

**CITY OF LEXINGTON
LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA**

A Joint Meeting of the Lexington City Council and the Lexington School Board was held Monday, January 9, 2012, at the Dawson County Opportunity Center, Room 204, located at 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, Lexington, Nebraska at 5:30 p.m. Members of the Council present were Mayor John Fagot, Steve Tomasek, Joni Bennett, John Salem and Linda Miller. City Officials present were City Manager Joe Peplitsch, Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside, City Attorney Will Weinhold and City Clerk Pamela Berke. School board members and staff included Kent Gydesen, Rod Reynolds, Jeff Wightman, Cindy Benjamin, Ray Ehlers, Todd Chessmore, Barry McFarland, Erin Heineman, Dean Tickle and Bo Berry. The press was represented by the Lexington Clipper-Herald, Kearney Hub, and KRVN Radio. Also in attendance were several members of the YMCA and other interested citizens.

NOTICE:

Notice of the meeting was given in advance, thereof by publication in the Lexington Clipper-Herald, the designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Affidavit of Publication attached to these Minutes. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the Council, and a copy of their Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice and the Agenda is attached to these Minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this Meeting. The proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. All items presented and discussed on the Agenda were available for public inspection.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fagot. Fagot informed the public that the Open Meetings Act is posted in Room 204 at the Dawson County Opportunity Center, located at 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, Lexington, Nebraska.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT:

Pepplitsch opened the discussion on the Middle School Improvement Project by reviewing two project development timelines that have been used in discussions between the school district, city, and YMCA. The first, original, timeline outlined a process of organization, conceptual design, focus groups, private fundraising, and preparation for a bond issue election in April 2013. The second timeline outlined an accelerated process of schematic design, design development, and construction of the project in mid-2012. Pepplitsch indicated that the two processes explained are quite different, and the second did not allow for the City to prepare for a bond election for City capital participation in the project. He also indicated that the intent of the City was to propose using revenue from the existing ½ cent sales tax that is currently being used to retire bonds from the prior school/city project in the mid-1990's. Chessmore explained that as a result of changes to school aid funding and school budgeting over the last two years, the school has accumulated existing funding to complete a capital project such as the middle school project without having to bond. He also indicated that those funds will need to be allocated soon to avoid any reduction in future state aid, which has led to the accelerated project timeline. Pepplitsch reiterated that the City's only means to provide capital for the project at a meaningful level would be through voter approval. He noted that he understood the frustration that has been caused by the accelerated project timeline, but that did not indicate a lack of support from the City for a joint project.

Discussion turned to the benefit of utilizing the Lexington Community Facilities Agency for development and construction of a middle school project; an interlocal agency which was created by the School and City in the mid-1990's. This would allow for continued collaboration between the City

and School, as well as allow for participation of private organizations for joint operations in new and existing facilities. It was discussed by members of the School Board that the School District should move forward on their needed improvements without City involvement, as there may not be any need at this time.

YMCA Board members Amy Biehl-Owens and Tod McKeone commented that the community has shown strong support of the YMCA in the past years, and their charter is based on the collaborative efforts of the community. It was indicated that there is frustration with the project development process, as now that the timeline has accelerated it appears the City is unsupportive of joint efforts. It was further indicated that the YMCA would like to be part of a joint project, as they believe private fundraising will benefit the development of public facilities, and the facilities will provide opportunity for the community in improved programming and activities. Steve Heldt noted that there is no intention of the YMCA to own facilities at this time, but an interlocal agreement could be used for the use of school owned facilities.

Following further discussion, it was determined that utilization of the Facilities Agency may be the best course of action as it provided more flexibility for future collaboration. Chessmore noted that he would be requesting that the School Board make a formal decision on their direction for the Middle School project at their regular board meeting later that evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mayor John Fagot declared the meeting adjourned.

John Fagot
Mayor

Pamela Berke
City Clerk

I, the undersigned City Clerk for the City of Lexington, Nebraska, hereby certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the Agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours prior to said meeting; that the Minutes of the Mayor and Council of the City of Lexington, Nebraska, from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

City Clerk