

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, May 4, 2020

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

Others Present: Soulinnee Phan, Deputy City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Interim Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney; Steve Sheridan, Center for People In Need; and other City Staff present

Chair, Jane Raybould opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

Minutes from April 20, 2020 approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Board of Equalization will be held prior to the regular City Council meeting.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances & Related Resolutions – For Action Only – A brief discussion was had regarding Items 5.a and 5.b; Raybould will recuse herself on these items.

IV. CENTER FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Steve Sheridan briefed Council members, stating the services have been a struggle under the circumstances but also very gratifying. There has been a request for the National Guard to assist with distribution through May. Sheridan reported the biggest need has been for diapers; size 5/6. The YMCA did a diaper drive which was very helpful. Diaper donations can be can be dropped off at the Center for People In Need or arrangements can be made for the items to be picked up.

V. MAYORS OFFICE

Mayor briefed Council on the large numbers of positive cases that have recently been reported. The Mayor's office continues to consult with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are concerns with the recent outbreak in Crete and possible additional community spread cases. There are also additional concerns related to the economic impact of the pandemic. The Congressional Delegation has proposed a bill in Congress for cities most vulnerable of economic impacts related to COVID-19.

Washington stated she had concerns about the increasing numbers of positive cases and the careful consideration of public relaxation of the Directed Health Measures (DHM) too soon.

VI. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Public Health Update provided by Pat Lopez, Interim Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Lopez briefed Council on the latest guidance and concerns regarding COVID-19. Stating the community has been working well together. 30 new positive cases were reported late last night. Bryan has begun drive-thru testing in Crete; CHI drive-thru has increased testing; positive cases have really peaked this past week. Meetings have been held with cultural centers to develop processes to support families that are

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in quarantine. Weekly meetings are being held with Long Term Care facilities to share learning opportunities. LabCorp is completing 150 tests per day. Lopez also reported “Test Nebraska” started today. Lopez strongly urged the wearing of a mask; if you have any underlying health issues or are older you are encouraged to stay home.

Discussion followed.

VII. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. JBC – Bowers, Washington (04.21.20)

Washington reported the committees approved grant funding to a number of organizations. They received two to three times the normal funding requests; the applications were very impressive and all funds were dispersed.

2. Safe & Successful Kids Inter-Local – Shobe, Meginnis (03.26.20) *carry over from April 6, 2020*

Shobe reported the Inter-Local met via zoom and discussed and adjusted updates of the memo of understanding related to SRO’s to meet the state standards. Discussion was also had regarding the budget.

3. DLA – Meginnis, Ward (04.28.20)

Ward reported the DLA met in two different groups via zoom and discussed budget and maintenance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Discuss videoconferencing

Raybould advised that she has concerns with the Council meeting in Chambers as the number of positive cases increase. Other municipalities are meeting and conducting business via zoom. Bowers stated the zoom meetings enable the Council to conduct business and keep the City safe. Shobe voiced concerns regarding the legality of Council members holding meeting(s) via zoom but having the public come to the Chambers to testify, and raised the question, how is that keeping the public safe. Ward stated that she supports Bowers in meeting via zoom as it would be irresponsible not to meet at all. Ward also supports allowing the public to testify via zoom as that is how they conducted business at the recent WHJPA meeting. Raybould weighed in stating the Omaha City Council has been allowing public testimony via zoom. Washington stated her concerns of the open mic sessions being placed on hold and supported reinstating public testimony via zoom. Meginnis suggested meeting in person May 18th for the election of the Chair/Vice-Chair and the possibility of holding an in person emergency meeting. Kirkpatrick advised Council members per State Statute the public can participate and would be in compliance with the Executive Order.

Discussion followed.

Vote on teleconferencing the May 11th & May 18th Directors’ & Council Meetings:

Motioned by Ward, seconded by Washington and carried the following vote: AYES: Bowers, Raybould, Ward, Washington; NAYS: Christensen, Meginnis, and Shobe.

Vote on amending to in person on May 18th:

Motioned by Meginnis, seconded by Christensen and carried the following vote: AYES: Christensen, Meginnis, Shobe; NAYS: Raybould, Bowers, Ward, and Washington.

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Vote on reconvening to meet in person if the local Directed Health Measures are lifted and allowing the public to participate and provide public testimony via zoom:

Motioned by Washington, seconded by Ward and carried the following vote: AYES: Christensen, Meginnis, Shobe, Raybould, Bowers, Ward, and Washington.

2. Discuss election of chair/vice-chair scheduled for May 18, 2020

A brief discussion was had among all Council members to nominate Meginnis for Chair and Bowers for Vice-Chair. Shobe stated that he had planned to nominate Ward for Vice-Chair. Raybould stated continued discussion could be had at a later time regarding this matter.

3. Discuss Council Board/Committee Assignments

Christensen stated that typically any Council member who likes their assignments can keep them. The

Council Chair may have to make some adjustments to their assignments as they take on more as the Chair. Meginnis suggested continuing the discussion among one another to determine if committee assignments need to be adjusted. Washington stated she would love to be on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board but understood that Christensen also enjoys being on the committee.

Chair, Raybould adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.