

DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA
ADDENDUM
Monday, June 4, 2018

I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed ESCO, opposition - Kevin
2. Property Tax - Shayne Galford
Staff response provided by Lyn Quenzer, City Ombudsman
3. Proposed ESCO, opposition - Mary Quintero

Angela M. Birkett

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Cyndi Lamm; Jon Camp; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: InterLinc - Contact

City Council - Contact

Date : 5/31/2018 5:28:54 PM

name Kevin
address 736 west fairfield
city Lincoln
state NE
zip 68521
email travlkein@aol.com
comments To council members,

I am writing to you to voice my concern about spending so much money on new city light , I agree with the comments that technology changes so fast and in 5 years their will be something knew that we will be asked to purchase. I think that replacing lights on the major roads would be a good compromise . I really doubt that the city will be saving all the money that some would like us to believe . I would like to thank you all for your service , I know that it is a hard job and so often under appreciated.

Kevin

IP: 70.121.250.54

Form: <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/contact.htm>

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/58.0.3029.110 Safari/537.36 Edge/16.16299

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lin Quenzer
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2018 9:58 AM
To: 'shaynepgalford@gmail.com'
Cc: Leirion Gaylor Baird; Angela M. Birkett; Miki M. Esposito; Michele M. Abendroth; Rick D. Hoppe
Subject: FW: Action required

Dear Mr. Galford:

Thanks for your inquiry about your property tax valuation. City Councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird has asked me to respond to your questions. The City of Lincoln has not raised our portion of the property tax levy. The City doesn't set the property tax valuations, the Lancaster County Assessor does. Currently, the City is more than \$0.20 below our levy lid, one of the lowest of the 14 major cities in Nebraska. If you have concerns about your property valuation now that the revaluation letters have gone out from the County Assessor, please note the below information from the Assessor's office or go to <http://lancaster.ne.gov/clerk/prop.htm> to file a protest.

- The 2018 Real Property Values displayed on the website are now official
- On or before June 1, final valuation notices will be mailed to all owners whose real property value has changed from 2017 to 2018
- Property Valuation Protests can be filed with the County Clerk's Office from June 1 to July 2, 2018
- Information regarding the protest process is available on the County Clerk's website: lancaster.ne.gov (Keyword/Search: Protest)

I have asked the Public Works Department to respond to your concerns about sidewalk and street conditions on Pinedale Avenue in the vicinity of your home and to your questions about the designation of 84th Street for use by commercial trucks as it is a major arterial street, not a residential side street. Someone from the department will get in touch with you regarding the noise concerns from the traffic and your other questions. They will copy me on the issues you have raised so that we can move forward with solutions to these problems. Please feel free to contact me here at the Mayor's office any time you have questions or concerns about departments of Lincoln City government. I am always happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Lin Quenzer
Ombudsman, LGBT Liaison
Title VI/ADA Co-Coordinator
Office of the Mayor
City of Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402.441.7511



"All acts of kindness are lights in the war for Justice"
~Joy Harjo

From: Leirion Gaylor Baird
Sent: Sunday, June 03, 2018 8:23 PM
To: Lin Quenzer
Subject: Fw: Action required

Hi, Lin -

Have you already responded to this person? If not, would you? It could use an Ombudsman's touch 😊

Leirion

leirion gaylor baird // city council // lgaylorbaird@lincoln.ne.gov

From: Angela M. Birkett
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:48 AM
To: 'joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com'; 'royforlincoln@gmail.com'; Cyndi Lamm; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Jane Raybould; Carl B. Eskridge; Bennie R. Shobe; 'bennie.shobe@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Action required

Please see the email below from Shayne Galford regarding the increase in property taxes.

Angie Birkett
Office Coordinator
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th St., Ste 111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-6867
Fax 402-441-6533
abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov



From: Shayne Galford [mailto:shaynepgalford@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 8:14 PM
To: Mayor; Council Packet
Subject: Action required

Congratulations on hiking taxes on the working class people once again for this tax year. With the latest money grab by the great city of Lincoln, I, a working class citizen, am going to be charged almost another \$400 per year on my property taxes in 2018. How is it that working class people are expected to keep paying more taxes when wages do not increase, yet taxes continue to sky rocket out of control, insurance premiums keep growing at exponential rates and the list can go on and on...

As a resident of the great city of Lincoln, I do not see my tax dollars being utilized in my neighborhood in which I'll be paying close to \$4,400 a year for on a less than spectacular house built in 1974. As Lincoln continues to grow and grow, the University and new growth projects suck this city's funds dry, the sidewalks in my neighborhood are some of the worst in Lincoln (maybe you all should go for a walk on them, hope you don't trip on uneven concrete and massive cracks that are likely caused by the vibrations from traffic on 84th Street). My street, Pinedale Avenue is falling apart (it's really awesome to see grass growing in all the giant cracks up and down Pinedale Avenue). Not to mention all the pot holes that have been neglected for years. By the way, the sidewalk issue has been reported on your city forms numerous times, yet nothing ever gets fixed. The same goes with the pot hole issues on the online reporting system.

The best part about this Trendwood Neighborhood is for those of us who live along 84th Street. The city of Lincoln seems to think 84th Street is a major highway. After all the Highway 2 traffic was routed this way for construction, 84th has become a major truck route. So now we have a street that was not rated for highway traffic full of speeding, big rig semi trucks. This is a residential area. These trucks do not obey the posted speed limits, yet this is a residential area with schools and churches??? The best part is the increased traffic noise (car and truck) in which everyone's house sounds like a highway is running through it as if the windows were wide open when they are sealed shut. The noise is so awesome that a volume maxed out television still allows residents to hear every vehicle that goes by. While in bed, the vibrations of every big rig that goes by shake beds and maxed out white noise machines cannot even block the traffic noise. Obviously, the noise ordinances are not being obeyed. Yet again, another instance in which this has been brought up to the City of Lincoln and no action has been taken. 84th street was not designed to handle this kind of traffic. When the big vehicles go by they constantly shake our homes and are DAMAGING OUR HOMES. Shaking our homes is destroying our walls/ceilings/foundations. The motorcycles that drive full throttle at night are also in violation of the noise ordinance. The vehicle noise must be addressed! It's a city issue and the city needs to meet the obligations of government. Government's purpose is to handle issues that are bigger than an individual can address alone. In this case, sound barriers need to be installed along 84th Street and 84th Street needs to be repaired to address shaking our homes and commercial traffic needs to be routed on actual roads designated as highways. A simple patch job is not going to fix this problem. I've reported the noise issues and pot holes on 84th Street twice. Isn't it amazing that nobody responded to me? I've tried putting all new Anderson windows in to fix the noise with no luck...

What is being done to address the mess USIC has made in the right of ways? Their vehicles/equipment have tore the grass up, their spray paint has vandalized fences, landscape rocks, bricks, sidewalks and plants. Even after they threw a little dirt in their mess, the ground has not been leveled and it wasn't even a week after this that there's a big hole from where they drove on top of the area. I really appreciate how USIC doom troop backyards and pretend they are priming gas lines and leave gates wide open to incur wind damage as well. Are these Texas plated vehicles paying wheel taxes? What do we know about the background of these employees who constantly come on our property without letting us know? I'm tired of my lawn equipment being beat up over pieces of metal bars they leave behind in the grass and all the other garbage they leave behind such as pallet material with nails and screws sticking out. I wonder if my home owner insurance is going to cover accidents this could cause or if maybe the city should take liability and start mowing their side of the sidewalk?

As a tax payer, I expect answers, solutions and action to be taken.

Your action items are:

Explain how taxpayer dollars are being utilized and how you all think working class people can afford another \$400 per year in tax hikes that we saw last year.

Assess and prepare a plan for fixing side walks and the falling apart streets of Pinedale Avenue and 84th Street.

Assess the noise ordinance violations along 84th Street for homeowners and provide a solution. Many cities put up noise barrier walls. Lincoln is to this point on 84th Street or maybe it's time the city bought houses up along 84th and then let McDonald's build commercial property in homes places....

Fix 84th Street so big rigs quit shaking our homes, get the big rigs off a residential street in which residents live, children attend school, children play, residents exercise and people worship. The area of Lincoln I'm talking about falls within a school zone.

I expect accountability from the Mayor's Office and the City of Lincoln. Ignoring problems is not due diligence to the tax payers you all work for. I expect complete answers to these actions items by June 8, 2018. Excuses are not solutions.

Thanks.

Shayne Galford

Home owner

2040 Pinedale Avenue

Lincoln, NE 68506

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lin Quenzer
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2018 10:55 AM
To: 'shaynepgalford@gmail.com'
Cc: Leirion Gaylor Baird; Angela M. Birkett; Miki M. Esposito; Michele M. Abendroth; Rick D. Hoppe
Subject: RE: Action required

Mr. Galford:

I almost forgot to address the issue you raised about USIC work in your neighborhood. If you or someone you know is having problems with restoration related Allo work or their subcontractors, please have them contact me with the exact address and problems they are experiencing. I will work with Public Works to see that the problems are addressed by the private utility.

Sincerely,

Lin Quenzer
Ombudsman, LGBT Liaison
Title VI/ADA Co-Coordinator
Office of the Mayor
City of Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402.441.7511



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Leirion

leirion gaylor baird // city council // lgaylorbaird@lincoln.ne.gov

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mary Quintero <MaryQuintero@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2018 11:50 AM
To: Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen; Jane Raybould; Jon Camp; Carl B. Eskridge; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Cyndi Lamm
Subject: Info for hearing 6-4-18 re LED Street Light conversion
Attachments: LED information for consideration 6-4-18.docx

Dear City Council Members,

I have attached additional, updated information regarding my request that the City adopt newer better LED lighting for residential streets rather than the proposed 4000K in the current contract proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please see attached.

Mary Quintero

Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents presented for your consideration. I remain convinced the LED street light conversion is a good, viable forward move for the City of Lincoln but that we have not availed ourselves of the latest, best technology.

As LES states in its document to you entitled “***LES Summary of LED Issues***”, they have been researching for the last 5 years. There has been considerable development in that time span. It appears that LES and the City have settled on 4000K LEDs including for residential streets and haven’t adapted to the newer possibilities that are void of the problems with the high intensity 4000K color temperature.

In the meantime, other cities (in addition to Davis, CA discussed at the last hearing) have had to replace the higher intensity LEDs. I have provided information below on Phoenix AZ, Chicago, IL and Washington DC (please note DC is still working on a fix as of 2-2018). Additionally, the latest Department of Energy statement, 4-2018, below is worth noting.

Better color temperatures, 2700K or less, are proving to be the solution for converting to LED especially on residential streets. I extracted the following from the documentation presented to you and then added further information below it including excerpts from an April 2018 Department of Energy document at the conclusion of these comments.

[My comments are encased in brackets and italicized.]

Below is the closing paragraph of the “***LES Summary***” submitted to you- with bold & underline added by me for emphasis:

“LES has been researching LED Street Lighting for the past 5 years. The technology has advanced tremendously. **Cities like Seattle, Los Angeles and others were early adopters of LED street light technology. The early technology revolved around 6,500 degree kelvin and 5,000 degree kelvin color temperature. ... While manufacturers were pushing for 5,000 and 6,500 degree kelvin color temperature, LES and the City adopted a 4,000 degree kelvin color temperature as standard for the City. By comparison, moonlight is 4,000 degree kelvin color temperature. Thus the color temperature selected to light the City’s roadways at night most closely matches the natural nighttime light source, moonlight...**”

[I propose that the comparison to moonlight is not the best approach. The moonlight we experience at night is 239,000 miles away. The 4000K LEDs, in contrast, are a short distance away measured in feet not miles and in multiple locations on each and every street.

*More cities, in addition to Davis, CA have had to expend sums to correct the brightness and glare **caused by 4000K color temperature LEDs**. Plus the **Department of Energy, while wholly supportive of transitioning to LEDs**, states the following in support of my concern that 4000K is not the best approach due to improvements and development confirm better LEDs are now available.*

The following is a summary with links for further reading and concluding with the April 2018 Department of Energy excerpt.]

After complaints, Phoenix to install dimmer LED streetlights

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2016/12/08/after-complaints-phoenix-install-dimmer-led-streetlights/94998716/>

“On Nov. 30, the City Council approved a contract with Ameresco, an energy-efficiency company, **to install lower-intensity LED streetlights that shine a yellow or amber-looking**

light, rather than a jarring white or blueish stream. Health officials say the negative effects of LEDs, or light-emitting diodes, are minimized by using a more subdued lighting level...

City officials have said the high-intensity LEDs are the "industry standard" for cities converting their streetlights, but **recent improvements in lighting technology has created fixtures that are both energy efficient and shine a lower-intensity light...**

The color characteristics or temperature of light is measured in Kelvins. Lights higher on the spectrum appear white and blueish, seem brighter to the naked eye and can have detrimental effects on human health and some species of animals, according to the AMA...

Lights lower on the Kelvin scale appear more yellow or orange and pose fewer concerns...

Phoenix had installed 4,000-Kelvin LED lights. But the city's new contract with Ameresco requires the company to install more subdued 2,700-Kelvin lights...

[Feb 23, 2018 update:]

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2018/02/23/why-your-new-phoenix-streetlights-look-weird-led/353192002/>

“...When the city initially began replacing the fixtures with energy-efficient bulbs in 2015, it used **4,000-Kelvin LED lights**, which give off a stark, bright white glow.

The public hated them.

They were compared to flood lights at a prison or extraterrestrial space saucers. Some people complained that the lights were blinding, unhealthy and blocked views of the night sky.

The city found a compromise. It would move forward with the **eco-friendly LED lights, but use lower-intensity 2,700-Kelvin fixtures.** **The 1,500 lights that were already replaced with the bright white lights will be switched to the soft-yellow fixtures as well.**

[Feb. 2018]

WASHINGTON — D.C. is in the midst of modernizing its streetlights, converting mercury vapor lamps to LED lighting.

<https://wtop.com/dc/2018/02/dc-district-led-streetlights-too-bright/>

Some D.C. residents are carefully watching the District’s plans, hoping to keep streetlights warm and glowing instead of exceedingly bright and glaring.

“We are opposed to anything but 2,700-Kelvin streetlights, LED streetlights,” said Delores Bushong of Northeast, a member of the D.C. Street Light Task Force, a group of citizens concerned about the streetlights the city has been installing.

“The Kelvin is the color temperature, the warmness of the light — the lower the Kelvin, the warmer the light; the old-fashioned streetlights were more amber-colored.” said Rebecca Maydak, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission commissioner for Chevy Chase.

Some residents say 4,000-Kelvin lights installed by D.C. in some alleys in Chevy Chase between Broad Branch Road and 32nd Street meet the criteria for safety and security but the lights are way too bright.

“It’s like daylight all night long and the height of them is going right into everybody’s second floor windows,” Maydak said. **“We’ve had people complain because their children couldn’t sleep ... other people, the adults can’t sleep** ... blackout shades don’t work because it comes around the shade.”

D.C. hosted an informational meeting at the Mount Pleasant Library on Saturday afternoon about the proposed public/private partnership that will redo street lighting.

“This is a transition of all of our streetlights in the District, about 75,000, from their current state to an LED state,” said Kathryn Roos, DDOT manager of the lighting project.

About 5,500 streetlights have already been converted to LEDs, but the super-bright lights that may be keeping some people awake **are targeted for replacement.**

“We’re looking to eliminate the 4 and 5,000-Kelvin in the District right now ... We’re looking at 2,700 in all of our neighborhoods — local streets, alleys, and we’re looking at 3,000 Kelvin for our main arterials and interstates, but that’s a proposal for right now,” Roos said.

Under consideration is a public/private partnership in which the city would contract with a private company to install and maintain the streetlights.

The D.C. Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment is expected to discuss the new street lighting proposal among other items on its agenda at its oversight hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Chicago dials down LED street lamp intensity — and controversy

March 7, 2018

<https://energynews.us/2018/03/07/midwest/chicago-dials-down-led-street-lamp-intensity-and-controversy/>

“...The conversion to LED street lamps prompted public backlash in cities like Seattle and New York, where residents complained that the first-generation of lights were too bright and bothersome...”

Street lights are measured in kelvin, which designates the color temperature. The earlier generations of LED street lamps had temperatures as high as 4,000K or 5,000K. **Chicago’s will be 3,000K and able to be dimmed remotely during off-peak times...**

[Lastly, while Mr. Uhlarik included a data sheet from the Department of Energy from 6-21-16, the Department of Energy published additional information April 2018. To be clear, it supports the conversion to LED for street lights but the following excerpts regarding CCT (color temperature) are worth noting as it is a more recent discussion of the history of LED street light installation. You can see with improved costs and efficiency the current trend is to use LEDs lower than 4000K for residential street lights. I call your attention as well to footnote 23 below.]

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/04/f50/Street%20Lighting%20and%20Blue%20Light%20FAQs.pdf>

How many LED lights with CCT of 5000 K or higher have been installed outdoors?

Although the actual number is unknown, it's believed that relatively few such LED lights have been installed outdoors in the U.S. There's no known documented inventory of installed outdoor LED products categorized by CCT, and estimates differ by application.[see footnote 23 below] There were a few smaller-scale pilot studies and other installations involving products with CCT \geq 5000 K in the first few years of LED outdoor lighting installations, but **the street and roadway lighting community quickly converged around a warmer 4000 K as soon as that CCT became widely affordable (around 2010). From then to 2016, the vast majority of municipalities and utilities (including, for example, the cities of Seattle, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Boston, New York, New Orleans, Detroit, Kansas City, and many others) favored 4000 K CCT products for LED street and roadway lighting applications. More recently, with continued improvement of the technology, a number of cities are now considering 3000 K and, in some cases, even lower CCTs.** Why did early LEDs have CCTs of 5000 K or more? High-CCT white LEDs were more available, more efficient, and less expensive than lower-CCT versions during the technology's early years. In PC-LEDs, narrow-band **short-wavelength** light produced by semiconductor material is passed through phosphors that convert most of it into other colors; **the resulting light spectrum appears white to the human eye. Efficiency losses occur during the color conversion, and these losses are greater when creating warmer CCTs, translating into lower luminous efficacies** (lumen output per watt of electrical input power). Because the early-production white LEDs were relatively low in efficacy, **manufacturers emphasized sales of more-efficacious higher-CCT products. Since then, however, LED technology has advanced to the point where even warmer-CCT products are highly efficacious, especially when compared to traditional lamp technologies.** However, even today a higher-CCT LED continues to be more efficacious than a similar LED at lower CCT, all other things (e.g., color quality and color rendering ability) being equal.

23 For example, due to the "sparkle" offered by higher-CCTs, 5000 K appears to be the favored choice for service stations. **Residential areas tend to show a greater preference for CCTs lower than 4000 K.**

I appreciate you taking the time to review the following and renew my request that specifications for the Street light conversion provide for a warmer LED light on residential streets than the proposed 4000K, preferably 2700K. By doing so, we can get it right the first time instead of experiencing the increased cost and upset experienced by Davis CA, Chicago, IL, Phoenix, AZ, Washington DC and other cities. Complaints are still coming in to Seattle that completed their residential street light conversion several years ago. This article is from 4-7-2018: <https://magnoliavoices.com/2018/04/07/neighbors-complain-new-street-lights-too-bright-too-blue/>