

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, June 1, 2020

Present: Sändra Washington, Tammy Ward, Roy Christensen, Bennie Shobe, Jane Raybould, 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; Dan Marvin, Director, Urban Development; and other City Staff present

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

Minutes from May 11, 2020 approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Public Hearing Resolutions – Items 4.a. and 4.b. will be called together.

Washington inquired to procedural changes related to Item 5.d.

Kirkpatrick reported that the Mayor had concerns the effect the pandemic has had on bars and restaurants. With the re-opening of the bars and restaurants they still have limited seating. Staff discussed ways that would help businesses to be more economically viable. As a result of these discussions the Mayor issued an order giving the City the ability to temporarily relax certain requirements. For example; an establishment would be able to set up temporary railings sectioning off an outdoor area for patrons. Or, temporarily allow an establishment to set up a tented area in their parking lot to expand seating for patrons.

Item 5.d., Suspending portions of Chapter 5.04 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, Alcoholic Liquor, during the current emergency to shorten the application period and to allow the City Clerk to administratively approve certain outdoor Special Designated Licenses (SDL). This would temporarily delegate the authority of the City Council to the City Clerk for SDL's that are on public property and relax the requirement of applying for an SDL twenty-one days in advance of the event.

Discussion followed

IV. MAYORS OFFICE

Mayor advised Council the public has been notified there is a curfew in place tonight starting at 9:00 p.m. though 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The new Direct Health Measure (DHM) has been put in place as of today; allowing bars to re-open. With the current curfew it will make it difficult for patrons to visit these establishments.

The Economic Recovery Task Force has been created. Input was received from Council members in establishing this task force and the members of the task force will be announced later this week.

With the current limitations that have been established on public gatherings the Lincoln-Lancaster County

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Health Department has created a form for individuals to complete on events with groups of 500 or more. This will allow for Health Department staff to review, provide guidance and ensure proper guidelines are being followed with the current safety measures that are in place.

Staff are also developing guidelines for the out-door dining extensions to allow establishments to expand capacity without increasing density.

Mayor requested support of the Council on the proposed Hate Crime Ordinance that will be coming before Council. This will allow the City to make a value statement and policy statement that allows for greater enforcement against those who choose to commit crimes with intent to intimidate on the basis of hate and perceptions of difference.

Mayor advised Council members of a phishing email that was distributed to Council members today in fact did not come from the Mayor's office. Information Services is looking into resolving the fake email account.

Discussion followed.

A brief discussion was had on the events that took place regarding the protestors, the destruction of property and the arrests of some of the individuals violating the curfew.

Dan Marvin, Director, Urban Development provided a brief update regarding Item 5.c. Approving a Real Estate Sales Agreement between the City and TNNG Capital, LLC for sale of City-owned property located at the Northeast corner of 27th and Old Cheney Road.

Discussion followed.

V. 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. There are currently 1212 positive cases in Lancaster County. Of the positive cases 77.1% are from the past month. Lancaster County has had nine deaths related to COVID-19. As of yesterday, there are twenty-six individuals hospitalized; six of those are currently on ventilators.

Lopez reported that testing has improved in the past two weeks with private labs and Test Nebraska picking up pace. Bryan Health is still operating the drive-thru testing sites.

Lopez stated a third or 35% of the positive cases in Lancaster County are related to meat packing plants.

In relation to the Direct Health Measure (DHM) that went into effect today, peddler permits are still prohibited. Servers and restaurant staff are still required to wear face coverings.

The Lancaster-County Health Department continues to have discussions with Pinnacle Bank Arena, the homeless community, cultural centers, long-term care facilities, and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS).

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There are currently thirty-four individuals working on contract tracing. Eleven of those individuals are nurses from Lincoln Public Schools (LPS).

Discussion followed.

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. BOH – Bowers (05.12.20)

Bowers reported the briefing that Lopez just provided is a detailed highlight of what was primarily discussed at the meeting.

2. PBC – Meginnis, Raybould (05.12.20)

Meginnis reported approval of pay schedules was completed. The various remodeling projects are moving forward.

3. DLA – Meginnis, Ward (05.26.20 & 05.27.20)

Ward reported the DLA is working closely with downtown establishments; review of the budget is underway. Discussion was had on future railyard events, block 65 redevelopment agreement and Pershing Auditorium proposals. Washington raised concerns regarding live music at local venues.

4. DEC – Ward (05.26.20)

Ward reported discussion was had on presenting changes to articles of incorporation to Council during a Pre-Council to be held June 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.