

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, March 23, 2020

Present: Roy Christensen, Sandra Washington, Bennie Shobe, Tammy Ward, Jane Raybould, Richard Meginnis, and James Michael Bowers

Others Present: Teresa Meier, City Clerk; Jennifer Brinkman, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office; Pat Lopez, Interim Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney, and other City staff present.

Chair, Jane Raybould opened the meeting and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

II. CITY CLERK

Under Consent Agenda – City Clerk will ask for a Council member to move approval of the liquor application items; d, e, and f. There will be no public testimony required of the applicants.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances – 2nd Reading – Items 4.a. and 4.c. will be called together. Items 4.c. through 4.e. will be called together.

Under Resolutions - 1st Reading – Items 6.a. and 6.b.a Motion to suspend Council Rules will need to be made to have public hearing and action on these items. Raybould advised the goal behind this request is to shorten the agenda for next Monday's Council meeting.

III. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Brinkman advised Council the Mayor's office has been having two staff meetings a day and are conducting a lot of meetings through zoom. Conducting meetings through zoom is allowing for staff to practice social distancing and keep City business moving forward.

Lopez briefed Council on the latest guidance and concerns regarding COVID-19. Currently there are two positive COVID-19 cases in Lancaster County. The first positive case is travel related; the second positive case is a family member of the first positive case. Currently there are no locally transmitted cases in Lancaster County; 178 people are currently being monitored due to their travel history and possible exposure; 108 tests have come back negative; 6 tests are still pending from the Nebraska Public Health Lab. Private labs are starting to conduct testing, at this time it is unknown how many of these tests are pending as the results are received. As of this morning there were 51 confirmed cases in Nebraska. Douglas County is reporting 35 positive cases; Cass County has 1 positive case; Sarpy County 3 positive cases. Douglas and Sarpy Counties have community acquired positive cases; we do not currently have information on how these community spread cases were acquired; we do know these individuals have not traveled or knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive. Lincoln County has 3 travel related positive cases; Adams County has 1 positive case; Buffalo County has 2 positive cases; Dawson County has 1 positive case; and Nemaha County has 1 positive case. These positive cases are spread through the whole state. Nationally there have been 15,219 positive cases and 201 deaths as a result of COVID-19. Data received through the John Hopkins site reports 35,225 positive cases confirmed in the United States; including 471 total deaths.

Here in Lincoln we have instituted the Incident Command System at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as the lead agency; fire, police and Transportation & Utilities staff is a part of the unified command structure.

In addition to the monitoring of COVID-19 the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Operations branch continues to monitor respiratory illnesses and flu-like illnesses; in the absence of testing we are better equipped to determine spikes in these types of illnesses and the demographic areas that are being effected.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Logistics has developed an inventory and delivery system of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to agencies, organizations, and healthcare providers throughout the City and

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the County.

Bryan at Lifepointe will be opening a drive-thru testing clinic tomorrow; individuals will need to have an appointment to receive testing which will include a flu test and respiratory panel. If those test come back negative then they will be given a COVID-19 test. If an individual arrives and does not have an appointment they will be directed to the Urgent Care Center. CHI is working to get drive-thru testing implemented.

Bryan, CHI and the surgical Hospital are no longer allowing elective surgeries to be completed at this time.

Discussions are being has with long-term care facilities to determine their current needs. A partnership has been developed with Community Health Endowment to get a survey of homeless and near homeless care providers in the community to determine a better understanding how these individuals can be helped. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department will be working closely with the People's City Mission to help address needs. Information is also being shared with the Chamber of Commerce and LIBA. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is also working closely with Lincoln Public Schools and the University.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is trying to be responsive to the community needs; a hotline is available to the public to respond and voice concerns; 402-441-8006. If an individual calls reporting symptoms related to COVID-19 they may be referred to the CDC who will then work directly with their healthcare provider and/or an appointment for testing can be scheduled for them. If individuals are returning from travel within areas of high-risk exposure they should be contacting the hotline to report that information. Nationally there is a shortage of tests available thus the process we are currently practicing to get individuals tested.

A brief discussion was had regarding the current restrictions and the need to make any further changes. Lopez stated that this is a rapidly evolving situation; further action would be based on what is happening within the community and if addition measures need to be taken to safeguard the community.

Chair, Raybould adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.