programs and people when city departments are finally recovering from years of required reductions.

Barry Moore
2515 North 74th Street
Lincoln, NE 68507
402-464-1035

Mary M. Meyer

From: Seth Lambert <seth_lambert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tax Levy Issue

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the tax levy issue that is currently up for debate this evening.

I am a homeowner in the heart of Lincoln. I would much rather the city keep the taxes the way they are, so we can keep our neighborhood services. I know the tax money will go toward the greater good more so than giving us taxpayers a "break."

Thank you,

Seth Lambert

Mary M. Meyer

From: Brenda West <westbre@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 12:08 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Leave the tax levy alone!

This is going to come back and bite us in the butt in a year or two. Prices/costs are not going down. The tiny savings is not worth it!

BTW, I paid for my own side walk repair when the process first started. We need to have enough funding to keep up with the repairs that still need to be done...20 years later.

Brenda West
1000 N 68th St
68505

Mary M. Meyer

From: A Alloway <aaalloway@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 1:09 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Taxes

To Whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that a tax cut has been proposed that will severely impact our parks department. I, for one, will happily pay a few extra dollars a month to live in a more beautiful city and neighborhood. This proposed cut is very, very short sighted. Please vote against it.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Alloway

Sent from my autocorrecting iPhone, that often turns my actual words into complete gibberish.

Mary M. Meyer

From: Jon Camp
Subject: Biennial Operating Budget and Lincoln City Libraries

Dear Council Members,

You have an important task before you today, and I thank you for your service. I know that despite differences in opinion, all of you come at this with the same goal: to be good stewards of our city's finances. I do not know what the outcome of your vote will be today, but I do know that you will not come to a decision without much deliberation. As a constituent and community volunteer I respectfully ask you to consider the impact of any severe cuts to our library system.

I served on the Lincoln City Libraries Board of Trustees for several years, and held both the office of Vice-President and President. During that time, I witnessed firsthand the consequences of the significant cuts to the library system in 2008. The quality of our library services suffered, and so did our library staff, especially those who lost their jobs in the process. The following year, I witnessed the public outrage when new budget cuts were proposed, and the Library Board saw no other solution than to propose to close down two branches. As a 9-year-old protester wrote in a letter to City officials: "*I do not think closing the libraries would be a good decision. The libraries are in a great location and are easy to get to. They provide computers for people who may not own one. ... Please consider the thought of keeping these libraries open.*".

As you know, the City found a way to lessen the cuts, and as a result, South and Bethany still stand. For that I am grateful, but I know from experience that we cannot take any of our branches for granted. There is a minimum budgeted amount necessary to provide the quality of library services that Lincolnites have come to expect. I believe we are at that minimum. We are past the point where cuts can realistically result in efficiencies. Cuts will likely lead to branch closings, layoffs, reduced service hours, lower quality service and cuts to materials and programming.

Today, your job is to consider all city services and weigh them against each other. I understand that there are essential services, like fire and police, that must be protected at the expense of others. However, I urge you to consider the compounded impact on the services that tend to get cut first, and library services fall into that category.

There is much debate about the future of libraries, and whether the Internet will make them obsolete. It may very well be that physical books will one day become a curiosity, but if you have visited a library lately, you know that libraries are more than books. The 9-year old protester at South Branch Library knew it, and so do all the citizens who rely on our library system.

Libraries are places where community organizations meet, entrepreneurs plot start-ups, children develop literacy, students do research, and new citizens conquer the English language. Libraries are society's great equalizers, providing all residents access to information with no financial restrictions. Libraries offer Internet access, computer classes, tax preparation, educational activities for children and teens, and so much more. Libraries represent the best of our democratic and civic ideals.

Please consider the tremendous benefits that libraries bring to our community, and allow Lincoln City Libraries to keep up the good work in years to come.

Sincerely,
Maja V. Harris

Mary M. Meyer

From: Lacey Losh <artist_lace@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed Tax Cut

It's been reported that City Councilman Roy Christensen submitted a proposal to cut the tax levy mid-budget, for an average Lincoln taxpayer savings of \$1.25 per month.

Please keep the \$1.25 in our taxes and help us keep our libraries, parks, pools, playgrounds, streets and sidewalks in good order.

Thank you for your time,

Lacey Losh

artist_lace@yahoo.com