

**CITY OF LEXINGTON  
LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA**

A Special Meeting of the Lexington City Council was held Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at the Lexington Municipal Building, 406 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Lexington, Nebraska at 7:00 P.M. Members of the Council present were Mayor John Wightman, John Fagot, Neal Kohl, Rick Klamm, Patty Mandelko. City Officials present were City Clerk Leon Malzahn, City Manager Vance Bricker, City Attorney Willard Weinhold. Department Heads present were Assistant City Manager Joe Pepplitsch, Chief of Police Charles Clark, Recreation Director Chris Huff. Also present were Dana Daniels, representing Miller and Associates, Les O'Donnell representing State Department of Roads, Merle and Gary Margritz, Nova Workman, Scott Sarnes, Donna Anderson, Irma Hamagon, Frank Hennigan, Steve Brun, John Ostrom, Lars Ostrom, Lila Wood, Karen Darby, Harlan Anderson, Tom Mooberry, Jim O'Donnell, Jeannie Hampton, Rob Jeffrey, LaJean Bussong, Duane Phillipi, Lief Ostrom, Vivian Joseph. The press was represented by the Clipper-Herald, KRVN, KNOP TV, and Tri-City Trib.

**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 Wightman.

**UPRR HEARING:** Mayor Wightman opened with remarks concerning the crossing that had been discussed on July 1<sup>st</sup>, stating that the Council felt that additional input was needed from citizens, and therefore, is asking if there is anyone in the audience that would like to speak in favor of the crossing. He asked that they come forward at this time. Mr. Scott Sarnes, representing the Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce stated that the Board of Directors held a meeting this afternoon, at which time they discussed the closing of

the crossings, and the impact that it would have upon the citizens of Lexington, both in inconvenience, and in the amount of tax dollars that would need to be generated. He further stated that the outcome of this meeting was a positive vote for the City of Lexington closing the crossings and constructing the overpass. Upon the completion of his presentation, Mr. Les O'Donnell, District 6 Engineer for the State of Nebraska Department of Roads addressed the Council outlining the advantages and increase in safety that the City of Lexington would have if an additional overpass was constructed and the existing crossings closed. Additional comments from the citizens in attendance were that part of them did not want either Washington or Madison street crossings closed because of the convenience of driving directly south from the downtown area. They felt that this would divide the town even further than the Rail Road tracks do at this time with crossings. Some comments concerned the businesses that were located on south Washington Street and the adverse effect the closing of this crossing would have on this business. Mr. Joe Jeffrey representing Dawson Public Power addressed the City Council stating that the Board of Directors for Dawson Public Power has just passed a resolution stating that their position is 1. Immediate installation of traffic control signals at the corner of Plum Creek Parkway and Walnut Street. 2. Oppose the closing of Washington Street Rail Road crossing until such time that the Adams Street Overpass is complete. 3. No opposition to the closing of the Madison Street Rail Road crossing. Additional questions regarding the closing of the crossings referred to the access that of rescue and fire vehicles. Those people testifying included Donna Anderson, Irma Hennagon, Frank Hennigan, Steve Brun, John Ostrom, Lars Ostrom, Lila Wood, Karen Darby, Harlan Anderson, Tom Mooberry, Jim O'Donnell, Jeannie Hampton, Rob Jeffrey, LaJean Bussong, Duane Phillipi, and Lief Ostrom. Upon conclusion of the hearing, Mayor Wightman stated that additional information would be obtained regarding the cost of an overpass, and the impact that this would have upon retirement status of the City of Lexington, which reflects directly on property taxes. Mayor Wightman stated this information would be

available at the next regular council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, at which time the City Council would have this item on the Agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wightman declared the meeting adjourned.

John Wightman

Mayor

Leon E. Malzahn

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.

Lexington City Clerk

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