

**IN LIEU OF**  
**DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**Monday, January 25, 2021**

**I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE**

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

1. January 2021 Sales Tax Report reflecting November 2020 sales

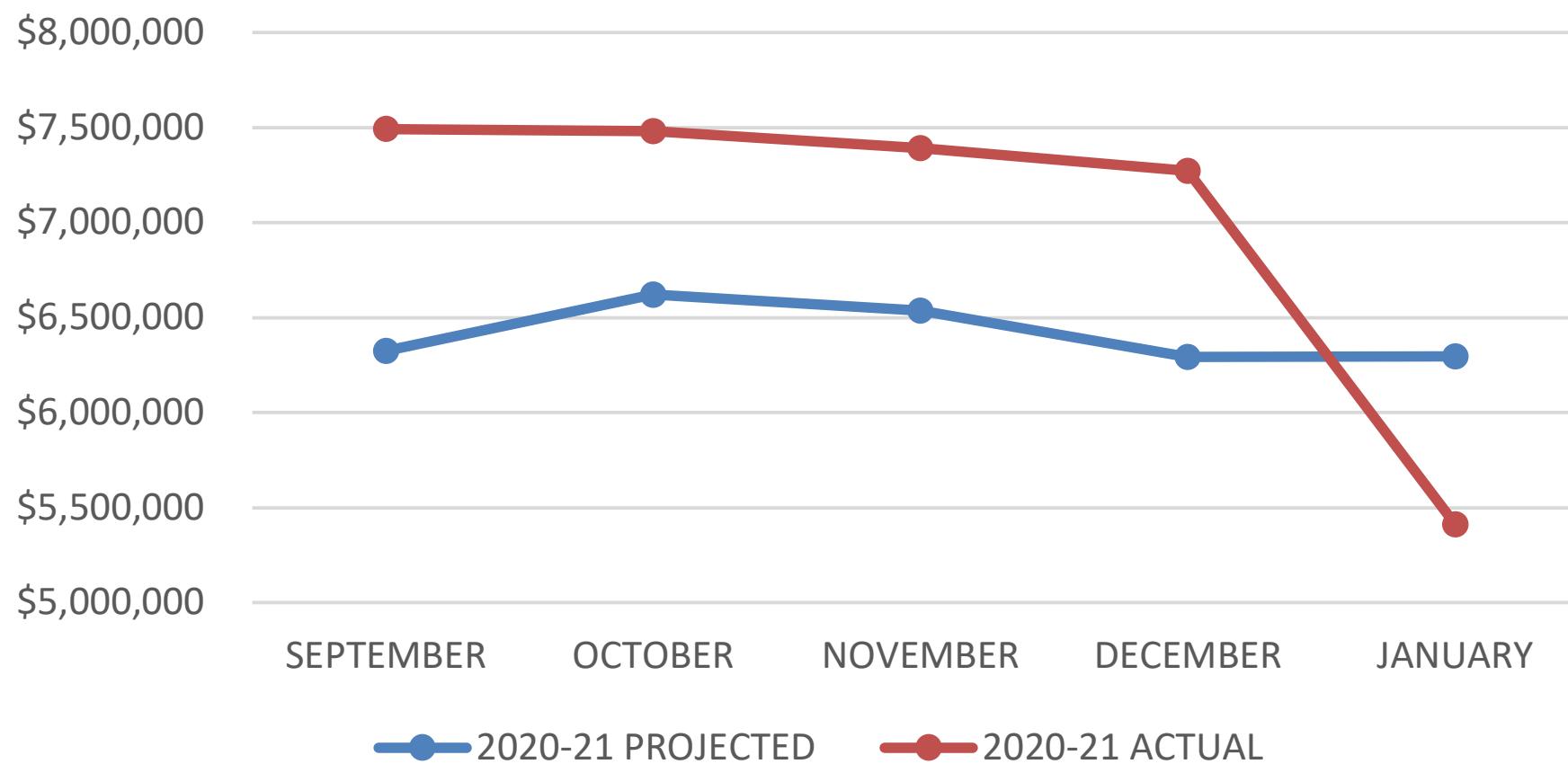
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

1. Administrative Approvals from January 12, 2021 through January 18, 2021
2. Final Action dated January 21, 2021

**II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Carrie Herrera Police Advisory Board – Robert Lau
2. Please leave the “Emergency Declaration” in place – Julie Ryan
3. Hiring New Police Chief – Karen Al-Shemmeri
4. East Lincoln Recycling – Dave Kirby  
Staff response provided by Donna Garden, Assistant Director, LTU
5. City Calendars – Jim Frohman  
Staff response provided by Justin Kohmetscher, City Communications
6. Resolution to end emergency powers – Anna [anna\\_s\\_68521@yahoo.com](mailto:anna_s_68521@yahoo.com)
7. Ban Open Carry of Firearms in Lincoln – Melody Vaccaro
8. Railroad Crossings on Hwy 2 – Jerry Maine
9. January 25<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting Teleconferencing Request – Sarah O’Neill
10. Returning Lincoln to a pre-pandemic normal – Shawn Trucke
11. Emergency Declaration comments – Josh Miller

## FY 2020-21 Projected vs Actual Net Sales Tax



**Actual Compared to  
Projected Sales Tax Collections**

	VARIANCE				
	2020-21 PROJECTED	2020-21 ACTUAL	FROM PROJECTED	\$ CHANGE FROM 19-20	% CHANGE FROM 19-20
SEPTEMBER	\$6,325,838	\$7,492,398	\$1,166,560	\$693,111	10.19%
OCTOBER	\$6,621,779	\$7,480,919	\$859,140	\$401,905	5.68%
NOVEMBER	\$6,537,834	\$7,392,815	\$854,981	\$281,686	3.96%
DECEMBER	\$6,292,944	\$7,273,404	\$980,460	\$389,694	5.66%
JANUARY	\$6,294,730	\$5,412,199	(\$882,531)	(\$567,472)	-9.49%
FEBRUARY	\$7,542,765				
MARCH	\$5,894,467				
APRIL	\$5,740,899				
MAY	\$6,709,386				
JUNE	\$6,338,704				
JULY	\$6,445,755				
AUGUST	\$6,914,489				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,659,590</b>	<b>\$35,051,735</b>	<b>\$2,978,610</b>	<b>\$1,198,924</b>	<b>3.54%</b>

Actual collections for the fiscal year to date are 9.29% over projections for the year.

**CITY OF LINCOLN**  
**GROSS SALES TAX COLLECTIONS (WITH REFUNDS ADDED BACK IN)**  
**2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021**

	ACTUAL 2016-17	ACTUAL 2017-18	ACTUAL 2018-19	% CHG.		ACTUAL 2019-20	% CHG.		ACTUAL 2020-21	% CHG.	
				FROM PRIOR YEAR	YEAR		FROM PRIOR YEAR	YEAR		FROM PRIOR YEAR	
SEPTEMBER	\$6,265,764	\$6,386,734	\$6,457,192	1.10%		\$6,927,862	7.29%		\$7,514,711	8.47%	
OCTOBER	\$6,598,756	\$6,811,452	\$6,817,440	0.09%		\$7,116,483	4.39%		\$7,514,902	5.60%	
NOVEMBER	\$6,471,721	\$6,537,754	\$6,637,486	1.53%		\$7,146,575	7.67%		\$7,422,009	3.85%	
DECEMBER	\$6,128,386	\$6,371,026	\$6,493,888	1.93%		\$6,897,823	6.22%		\$7,316,836	6.07%	
JANUARY	\$6,285,444	\$6,432,363	\$6,516,808	1.31%		\$6,776,561	3.99%		\$6,749,486	-0.40%	
FEBRUARY	\$7,293,928	\$7,459,132	\$7,386,107	-0.98%		\$8,118,745	9.92%				
MARCH	\$5,521,761	\$5,930,406	\$5,981,967	0.87%		\$6,303,510	5.38%				
APRIL	\$5,639,028	\$5,618,037	\$5,586,708	-0.56%		\$6,350,301	13.67%				
MAY	\$6,708,815	\$6,759,407	\$6,623,556	-2.01%		\$6,308,611	-4.75%				
JUNE	\$6,255,952	\$6,325,718	\$6,721,994	6.26%		\$5,793,431	-13.81%				
JULY	\$6,440,709	\$6,644,137	\$6,804,001	2.41%		\$6,282,775	-7.66%				
AUGUST	\$6,736,493	\$6,770,977	\$7,199,568	6.33%		\$7,595,398	5.50%				
TOTAL	\$76,346,757	\$78,047,143	\$79,226,715	1.51%		\$81,618,075	3.02%		\$36,517,944	4.74%	

**CITY OF LINCOLN  
SALES TAX REFUNDS  
2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021**

	ACTUAL 2016-2017	ACTUAL 2017-2018	ACTUAL 2018-2019	% CHG.		ACTUAL 2019-2020	% CHG.		ACTUAL 2020-2021	% CHG.	
				FROM PRIOR YEAR	YEAR		FROM PRIOR YEAR	YEAR		FROM PRIOR YEAR	
SEPTEMBER	(\$217,212)	(\$98,235)	(\$52,954)	-46.09%		(\$128,575)	142.81%		(\$22,314)	-82.65%	
OCTOBER	(\$31,712)	(\$30,920)	(\$7,524)	-75.66%		(\$37,469)	397.97%		(\$33,982)	-9.31%	
NOVEMBER	(\$81,460)	(\$923)	(\$2,944)	218.96%		(\$35,446)	1104.01%		(\$29,194)	-17.64%	
DECEMBER	(\$79,179)	(\$46,365)	(\$58,585)	26.36%		(\$14,114)	-75.91%		(\$43,432)	207.72%	
JANUARY	(\$294,431)	(\$379,926)	(\$342,169)	-9.94%		(\$796,890)	132.89%		(\$1,337,287)	67.81%	
FEBRUARY	(\$90,752)	(\$719)	(\$33,054)	4497.22%		(\$88,992)	169.23%		(\$26,624)	-70.08%	
MARCH	(\$92,105)	(\$49,445)	(\$40,643)	-17.80%		(\$36,630)	-9.87%				
APRIL	(\$29,707)	(\$41,280)	(\$31,464)	-23.78%		(\$30,982)	-1.53%				
MAY	(\$67,726)	(\$91,272)	(\$41,555)	-54.47%		(\$15,309)	-63.16%				
JUNE	(\$83,394)	(\$51,268)	(\$13,186)	-74.28%		(\$10,195)	-22.68%				
JULY	(\$1,932)	(\$347,486)	(\$29,772)	-91.43%		(\$45,946)	54.32%				
AUGUST	(\$17,202)	(\$96,471)	(\$9,385)	-90.27%		(\$34,190)	264.30%				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$1,086,812)</b>	<b>(\$1,234,310)</b>	<b>(\$663,236)</b>	<b>-46.27%</b>		<b>(\$1,274,738)</b>	<b>92.20%</b>		<b>(\$1,492,833)</b>	<b>35.53%</b>	

Year to date vs.  
previous year

Year to date vs.  
previous year

**CITY OF LINCOLN**  
**NET SALES TAX COLLECTIONS**  
**2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021**

	ACTUAL 2016-17	ACTUAL 2017-18	ACTUAL 2018-19	% CHG.		% CHG.		% CHG.
				FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2019-20	FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2020-21	FROM PRIOR YEAR
SEPTEMBER	\$6,048,552	\$6,288,498	\$6,404,239	1.84%	\$6,799,287	6.17%	\$7,492,398	10.19%
OCTOBER	\$6,567,045	\$6,780,531	\$6,809,916	0.43%	\$7,079,014	3.95%	\$7,480,919	5.68%
NOVEMBER	\$6,390,261	\$6,536,831	\$6,634,499	1.49%	\$7,111,129	7.18%	\$7,392,815	3.96%
DECEMBER	\$6,049,207	\$6,324,661	\$6,435,303	1.75%	\$6,883,710	6.97%	\$7,273,404	5.66%
JANUARY	\$5,991,013	\$6,052,437	\$6,174,639	2.02%	\$5,979,671	-3.16%	\$5,412,199	-9.49%
FEBRUARY	\$7,203,175	\$7,458,413	\$7,353,053	-1.41%	\$8,029,753	9.20%		
MARCH	\$5,429,656	\$5,880,960	\$5,941,323	1.03%	\$6,266,880	5.48%		
APRIL	\$5,609,320	\$5,576,757	\$5,555,244	-0.39%	\$6,319,319	13.75%		
MAY	\$6,641,089	\$6,668,135	\$6,582,001	-1.29%	\$6,293,302	-4.39%		
JUNE	\$6,172,558	\$6,274,450	\$6,708,808	6.92%	\$5,783,236	-13.80%		
JULY	\$6,438,777	\$6,296,651	\$6,774,229	7.58%	\$6,236,829	-7.93%		
AUGUST	\$6,719,292	\$6,674,506	\$7,190,183	7.73%	\$7,561,209	5.16%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,259,945</b>	<b>\$76,812,830</b>	<b>\$78,563,436</b>	<b>2.28%</b>	<b>\$80,343,339</b>	<b>2.27%</b>	<b>\$35,051,735</b>	<b>3.54%</b>



# Memorandum

**Date:** ♦ January 19, 2021

**To:** ♦ City Clerk

**From:** ♦ Rhonda Haas, Planning Dept.

**Re:** ♦ Administrative Approvals

**cc:** ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from January 12, 2021 through January 18, 2021:

**Administrative Amendment 20073**, to Change of Zone 08011, Cedars PUD, approved by the Planning Director on January 14, 2021, to allow for a 4,320 square foot building addition for a total floor of 47,390 square feet on property generally located at South 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Pioneers Boulevard.

**Administrative Amendment 20076**, to Use Permit 145B, Pine Lake Plaza Office Park, approved by the Planning Director on January 14, 2021, to increase the floor area on Lots 2 and 4, Block 3 by 4,000 square feet and 1,000 square feet respectively for an increase in the total allowed floor allowed from 224,929 square feet to 229,929 square feet, and to allow parking on Lots 3 and 4, Block 3 to be located up to 22' inside the 50' landscape buffer adjacent to Highway 2 but offset by enhanced landscaping on property generally located Pine Lake Road & Highway 2.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION NOTIFICATION**

**TO:** Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird  
Lincoln City Council

**FROM:** Geri Rorabaugh, Planning

**DATE:** January 21, 2021

**RE:** Notice of final action by Planning Commission: January 20, 2021

Please be advised that on January 20, 2021, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution PC-01741**, approving **Use Permit 18005A** – to amend existing Use Permit 18005 to expand it by approximately 0.82 acres to allow signs in adjacent outlots, on property legally described as Lot 4 and Outlots D and E, Firethorn 46th Addition, and Lots 1 and 2 and Outlot A, Firethorn 49th Addition, all located in the SW 1/4 of Section 2-9-7, and Outlots A, B and C, Firethorn 46th Addition, all located in the NW 1/4 of Section 2-9-7, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at South 84th Street and Firethorn Lane.

The Planning Commission action on this application is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the Planning Department within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission Resolution may be accessed on the internet at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) (search for "PATS"). Click on "Planning Application Tracking Service (PATS)" at the top of the page, click "Selection Screen" under "PATS Tools" on the right side of the screen, type in the application number (i.e. UP18005A), click on "Search", then "Select", and go to "Related Documents".

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Robert Lau <robert.brooks.lau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 10:56 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Carrie Herrera Police Advisory Board

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Good morning today is the day to appoint individuals to the Police Advisory Board. Carrie Herrera is by far the most qualified to serve on the board. She has first hand knowledge of the issues and a strong commitment to the city of Lincoln. I strongly support Carrie Herrera for the board.

Thank you

Robert Lau

Sent from my iPhone

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** djerryan93@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 1:09 PM  
**To:** Roy A. Christensen  
**Cc:** Richard W. Meginnis; James M. Bowers; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Council Packet  
**Subject:** Please leave the "Emergency Declaration" in place

**Importance:** Low

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

To the Lincoln City Council Members:

I was grateful that the Lincoln City Council put forth the emergency declaration and the special authority it extended to the Mayor to deal with the pandemic. I was pleased the City Council and other community leaders have supported the County Health Department. From my point of view, the way the City of Lincoln has handled the issues we have faced in 2020 and continue to deal with in 2021 have been done in an appropriate and helpful manner. I have siblings that live in other parts of Nebraska and in other states. When we have our ZOOM calls, I have been proud to let them know how Lincoln, NE has been handling things. Is it perfect, no, but nothing is. When the Governor of Nebraska, started pulling back some of the restrictions that were in place for the State of Nebraska and threatening the City of Lincoln with a lawsuit, they asked me what was going on with the Governor. I agreed with them that I did not like his decisions for lessening the restrictions the State had in place and a lawsuit would be a waste of my tax money.

I do NOT agree with the proposed resolution to remove the emergency power that was granted to the Mayor. The world is struggling with a pandemic and there is social and political unrest throughout the United States. Emergencies typically are not planned, so to me it makes sense that all the leaders for the City of Lincoln (City Council, Mayor, Police and Fire Departments, Hospital Administrators, etc) have the tools they need for the City to continue in a positive and helpful manner. The declaration helped secure additional funding for the City.

Hard decisions are not pleasant or easy. Even if a decision was been critically and carefully reviewed not everyone will be happy. I feel bad for all businesses in Lincoln! Sometimes we must step up for the safety and well-being of those that cannot protect themselves (the elderly, those with weakened immune systems, etc). Safety and peace for everyone is at the top of my list of needs. I appreciate the Mayor's and Health Department's news briefings. Bringing in others to help explain what else is being done and the impact on businesses is TRANSPARANT!!!! I feel the leaders for the City of Lincoln are doing their best to care for the residents of Lincoln.

I would like the emergency declaration that granted the special authority to the Mayor of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, to continue.

Regards,

Julie Ryan  
Resident of Lincoln, NE

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Karen Al-Shemmeri <kaybart66@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Hiring New Police Chief

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Subject: The Hiring of a New Police Chief

Date: 1/11/2021

From: Change Now LNK & Karen Al-Shemmeri District 1

To Whom it may concern,

We, the community members of Lincoln Nebraska, are calling to the elected officials whose duty it is to serve this city; to prioritize the lives, safety, and needs of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC's) that make up and contribute so much to this city. We are aware that the city is looking to hire a new police chief upon the resignation of former Chief, Jeff Bleimeister. Chief Bleimeister was responsible for beginning discussions around and attempting to take steps within the department that would hopefully foster a more inclusive, unbiased, police department that would protect and serve **all** members of this community. He did a good job at introducing what reform could look like within the department to ensure that the BIPOC community here in Lincoln would be prioritized by doing things like working with the T.R.A.C.E initiative and Hold Cops Accountable.

We ask that when conducting interviews and offering recommendations as to who will be LPD's next police chief, you keep in mind the citizens of this community who too often go forgotten, unheard, and underrepresented. With a new transition happening, we are committed to ensuring that when a decision is made for a permanent replacement, that the decision made is in this community's best interest, specifically the best interest of marginalized populations. For far too long, BIPOC communities have been mistreated, misunderstood, and pushed off to the side by the current systems in place. In return, BIPOC communities have been overpoliced, putting their lives and safety at risk. We ask that the following be taken into account when selecting a new chief to ensure the protection of everyone's rights and safety here in Lincoln:

- Commitment to working with and for communities most impacted by policing (i.e., Black, Indigenous, working class and low-income, people with disabilities or mental illness, Latino/a/x and Hispanic people)
- Prioritizes community safety, especially communities most impacted by policing
- Demonstrated understanding of systemic oppression and how it manifests in policing; Ability to articulate how this shapes policing in Lincoln
- Demonstrated success recruiting and leading diverse teams
- Demonstrated priorities of listening to the public and responding by changing police practices and policies to better meet public needs.
- Demonstrated commitment to advocating, agitating and working for change
- BIPOC representation, Someone invested in the BIPOC community

- Education or significant experience understanding of mental health and/or human services
- Demonstrated support for transparency in policing and accountability to the public.
- Support for more power being given to the Citizens Police Advisory Board to subpoena during investigations and sanction officers who use excessive force.
- Intercultural competence and experience demonstrated by learning the ways of various communities and respectfully interacting with those understandings
- Experience and priority for dismantling systemic racism, heterosexism, sexism, cisgenderism, and classism in policing.
- Demonstrated commitment to prioritizing de-escalation language, training techniques, and limits to excessive force including clear and transparent definitions of excessive force.
- Support for anti-bias training led by local experts
- Someone committed to working with and for the BIPOC community.
- Someone who takes into account our beings and existence, our ways and needs, etc. Someone who prioritizes our safety in the community.
- Someone willing to put in work to create systemic change.
- Someone willing to change the racist and oppressive policies and ways that our community is policed by.

We also challenge those involved in the hiring process to reconsider the process itself. As it stands, the public has no say in the appointing of police chief. We would like to challenge the city to consider public input in a more formal way when making decisions that affect the citizens lives, safety, and well being directly.

We believe that everyone responsible for the hiring of the new chief (Mayor Gaylor-Baird and City Council Members) will make the right decision that is in Lincoln's best interest. We ask you to think of the community members mentioned in this letter when making a decision, as they are the ones who are affected most by decisions like these.

Sincerely,  
 Change Now LNK & Lincoln Constituent, Karen Al-Shemmeri

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Donna K. Garden  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** Dave Kirby; Sandra J. Washington  
**Cc:** Angela M. Birkett; Elizabeth D. Elliott  
**Subject:** RE: East Lincoln Recycling

Dear Mr. Kirby,

Thank you again for your comments concerning our recycle collection sites. The decision to consolidate recyclables collection sites around Lincoln and Lancaster County was not an easy one. The cost for this program is shared by everyone that uses the landfill or who has garbage collected, and we have an obligation to provide the most efficient service possible. I'll do my best to address the concerns you have expressed.

Revenue needed to operate the landfills, education programs, recyclables collection sites, transfer stations, yard waste composting, household hazardous waste disposal, and various other services offered to the citizens and business through the Health Department's waste division is from the fees paid by haulers and other site users as they bring waste to any of the facilities operated by Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU) Solid Waste Management (SWM). If any of these costs for waste management operations go up, we must raise that "tipping" fee in order to continue that service. The "tipping" fee is made up of Landfill Fee and Occupation Tax. Our costs are rising substantially due to a number of factors. First, the cost of collecting the materials at the recyclables collection sites has increased substantially. Section, this is the first year we have ever been charged by the processor of the recyclables to sort and sell the materials to manufacturers. And finally, we are not getting revenues from the sale of the recyclables from our collection sites. Even in light of all this, we still firmly believe that recycling is the right thing to do. Recycling saves natural resources, is better for the environment, and increases the time before we need a new landfill. But to maintain the collection sites, we have to increase the "tipping" fee to pay for the increased costs. That increase, charged to the hauling service providers, is passed on to their customers - in their garbage collection bill - not their curbside recycling bill. So, everyone, whether they recycle or not, pays for the collection sites through their garbage bills.

Again, the only way the City can cover increased costs - such as the collection site increased cost - is to raise fees.

LTU SWM team has invested a lot of time and thought into finding the right system for Lincoln. Our ultimate goal is to create a system that is sustainable for the City, as well as encourage as much recycling as possible. We believe that consolidating the current 19 City sites / 9 County sites into **four or five** much larger sites is the most efficient and cost-effective system for the City. Location of the recyclables collection sites is a top priority for us. We realize that because we are reducing the number of sites, we must be wise and strategic about where we create these much larger sites. A number of factors were taken into consideration when determining where the larger sites should be located. One factor was whether or not the existing site could be expanded. Most of the existing sites cannot be expanded and thus cannot accommodate multiple large roll-offs. Another factor considered was the timing of our consolidation. We utilized excess capacity in existing sites - allowing us to shut down smaller sites. We then opened a large site on North 48<sup>th</sup> Street allowing us to consolidate sites near that facility, which impacted the site on Havelock. Once the larger Seacrest site is open, we will consolidate our Leon's and Union sites. We purposefully chose not to do that prior to the holidays. We have a Southwest site chosen and will begin construction this spring. Along with a central site at Lewis Ball Field and one in Northwest Lincoln, we hope to have a larger site available in each quadrant of the city.

Although these sites may not be as conveniently located for many, we believe there will be additional benefits with our new plan of creating larger consolidated sites. Because we will be increasing our capacity, we will have additional room for recycling material, which we hope will reduce overflowing problems that occasionally occur at some sites.

Additionally, because there are fewer sites, we will be able to add video surveillance monitoring to each site, which we hope will thwart illegal dumping.

Cities the size of Lincoln or larger often offer only one site for recycle collection – Fort Collins, Atlanta. Some like Sioux Falls requires all haulers to provide recycling service. Some like Omaha offer 5 sites as we have proposed. Lincoln's / Lancaster County's 28 sites were not sustainable and didn't allow for efficient collection.

Our collection sites are serviced on a daily basis, so I apologize for any inconvenience our schedule caused.

LTU SWM wanted to find a positive way to continue to offer the recyclables collection sites in Lincoln. We believe the new, enhanced sites will offer the community efficient and economical options to continue conserving natural resources and diverting materials from disposal in the landfill. If you have any additional questions or want to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Donna K. Garden**

Assistant Director | Utilities  
City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities  
O: 402-441-8605 | M: 402-430-6449  
  
555 S 10th St, Suite 208  
Lincoln, NE 68508

[ltu.lincoln.ne.gov](http://ltu.lincoln.ne.gov) | APWA Accredited  
Follow Us: [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [RSS](#)



---

**From:** Dave Kirby <dkins01@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 9, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Sandra J. Washington <SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov>  
**Cc:** Donna K. Garden <DGarden@lincoln.ne.gov>; Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: East Lincoln Recycling

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Thanks for writing back, but you have both only further convinced me you're in denial of how ineffective the recycling program is working at the present time. Your encouragement for people to PAY for curbside does not incentivize people to recycle. The City of Lincoln mandate to recycle cardboard did not mandate people paying for curbside. I continue to believe the recycling program in Lincoln is run like we were in Wymore or some other small town. Those places have a fraction of the population and have one site. Your plan is to have TWO? For example, yesterday (1/8/21) I was at the

Seacrest drop-off site and had to leave with the plastics I've had in the car for 2 days. It's out of my way to get to that drop-off site. The plastics recycling bin was GONE at 8:45 am. The female in the white City pickup who happened to be there said it would be there in twenty minutes. I didn't have time to wait and left. So I just went out of my way again TODAY at 1:50 pm and guess what? It's GONE again! Do you think it's my timing or do you think it would be good to have TWO containers? And you're going to say the new site will have more bins but my point is since the Seacrest site has been open, there's only been one. People in Lincoln have been living with a half-assed program since Gene Hanlon's days and it's worse now. So then I go to Havelock near Russ's to drop off the plastics and it's CLOSED. I just looked on your website and I can't believe a city of 300,000 is going to have TWO recycling drop off sites? Do you really expect people are going to be anxious to recycle and help the environment when you make it so difficult to find a place to recycle? Someone in southeast Lincoln near the YMCA on Yankee Hill is supposed to drive 10 miles to recycle? If you want to have an effective program you've got to stop trying to do it on the cheap. You have to open more sites. I also think it's insane that you've closed drop-off sites before you've opened the "super-site" at Seacrest.

And Ms. Birkett: I have included you in this email because I want to make sure the members of our City Council are aware of the shortcomings of our recycling program.

Thanks,

Dave Kirby

On Jan 7, 2021, at 9:18 AM, Sandra J. Washington <[SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Kirby. I understand your frustration with the overflowing cardboard bins at the Seacrest (East) Recycling Center over the holidays. I've communicated with Donna Garden, Assistant Director at Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, and she shared the following response:

We did experience peak usage of the recycle collection sites with the nice weather and the increased amount of materials during the holidays. We want to assure you, that we have been in constant communication with our contractor and staff have been on-site every day. Our collection contractor serviced the Seacrest site 4 times on January 4<sup>th</sup> (the date the picture was taken). Contractors and staff worked each of the holiday weekends - including the holidays. This site has been addressed preventing any issues with wind, animals, and / or odors.

The Christmas / New Year peak use and subsequent issues are not new. This year, though, we received almost double the amount of recyclables over past years and I'm very proud of our team for addressing this substantial increase as they did. The pandemic has changed the quantity of recyclables now available. This year we have seen the largest volume of recyclables collected since our program began. And we continue to make improvements. Even with the consolidation of sites, we will have more volume available at our sites and the sites will be larger. The Seacrest Site will be expanding substantially. Construction just to the east of the current site is almost complete and we will be moving in larger and more containers soon.

For our site users, we want to continue to encourage them to flatten boxes so that we can make the most use of the volume available and to please, not leave them on the ground. We also want to remind collection site users that curbside is available to everyone in Lincoln and often results in 5 times more recyclables recovered.

Thank you for sending your concerns and thank you for recycling. Sincerely, Sandra Washington

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2021, at 8:15 AM, Angela M. Birkett  
 [<ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>](mailto:ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov) wrote:

Please see the email below received through Council email. Thanks.

*Angie Birkett  
Administrative Secretary  
Lincoln City Council  
555 South 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste 111  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone 402-441-6867  
Fax 402-441-6533  
[abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov)*

<image001.png>

---

**From:** Dave Kirby [<mailto:dkins01@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2021 7:59 PM  
**To:** Council Packet <[CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov)>; PW Recycle  
<[Recycle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:Recycle@lincoln.ne.gov)>; Solid Waste Operations  
<[PWSolidWaste@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:PWSolidWaste@lincoln.ne.gov)>  
**Subject:** East Lincoln Recycling

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Just wondering how you'd rate the performance of the contractor hired to service the 70<sup>th</sup> and A Street recycling center over the holidays? I'll tell you what I think....everyone involved should be fired. I was there the day after Christmas to drop off recycling materials at 5 pm, and every cardboard bin was overflowing. Who would have thought there would be a lot of people dropping off cardboard on a Saturday after Christmas??

Have you seen the pictures someone posted on a “Nextdoor” app for East Lincoln two days ago? The pictures were of the same site, but on Sunday January 3. It actually couldn’t have been worse. The cardboard was just piled up next to the completely full bins.

If the City of Lincoln is going to institute a mandatory recycling ordinance, which dictates citizens MUST recycle their cardboard, and you want to limit the excessive growth of the landfill, then you have got to get your act together. If people are recycling more often on weekends, which makes perfect sense, why aren’t you having your contractors pick up more often on the weekends?

The word that comes to my mind when describing the Lincoln Recycling program is “half-assed.” I’m sorry if you’re offended, but that’s the way I see it, and I’m not alone. No one would like to see this program succeed more than I do, which is the reason why I’m taking the time to write to you expressing my concern. I recycle everything, and have encouraged everyone in my office to do the same. But you seem to be doing everything you can to ruin this program. You’ve closed many sites, forcing people to go further out of their way to find a drop off site. Your contractors aren’t doing a good job and need closer supervision. I know you’re hoping to open the expanded site at Seacrest soon, but that’s not going to help if you don’t supervise the contractors more closely and the bins aren’t emptied more often. And by the way, when is that new area going to open? Seems like it’s taking longer than the lane work on 70<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the V.A., which is another long, sordid story.

Please take immediate steps to fix this program.

Dave Kirby  
402-466-2800

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Justin R. Kohmetscher  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** jimtell@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Council Packet; Angela M. Birkett  
**Subject:** RE: City Calendars

Jim, both of those links you sent go to our old website. Our new calendar can be found here:  
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Community-Activities/Events-directory>.

We are still working on getting all of our events transferred into the new calendar, but the bulk of them should be there. Thanks for your patience as we update.

**Justin Kohmetscher** (he / him / his)

City Communications

O: 402-441-6801 | M: 402-937-2328

555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301  
Lincoln, NE 68508

[lincoln.ne.gov](https://lincoln.ne.gov)

Follow Us: [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [YouTube](#) / [Instagram](#)



---

**From:** Jim Frohman [<mailto:jimtell@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** Council Packet <[CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Calendars

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

With the move to the new web site the calendars no longer are showing meetings. For example there are no meetings this month or any month on the City website, see the links below. This may put the city in violation of the open meetings act. At the very least it is very inconvenient for those that follow city events. Please fix this as soon as possible.

<https://app.lincoln.ne.gov/aspx/city/main/caldate.aspx>

<https://app.lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/agenda/index.htm>

--

Jim Frohman  
7335 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506  
[jimfrohman@outlook.com](mailto:jimfrohman@outlook.com)

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Anna <anna\_s\_68521@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:18 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** resolution to end emergency powers

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

I'd like to be appalled at the idiocy and self-importance of the four council members who voted against public comment on the Christensen resolution. But unfortunately with Raybould and her loyal minions on OUR city council, the public opinion seems to mean LITTLE.

I'm ASHAMED of councilman bowers, who simply does NOT deserve to represent NE Lincoln if all he going to do is parrot the wishes of Baird and Raybould.

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Melody Vaccaro <melody.vaccaro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Cc:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Ban Open Carry of Firearms in Lincoln

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Lincoln City Council,

In the city of Lincoln, we had a person walking around with an assault weapon strapped to their body on January 17, 2021, as they held a flag with the other hand in their pocket. Today, on a day we celebrate non violence protest, justice, and equality, this photo shows that we allow the very opposite in our community. We need to ban the open carry of firearms.

Guns are designed for violence. There is no purpose to bring a gun to a protest unless one is prepared to be violent. There is no reason to walk around the city showing others your gun unless you are trying to intimidate or threaten others.

There should be zero tolerance for this type of behavior in Lincoln. It is threatening, violent, and stands in the way a safe community for all voices to be heard.

We need to ban the open carry of firearms.



Melody Vaccaro (*she/her/hers*)  
Nebraskans Against Gun Violence  
[Nebraska Firearm Report](#)

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** jerry.maine@protonmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Counselpersons,

After seeing the traffic back up on north bound south 14th st just south of highway 2 when a train was crossing, I saw the traffic on north bound south 14th st back up to Cushman St.

I would like to recommend to look into installing bridges to replace the train crossings at S. 14th St, S. 27th st. And S. 56th st.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Jerry Maine

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** City Clerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** Angela M. Birkett  
**Subject:** FW: January 25th City Council Meeting Teleconferencing Request

---

**From:** Sarah O'Neill <sarahoneill92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <CityClerk@lincoln.ne.gov>  
**Subject:** January 25th City Council Meeting Teleconferencing Request

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello,

My name is Sarah O'Neill, and I would like to request for the City Council to offer public comment via teleconferencing during the January 25th meeting.

Thank you,

Sarah O'Neill  
she | her | hers  
J.D. Candidate 2021  
University of Nebraska College of Law

## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** trucks1975 <trucks1975@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:59 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Cc:** Roy A. Christensen  
**Subject:** Returning Lincoln to a pre-pandemic normal

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

All,

I **implore** each of you to read and understand the ramifications of this new statement from World Health Organization dated today, January 20th, 2021. You also need to require our health department to provide a statement on this.

[\*\*https://www.who.int/news/item/20-01-2021-who-information-notice-for-ivd-users-2020-05\*\*](https://www.who.int/news/item/20-01-2021-who-information-notice-for-ivd-users-2020-05)

Many people have been saying for months that the PCR tests have too high of Cycle Threshold and are therefore entirely too likely to produce false positive results. That is why places such as Florida require the CT number on each test.

The bottom line is that **no symptoms=low viral load=not sick**. Let that sink in. The claim of asymptomatic spread was almost entirely false and was used to instill fear in the public. We have taken unprecedented actions that have devastated our community based in large part on positive case numbers. It is interesting timing for the WHO report to be released today of all days. Coincidence?

We simply must stop the insanity and return Lincoln back to normal ASAP. We are no longer in an emergency and that declaration must end and the health dept must be reigned in before more damage is done. The city council needs to reclaim their legislative authority and act as a check against out of control executive and bureaucratic power.

I would also add that anyone that still thinks masks are anything other than theater at this point is fooling themselves. Decades of studies on this topic and magically all those studies were deemed wrong about mid last year. There are so many inconsistencies in the way we enforce the mask mandate that it shows we really are not serious about it. So why keep up the charade? The chart at the bottom of this email shows just how ineffective mask mandates have been all over the world. We need to stop doing something that the data clearly shows is not working.

Lastly, I just want to tell you about 3 local small businesses that have been devastated by the restrictions, two in youth sports, and one restaurant owner. Two months ago, the owners of these prominent youth sports businesses confided in me that they likely will not make it unless things change immediately. One owner told me the amount of money their business had lost since last March and I was completely shocked. He told me nobody cares about them and that attempt to have their situation heard at every level of government were ignored. These are not wealthy people, but people just trying to earn a good living doing something they love. The restaurant owner has 3 restaurants, and while two of them have survived on takeout, the downtown location will likely have to close, even though it is in a perfect location with normally lots of foot traffic.

Please take this seriously and put an end to the restrictions that are destroying our community. I also believe the health dept needs to come clean with the citizens of Lincoln and admit where they were wrong. Public trust has been shattered during this time as so many have felt continuously lied to.

Shawn Trucke



## **Angela M. Birkett**

---

**From:** Josh Miller <jqmiller99@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Emergency Declaration comments

**[CAUTION]** This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Good morning. I wanted to share an opinion and my proposal for Lincoln's emergency declaration. First of all, I think it is needed due to the nature of the pandemic, but I also can understand the concerns of many citizens that may not be comfortable with an indefinite duration on the emergency declaration. This may have already been discussed, but I wanted to suggest implementing a trigger or a dead-mans switch as it were for the declaration. My two ideas were either setting a case numbers trigger, such as when weekly new cases reached a certain level or setting a year mark from the initial declaration when it would require another vote to renew the declaration. I believe having one of these in place would give those people not fully on board with the emergency declaration an assurance that it will end at some point unless further action is taken. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion and I also appreciate that I live in a city where I have certainty that all of the councilmembers truly care about the city and its citizens.

--Joshua Miller  
1721 W Washington ST  
Lincoln NE 68522  
jqmiller99@hotmail.com