

**AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2000
Immediately Following Director's Meeting
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

I. MINUTES

- *1. Director's Minutes for May 22, 2000.
- *2. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting of May 22, 2000.
- *3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Adult Use Zoning - May 15, 2000.
- *4. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Increase Commercial Paper Programs from 75 Million to 125 Million - May 22, 2000.

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

- *1. Entryway Committee Meeting (Fortenberry)
- *2. Star City Holiday Festival Board Meeting (McRoy)
- *3. DLA Board of Directors Meeting (Seng)
- *4. PRT Meeting (Shoecraft)
- 5. Community Development Task Force Meeting (Cook)
- 6. Entryway Committee Meeting (Fortenberry)
- 7. Internal Liquor Committee (Johnson/McRoy/Shoecraft)
- 8. Joint Budget Committee (Johnson/Seng) - CANCELLED
- 9. Mayor's Downtown Action Team (Seng) - CANCELLED
- 10. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Facilities/Fees Committee Meeting (Shoecraft)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - NONE

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - NONE

V. COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Discussion regarding June Common Meeting of change in time from 8:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Requested by Cori)(Mayor is attending City Employee Recognition Breakfast).
2. Discussion on Council Budget/Staffing (See attached memo)(Draft requested by Council).
3. Final discussion on new printer & cost (See attached page from May 22nd "Noon" Minutes).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

***HELD OVER FROM MAY 29, 2000**

Minutes
City Council Members “NOON” Meeting
Monday, June 5, 2000
Conference Room 113

Council Members Present: Jerry Shoecraft, Chair; Jeff Fortenberry; Vice-Chair (Arrived mid-meeting); Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng.

Others Present: Ann Harrell, Mayor’s Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; and Chris Hain, *Lincoln Journal Star* Representative.

I. MINUTES

- *1. *Director’s Minutes for May 22, 2000.
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*Carried Over from 5-22-00

Mr. Shoecraft, Council Chair, requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Coleen Seng moved approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Johnson and carried by the following vote: AYES: Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng, Jerry Shoecraft; NAYS: None. ABSENT FOR VOTE: Jeff Fortenberry. [There was a brief discussion on an item presented in the Directors’ Minutes of May 22nd; however, it was discussion regarding the item, not the minutes and, therefore, will not be recorded here]

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

- *1. ENTRYWAY COMMITTEE (Fortenberry) Mr. Shoecraft requested that this report be held over since Mr. Fortenberry was not yet present for a presentation.
- *2. STAR CITY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL BOARD (McRoy) - Ms. McRoy did not attend.
- *3. DLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Seng) Ms. Seng reported that one of the items discussed was the Entryway and that information was presented this morning at Pre-Council. Another issue involved the Updowntowners’ donation for the purchase of a motorized vehicle that will help pick up and clean up in the downtown area. The Updowntowners are now trying to get matching donations from other city groups to help pay for a second one. This will eliminate the large salary outlay for this function and will be more efficient in the cleaning process.

Ms. Seng reported that Marc Wullschleger, Director of Urban Development, also made a presentation at the meeting, outlining Workforce Investment.

- *4. PRT(Shoecraft) - Mr. Shoecraft was unable to attend this meeting because of the scheduling conflict posed by the interview process with the City's ambulance service provider applicants.

- 5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that this was the public hearing on the consolidated plan for 2000-2003. The total money over that period is hoped to be 15.5 million dollars. He noted that, obviously, Federal funding cuts can't be predicted for future years, but that is the plan as currently proposed. He commented that no one from the public came forward to comment on the issue. It was televised and will be re-run many times showing Urban Development's over-all detail summary of the plan. No one shows up at these public hearings, which is unfortunate because this is really important money for all the older neighborhoods. This is what funds so many of the neighborhood rehabilitation projects.

It seemed to be a pretty good package and that recommendation will soon be sent on to the Council. Ms. McRoy asked if there would be a Pre-Council on the funding plan. Council members agreed that, normally, the information is simply presented in packet form and no pre-councils are necessary. Ms. McRoy noted that she had watched the public hearing meetings and did not need a pre-council. It was therefore determined that there would be no pre-council on this issue.

Mr. Cook pointed out that the Committee comprises a pretty good group noting that there is representation from all of the core neighborhoods and some at-large members. It's a pretty dedicated group that looks over the details very closely.

- 6. ENTRYWAY COMMITTEE (Fortenberry) No Report

- 7. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (Johnson/McRoy/Shoecraft) Ms. Johnson reported that basically, they had just gone through the violations. She commented that they are still trying to see if they can't model the PRT procedures somewhat. Ms. Johnson asked about scheduling the next meeting, wondering if there would be Pre-Council meetings prior to the 5:30 p.m. Council meeting scheduled for June 26th. It was determined that there would not and the Internal Liquor Committee Meeting could be scheduled at the usual 4:30 p.m. time.

- 8. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (Johnson/Seng) - CANCELLED

- 9. MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN ACTION TEAM (Seng) - CANCELLED

- 10. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FACILITIES/FEES COMMITTEE (Shoecraft) Mr. Shoecraft reported that the issue that they're taking up is the request by a subcommittee to talk about subsidizing the Jim Ager Golf Center and lowering the fees at that course. That is under advisement at this time. Mr. Shoecraft felt the plan would not be acted upon.

Mr. Shoecraft noted that the committee also discussed lowering water rates; but that's about the extent of that meeting.

*Carried over from 5-30-00 Correspondence

OTHER MEETINGS - Mr. Camp commented that the Joint LPS/Council meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday at 7:30 a.m. He noted that the last few months LPS had asked if there were any other times that might work better with Council Members' schedules. [Laughter] It was agreed that 7:30 a.m. was too early. Ms. McRoy stated that she might be there to join the discussion on the Arnold Heights School. Mr. Shoecraft noted that he would probably go, since the Chair is expected to be there.

The sitting-out fines issue was discussed briefly and it was hoped that the LPS might have some input on options to avoid losing the fines/fees revenue for the schools as well as lowering the City's cost outlay for prisoner maintenance costs.

Mr. Camp asked if Council might want to have the meetings with LPS less frequently and/or at a more convenient time and location. Discussion revealed that Council would be interested in moving the meetings from LPSDO to the County-City Building in Conference Room 113 at a time on Mondays when Council is already scheduling their time for this location. Ms. Johnson suggested that since this will be the last meeting this season, to attempt the new location at a time of 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. when the meetings resume in the fall. No final decision was made.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - Ms. McRoy had a concern regarding the Lincoln Housing Authority's Board of Directors. She wondered if there was a position open on that Board. Ms. McRoy asked Ms. Harrell if she would call Ms. Brinkman to answer questions on this issue. Ms. Harrell noted that she would do so. Ms. McRoy stated that she had a request from the Arnold Heights neighborhood to find out about the next opening on that Board and whether or not the position is for an Arnold Heights resident. The Housing Authority has so much property and does so much work out in that area, the neighbors would like to see a local representative on the Lincoln Housing Authority Board. If there is no position available, the neighborhood would like Council to establish one for them since the Housing Authority has such a large influence on the neighborhood but the neighborhood currently has no say in the actions taken by LHA.

Ms. Harrell commented that Ms. Brinkman is in a meeting at the moment, but she would follow up on Ms. McRoy's inquiry.

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - None

V. COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

JEFF FORTENBERRY - No Further Comments

CINDY JOHNSON - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

COLEEN SENG - Ms. Seng, just prior to adjournment, asked if Mr. Roper had seen the material received by Council on the Director's Agenda regarding "Babydolls" website. Mr. Roper indicated that he had not, but would get a copy for review.

JERRY SHOECRAFT - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

VII. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion regarding June Common Meeting: Change in time from 8:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Requested by Cori Beattie of the County Commissioner's Office - The Mayor is attending City Employee Recognition Breakfast and will be unable to attend at the 8:15 a.m. start time). Council agreed to the 10:00 a.m. start time for the Common Meeting of Friday, June 16th, 2000. *[Cori Beattie of the County Commissioners Office notified 06-05-00.*

2. Discussion on Council Budget/Staffing (Draft requested by Council - See attached). Mr. Shoecraft stated that Ms. Ray had made up the requested draft. He commented that he had talked with Mr. Fortenberry, who had stated that, because of some other priorities in front of him that he felt the Additional Staffing issue should be tabled for at least a year and brought back then. Mr. Shoecraft commented that the issue should be held over until Mr. Fortenberry could be present in order to clarify his position on this point.

Ms. Ray stated that she had guessed at what Council wanted from the position when she drew up the draft, noting that she hadn't really gotten any information from anyone. She stated that she wrote up what she thought Council was looking for, then included what the other two office positions would pick-up in order to make up the over-all picture of the Council Office Staff. She commented that if that isn't what Council had in mind, to please let her know and she could make requested revisions.

Mr. Fortenberry just arrived at the meeting at this point, so the discussion was continued. Mr. Shoecraft explained to Mr. Fortenberry that the current discussion was on the Council Budget/Staff Position and that he had explained to Council that Mr. Fortenberry had suggested that this be looked at another time since there are currently other priority budget needs and because Council has not really reached any consensus at this time.

Mr. Fortenberry felt the utilization of his discretionary funds for an aide in his office has lifted the burden off Staff and was a direct help to him and has allowed him to better respond to constituent concerns. He noted that this is another variable in the Staffing question. He commented that if Council Members did incorporate this method of handling their Council affairs that would relieve some of the staff responsibilities.

Ms. Ray explained that the paperless agenda concept will add new duties and responsibilities for Staff [including the web master position that I.S. is proposing for each Department in order that each department can assume responsibility for its own internet website]. She felt that might also have a bearing on staffing considerations.

Mr. Fortenberry commented that he hated to institutionalize anything at this time without... [further review]. He commented that the issue, a perfectly valid issue, has been raised by Jon and Coleen in terms of the different proposals. He was hesitant to rush into anything until he had a clear understanding of what exactly the need is. If it is feasible that the Mayor's Office is going to shift funds down [to Council], which doesn't appear to be the case...

Ms. Seng commented that she didn't think it could be stated that the Mayor won't be shifting funds to Council.

Mr. Cook stated that the basic outline [as presented in the memo] of what the responsibilities of this person would be, is in keeping with what his idea of the position should be. He felt the position would be managing constituent relationships and preparing things for Council and doing research; following up and getting things taken care of.

Right now for the RFI process, it would be nice to have someone to keep track of those and follow up on those periodically. Sometimes the issues aren't of great importance, but after a month, one wonders what has happened with them. If there was someone in the office to keep track, it would be helpful. Even on the informal requests, the person in this position would be able to track and note what action was being taken or not taken on an issue. Mr. Cook felt the description of the position, over-all, was a reasonable thing.

He continued, noting it should not be a position that we'd be adding that would do what professional staff does...he did not want that. He commented that Council has professional staff in the departments that can be called upon for specific duties and there is no way we could duplicate that expertise in one office position. This person would be handling those relationships, basically, between Council and those professional staff members when Council Members are busy. That person could follow up on issues at the times we could not.

Mr. Fortenberry commented that this would require one person dealing with seven different styles vs. [the one-on-one of the individual aides utilized through their discretionary funding].

Ms. Seng asked Mr. Fortenberry if he had his aide go to meetings for him, as Mr. Camp does. Mr. Fortenberry stated that he was not opposed to that. If it was a sensitive issue, he would not, but if it were a routine meeting that he was unable to attend and he felt that a Council presence was necessary, she could attend. But he has not initiated that at this point.

Mr. Camp stated that it has helped him leverage his time more effectively. If there are meetings for Boards or Committees he represents for Council, he attends those; but for others, he is able to leverage out and have more direct input. Darrell submits summaries of the meetings he attends. There are a lot of informal meetings with citizens that Darrell attends, with that follow-up. This allows Mr Camp to get things done much more quickly and saves over-all on administration.

Mr. Cook stated that he was just saying that this person could deal with a number of different personalities. Joan manages to deal with all of us...though it's not easy. [Laughter] If there are areas of conflict, that would be what the separate monies are for. It seems a shame to use that separate money for day-to-day stuff that can be handled by a [permanent] position He noted that none of the Council

Members are aware of what the other Council Members aides are doing...perhaps they should have weekly staff meetings committee meetings with all of the individual staff members so they can say “oh, we’re working on that, too.” [Laughter]

Mr. Shoecraft commented that he felt this new position, when it comes about, after looking at the seven different personalities on this body, that the position will only be doing research for one or two people. He pointed out the Mr. Camp’s aide addresses a lot of his issues. He noted that if a person is hired into this position, Mr. Shoecraft guaranteed they’d be doing work for one or two people. He felt the position would be under-utilized. He commented that he used his \$5,000.00 for research. He attends his own meetings; he looks at pad sites or sites that need investigation himself. He felt that was what the Council Members should be doing. Otherwise, give up your 40 hour job. He also felt this new position should, if it is higher than Joan or Tammy’s position, be filled by either Joan or Tammy. Ms. Ray said ‘thank you - I agree with you!’ [Laughter].

Mr. Shoecraft stated that the only way he would support this position is if Council agrees to allow either Joan or Tammy to advance to the position, so someone has the opportunity to be promoted. A new staff person would then take the spot at the desk, and that position could be offered through the Personnel Department.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if this was part of the proposal to remove oversight of the Council staff from the City Clerk’s Office? Ms. Ray answered that it was. Mr. Fortenberry then asked if the Council Chair would be supervising the staff? Ms. Ray answered that that task would probably fall to this new position and was listed in the duties - “Supervision of OAI/IV (Would include performance evaluations as well as task support)”

Ms. Johnson stated that the Chair and Vice-Chair usually did the personnel issues for the Council. If there were concerns about the Secretary, or the functions and/or performance, Council members went to the Chair and Vice-Chair and said that there were some concerns to handle. They did the evaluation and that type of related thing. The historical reason that a lot of that went on is because it got to the point that the Secretary was there longer than the Council Members and the process had just become “stamped”. It was felt that since the Chair was leaving every year that it would be more stable to have the Staff under the City Clerk’s Office. When it comes back, it will still be under the Chair and Vice-Chair again.

Mr. Fortenberry commented, in this regard, again, that is another imposition of work on the Chair. Mr. Fortenberry noted, as Council is aware, the Chair’s position has grown tremendously since the early days when current Council Members served in that capacity.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Chair would be responsible for the performance evaluation any raises they have, any corrections or administrative [reprimanding] that must be done. There is a lot of human resources area there.

Ms. Ray stated that right now she was responsible for doing Tammy’s evaluations and noted if the new position handled the evaluations for both staff members the Chair would only have to review them, if the Chair chose to do that.

Mr. Fortenberry commented that the Omaha system does give the Chair more money. Mr. Cook asked if the Omaha City Council has a budget of \$150,000.00

Mr. Fortenberry acknowledged that they do not, but noted the added pay for the Chair is an issue of fairness to compensate for these extra duties.

Mr. Camp stated that as he sees it, what Joan provided for them, [attached memo] needs to be fine-tuned because Council wants to have exactly what it is we're looking for in the position - a good job description. He added that he felt with this position Council Members could do away with a lot of the RFIs . Mr. Camp commented to Mr. Shoecraft that he respected Mr. Shoecraft's comments regarding certain research issues that are, perhaps more individualized issues; but probably on a large number -barking dogs, sidewalk repairs, etc.- are concerns all the Council members face, and one Council member would probably not be infringing upon the Staff person.

On other areas, he noted that Council members know enough and have enough common sense not to abuse our private monies. He felt he and Mr. Fortenberry were spending a lot of their discretionary funds doing some things that he could see folded into this position. They're just routine follow-ups and help make the machinery of government run more efficiently, leaving more time for the Council members to do the policy making which is what we should be doing. He commented about the many meetings the Council Members miss because of conflicts of scheduling. That's not going to change unless the Council Member position becomes more full-time. It takes full-time effort. If we try to do the job well, we need to have the resources at hand to do the job effectively. He felt Council was driving an old mule in the jet age. [Astutely discerning Mr. Camp's intent to define the situation and not the individual, Ms. Ray brave-heartedly refused to take offense to the analogy]

Ms. Seng commented that she disagreed with him on the RFI process. She noted that over the years, her constituents have really appreciated seeing that their Council member has asked Staff about what is going on. They get a copy of that RFI and it has been the best communication device between the Council Member and the constituent who has sent in the complaint. She noted that she always requested a constituent to put their complaint in writing. She feels that if they have a valid complaint, they should put it in writing. She noted that Mr. Camp puts it in writing himself from a constituent's phone call. But she will not do that. She makes them write the letter, because she feels if it's a legitimate complaint, they need to put it in writing. She admitted that she did get "caught" once because the person making the complaint could not read or write. But he did have his wife write the note and he signed it. That way, the constituent takes part in the complaint process, then they receive a reply back from Ms. Seng when she sends it through and they can see that it has been sent through. Then it is up to Staff to follow through on that.

Ms. Seng commented that Ms. Harrell may know how it works from that end, but she felt the RFI system is the best way to handle the myriad of complaints that come into the Council office. If the complaint is really important, it needs to be written down and someone needs to acknowledge that. They're the ones paying the taxes and they need to have the reply. Ms. Seng commented that Ann could speak to the RFI process from the other end, but from her end, Ms. Seng stated that was the way she'd operated.

Ms. Harrell stated that, for the Mayor's Office, she can only speak for the past year. In that year, the Mayor has had the position of the Ombudsman that he had allocated from a position that had existed in the Mayor's Office. Speaking selfishly and just from her own perspective, she has found that the Ombudsman has been a tremendous asset to the Mayor's Office in handling all that daily influx of phone calls about odds and ends. These are the things that matter tremendously to these individual constituents, but none of them hang together and we need somebody to coordinate all of that.

She stated that she has spoken to previous aides in the Mayor's Office who are familiar enough with how we're doing things now, and they say that would have been really something they would liked to have had because they had to spend so much of their days chasing around some of these phone calls trying to get constituents some answers. So, in the Mayor's Office, that has been a hugely valuable change in strategy. April also keeps track of how many calls and what kind and all the details on each one. That's where we handle all those kinds of things. But, Ms. Harrell noted, having said that, Ms. Dunning would almost have to address the question of how she handles RFIs vs. phone calls, etc.

Ms. Seng asked Ms. Harrell if she heard Directors complain about RFIs? Ms. Harrell noted that they don't complain to her. Mr. Cook noted, jokingly, that the Directors probably are upset that the Council exists at all. [Laughter] Ms. Harrell commented that some directors speak well of the ombudsman position and thought that that was working well. But, as far as RFIs specifically or RFIs from the Council, they're really working with April on that, so Ms. Harrell is not receiving any feedback on that.

Ms. Johnson commented that she did receive calls from those who t just really appreciate that position in the Mayor's Office. And she told the caller that she would definitely share that information with the Mayor's Staff. Ms. Harrell noted that it has worked out well with April having established "a contact" in each Department and they all have their own routine.

Mr. Fortenberry added that he did not dispute what was being said and the position has probably been a great benefit, but the initial idea behind that position was also a Council liaison position and that has not ever materialized as far as he could see. Ms. Harrell noted that she saw that materializing more at this point. Now, after a year, and April having some other opportunities that she is going to pursue, there will be some fine-tuning of how the position actually functions. Now that the basic infrastructure is in place for it, that is one of the things we'd like to do; we've discussed that very point.

Mr. Cook asked how the Ombudsman position procedures work. He asked if the Mayor refers calls to April or if she refers calls to the Mayor? Ms. Harrell explained that as a practical matter the person who answers the phone tries to determine the concern of the caller; then if it is something that would be appropriate for the Ombudsman to handle, they try to get that person directed to April immediately. If it is an issue specific relating to something going on in the City at the moment, say baseball, they would give that call to Ms. Harrell because she is the one in the Mayor's Office working on that. Then, if it turned out they were really calling about some other matter, then she might pass that directly to the Ombudsman. But

if the caller actually gets to the Mayor, it probably wasn't an Ombudsman kind of problem, but more about issues.

Mr. Cook noted that that is the kind of things the Council Members have to deal with. Their home phone numbers are out there, so when someone calls him, he can't route them to anybody else. He noted that he did not have the strength that Coleen does to say to them "write me a letter". Mr. Cook said he thought it was a good idea. He stated that he had received two requests from constituents who wanted to remain anonymous, so that can occur now and then to dissuade someone from writing, but it certainly would be easier if they always wrote a letter.

Mr. Shoecraft asked if Council members felt they would be able to attend more meetings or attend to more policy issues if this position being discussed for Council were installed and in operation now. He asked how much Council deals with policy issues, noting that policies already created for us. Mr. Fortenberry commented that that is one of the issues of concern. [Laughter]

Mr. Shoecraft asked, seriously, if the position would affect the meeting attendance and policy making ability of those Council Members who work 40 hours a week. He noted that *that* is the real issue here. Council Membership is a part-time position and the members have to put in 40 hours per week plus the time their Council position demands, which can add up to many more work hours per week in itself. He noted that everyone knew when they ran for the Council Office how much time it would take to perform their duties. Mr. Fortenberry's wry comment was "Oh, stop lecturing". [Laughter]

Mr. Shoecraft polled the Council asking what the reasons were that they could not attend their meetings. Mr. Camp answered that he leverages out many meetings through Darrell. He attends his meetings, but he does leverage out through Darrell and gets Council representation at a lot more meetings. He commented that he respects what Ms. Seng is saying about the RFI/constituent link.

He added, in all due respect, that he had received a lot of negative feed-back on April Dunning's performance. He stated that he and Mr. Podany had to pick up a lot of problems. He noted that last week they had three different instances crop up. He understood that a lot of things had fallen through the cracks. He stated again that the Ombudsman position become a Council/Mayor deal where Council gets good input. He noted that he was looking for ways to have the position become a good tool in the future for solving constituent concerns. It's not a matter of not knowing what we were getting into when we were running for office, but there are a lot of policy things that we're not having the time to do. Mr. Camp stated that Council is being handed the answers and he thinks it is not a good Checks & Balances system for the City when Council does not participate affirmatively. He felt the taxpayers in the community are getting the short end of the stick in the process. He felt Council ought to be more involved up-front on things rather than getting things at the end of the process with the result being that Council is compromised into corners...when we're operating re-actively rather than pro-actively.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that the City Charter sets out that Lincoln has a Strong Mayor form of government. Mr. Camp asked what the definition of that was. He noted that it doesn't mean that it's a Weak-Council form. Mr. Shoecraft noted that the head of the branch is the Mayor's office; then there is the City Council. [The

Administrative Head is the Mayor; the Legislative Head is the Council] Mr. Shoecraft continued, observing that some are trying to be like Omaha or other communities where Council is throwing down the iron fist and making the rules and are involved; but that isn't the way we work in Lincoln unless we change the Charter.

Mr. Fortenberry wanted to make a quick comment that might add a little levity here. He noted that in Cedar Rapids, the City Council is elected to run a particular Department. If you run for City Council, you're the Finance Director; you run for the City Council position that is Parks Director. There is a Mayor that is separately elected, but he's the Mayor of the City Council. Mr. Fortenberry thought that was fascinating and resembled more a County form of government. Mr. Cook asked which Department Mr. Fortenberry wanted? [Laughter]

Mr. Fortenberry commented that he felt this was a very healthy struggle to continue to redefine ourselves so that we can meet constituent needs properly. The current system, implemented in the '60's...it is a fair question to ask if this is the best way to manage our affairs? Is it fair to impose on people who run for City Council Office this level of responsibility, yet really the community is saying "you're only part-time". Is it fair that we don't have any staff that could pick up and direct a particular form of research that we're interested in...or does that all have to follow each Council Member. Or do we have to work this system so that we can get the Mayor and the Mayor's Staff on board so that they all do the policy research for Council. Those are all tensions that we're all encountering. He stated that he does not have the answer, but felt that it was good to have discussion.

Mr. Shoecraft asked if we continue this discussion someday and this comes into light, if there is a consensus on this Council to do it, (and it would take four or five Council Members to make it happen), does everybody agree that this position should be filled by Joan or Tammy? Does anybody have a problem with that?

Mr. Fortenberry stated that the only thing he would caution is, if we institutionalize this form, it's done...the Council twenty years from now will be dealing with that. So, he wanted to state very gently to proceed cautiously.

Ms. Seng commented that the memo submitted needed a lot more work on it. Mr. Shoecraft agreed, but asked if Council envisioned the person coming into the position be either Joan or Tammy? Mr. Cook stated that it depends on what the description is and whether its something that Joan or Tammy would want to do. He stated that if this is not the definition, but ultimately some other kind of position is created, maybe it's appropriate; but we just don't know. Mr. Cook thought that they ought to be considered for whatever and given the chance to see if that is something that they want to do.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that if the position has to go through Personnel, Council will have no say-so as to who that person may be. It'll go through Personnel. Mr. Shoecraft noted that Eileen Stone's position was promoted and did not go through Personnel. The question arose as to whether or not a move to a totally new position would be considered a promotion or a new-hire situation.

Mr. Fortenberry stated that what was coming out of this discussion was the Question of if the hybrid position will be of a more Ombudsman/Staff Researcher and Somewhat Clerical nature, or will it be a supplement for clerical duties to relieve Joan and Tammy? That is the core of the discussion.

Mr. Shoecraft commented that Joan and Tammy may need a little relief, but he is not advocating pushing to make this a \$40-60,000 position. He felt that was ridiculous. Mr. Camp asked why it was ridiculous. Mr. Shoecraft noted that if it goes through Personnel at that level it turns into a more political position. Ms. Seng noted that anyone that is hired will have to go through Personnel.

Ms. McRoy wanted to clarify one thing. She asked if this position would be filled in this budget cycle or not. Mr. Shoecraft stated that he did not know, noting that that is still up for debate. Mr. Cook asked if Mr. Fortenberry's intent was to put it off to the next budget cycle. Mr. Fortenberry stated that what he is saying is just to step cautiously. If we can all talk to one another and work this out next week, we would have time to implement it this round. If not and we take a little time to evaluate it through the year, and some of the Council Members do pick up individual aides or assistant positions and that relieves your need for this...he didn't know. Ms. McRoy stated that she would like someone to keep track of her RFI's so she could follow through for her constituents.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that they would continue this discussion at next week's "Noon" meeting. Mr. Roper recommended to Council to keep in mind that the Mayor will be bringing forward the budget, so if you want to do something, you'll have to do it quickly.

3. Final discussion on new printer & cost (See attached page from May 22nd "Noon" Minutes). - There was no discussion on this item. However, with this notification to Council and last week's approval for the purchase of printing equipment as needed, Council Office will proceed with purchase of new printers through the I.S. Offices.

VIII. MEETING ENDED - Approximately 1:00 p.m.