CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTOR'S MEETING
555 S. 10TH STREET, ROOM 113

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting of January 24, 2011.
2. Organizational Meeting of January 24, 2011.
3. Pre-Council, Problem Resolution Team, of January 24, 2011.

II. REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCES

1. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Carroll
2. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - Carroll, Spatz
3. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) - Carroll
4. Public Building Commission - Carroll, Cook
5. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) - Emery
6. Lancaster Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency - Spatz
7. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) - Camp, Spatz
8. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) Hornung, Snyder, Spatz

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - TBA

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Gift Policy -** Emery

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) **Annual Meeting** **Bryan-LGH College of Health Sciences** **Room 204** **5035 Everett Street** **RSVP: None requested**	**Sunday** **February 13, 2011** **1:00 p.m.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Present: Gene Carroll, Vice Chair
Jayne Snyder
Doug Emery
Adam Hornung
Jonathan Cook

Absent: Jon Camp
John Spatz, Chair

Others: Joan Ross, City Clerk
Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff
Rod Confer, City Attorney
Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff

Vice Chair Carroll opened the meeting at 2:16 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Law.

I. MINUTES

1. Director's Meeting of January 24, 2011.
2. Organizational Meeting of January 24, 2011.
3. Pre-Council, Problem Resolution Team, of January 24, 2011.

II. REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCES

1. <u>Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC)</u> - Carroll
Carroll stated this meeting scheduled to be held this coming Thursday.

2. <u>Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)</u> - Carroll, Spatz
Carroll stated the MPO reviewed The People In Need application requesting funding to provide transportation, then approved in an amount of $6,000. Also approved the Justice Action Strategy which helps plan for transportation in the city and county. Some funds moved which will be used for the project on South 56th Street.

3. <u>Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA)</u> - Carroll
Carroll was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Carroll, Cook
The PBC discussed the Human Services office space, then the City Attorney's office space, approving $190,000.

5. <u>Problem Resolution Team (PRT)</u> - Emery
Emery expressed the PRT's appreciation for having them present last week, valuing the Council's interaction and understanding of why certain items brought to Council seem confusing, but which allows for more tools to help deal with problem properties. The PRT assures Council the tools passed

will only be used for problem properties. Emery added now in the slack time as when there's snow it is more difficult to find all the property problems. The PRT even being in a semi dormant time continues to deal with a couple long term properties. The City Attorney's office is trying to make significant inroads into cleaning up one property which has been on the list for the last four years.

6. <u>Lancaster Correctional Facility Joint Public Agency</u> - Spatz
Spatz absent.

7. <u>Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED)</u> - Camp, Spatz
Spatz and Camp absent.

8. <u>Internal Liquor Committee (ILC)</u> - Hornung, Snyder, Spatz
Snyder stated the ILC is working on server training, not the owner but the person actually serving and the liability they may require as they serve someone underage, or intoxicated. Are in the process of investigating a program. She added they have a bar self assessment program, with one bar participating, and a committee who will cooperatively work with them on the results.

Snyder commented one main topic was Lincoln's taxi service, or a way for individuals to get from downtown to their homes safely. We worked with the taxi companies, which has not been 100%, but will start having signage where the taxies will be parked. Also looking at other possible transportation services, besides taxies.

Snyder stated the ILC did receive data from Cornhusker Place, and again, most underage drinking is not occurring at bars but at homes. Unfortunately have had little change at Cornhusker Place, and tracking carefully.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS
None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR
Hoppe extended apologies on the VOIP, Voice Over Internet Protocol, cancelled pre-council. They wanted to make sure the financial figures were correct before presenting. We will reschedule the meeting as the quicker this is in place the better financing charge, and the more money we save. Next week have the police and fire pension briefing at 12:30 p.m, for 45 minutes. Then the briefing on The Active Living Center by the Parks Department for 30 minutes until 1:45 p.m. Suggesting at 2:00 p.m. rather than full Director's and Organizational Meetings have the VOIP pre-council and then abbreviated Director's and Organizational meetings at 2:30 p.m. Carroll stated there isn't a large agenda next week so should work if agreed to by Council. Short discussion and agreement.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. <u>Gift Policy</u> - Emery
Emery stated as Council knows Mayor Beutler held a news conference on our employees gift policy. Would ask Council to voluntarily accept the same policy as a group. We could do legislatively, but would rather approve and agree to be held to the same standards our employees are held to. Emery stated he would be absent next week, the following Monday is a holiday, and the following week a night meeting. He stated he is bringing forward and therefore in favor of, and if Council wants to vote next week, without him attending, it would be more than acceptable.

Cook added it would need to be advertised on the Organizational Meeting Agenda, as an action item.

Snyder stated the only gifts she received since being elected are the cookies delivered to the office once a year. Hoppe commented food for immediate consumption is not a problem. Confer agreed that food was an exception.

Hoppe commented there are exceptions, such as funeral flowers, or for an employee with a new apartment, ceremonial. If receiving on behalf of the City with the item being $50 or under, and subsequently turned over to charity. Hornung asked if we as elected officials have any constitutionality restrictions? If someone gives you a gift as an elected official it's listed on form: C 1, with form: B 1 being where campaign contributions are listed.

Confer believes there would be a separation of powers issue, and would say charter, if the Mayor attempted to cover you with this policy. But if Council adopts the policy, is not a problem. As far as compliance with the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act do not think there's anything in this policy which would conflict.

Hornung stated a small issue is the fact he holds another job which actually involves gifts, and there could be misunderstandings on whether the gift relates to your job as a City Councilman or to your job as a lawyer, or a combination. Hoppe thought the person giving the gift is part of the definition. If you are doing, or about to do business with the City, the gift giver is regulated by the department. Emery thought if there were doubtful circumstances we would do as we do now. If there might be a conflict of interest we would write up, send to law, and receive their recommendation. This would make it clear you didn't attempt anything out of the ordinary, but asked for clarification.

Cook added that is an issue, regardless of whether a gift if you are representing a client who also comes before us. If you vote, it is a difficult spot.

Hoppe stated this is a growing policy, and will continue. If we run into situations like you're describing we may need to adjust the policy. Emery commented, a living document.

Snyder thought gifts, like tickets to football/baseball games, should be discussed. You're invited by a company who might be doing business with the City. That would be a gift. Confer stated that would be prohibited, unless you're there in an official capacity. If they're a client then it's regulated as you may have a conflict of interest in dealing with them, and as long as you are going to recluse yourself maybe it wouldn't be an issue. But possibly in a situation where you need to say you cannot accept because you're on the City Council. Cook stated Council will vote next week.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gene Carroll	No comments
Jayne Snyder	No comments
Doug Emery	No comments
Adam Hornung	No comments
Jonathan Cook	No comments

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Carroll adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

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