

**MINUTES**  
**DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**Monday, June 8, 2020**

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

**Absent:** Jane Raybould

**Others Present:** Soulinnee Phan, Deputy City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Interim Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Jennifer Brinkman, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney; and other City Staff present

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes from June 1, 2020, approved and adopted

**II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

**III. CITY CLERK**

Under Consent Agenda – Items 1.a. through 1.d. will be called together, they are introduced by Washington, and the remaining items will be introduced by Bowers.

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

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Items 6.a. and 6.b., 6.c. and 6.d. will be called together. Items 6.f. through 6.h. will be called together. The City attorney will speak on Item 6.k.

Under Ordinances 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading – Item 7.d. has a Motion to Amend

**IV. MAYORS OFFICE**

Brinkman advised Council the Mayor has announced several steps the Mayor's office will be taking in light of the protests that occurred over the past couple of weeks. These steps were outlined this past Friday and included re-examining the ordinances that govern the Citizen Police Advisory Board, partnering with individuals throughout the community to create listening sessions, convening the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee to extend outreach and the impact of those conversations.

With regard to COVID-19 administration implemented a mandatory face covering policy for all employees. Steps are being taken to open offices and offer services to the public while providing safety measures for the staff and the public by installing plexi-glass and the counters.

The Mayor is scheduled to make her presentation on the recommended budget to the City Council on Monday, June 15, 2020. Department Director's will be briefing Council members on their department budgets per the schedule that has been outlined and shared with Council members.

The City Attorney will be addressing Item 6.k. pertaining to establishing the Department of Aging as a City department within the City's administration.

**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. Lopez reported there are currently 1356 positive cases in Lancaster County. The total number of positive cases for the month of June is 145. 267

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individuals have recovered. 70% of the positive cases are in the racial or ethnic minority population; 30% of those are Hispanic, 29% are Asian, 7.6% are African American. 75% of the positive cases are in the 20-59 age groups. Efforts are being made with Councilman Shobe on getting more testing completed in the community. A total of 10 deaths have occurred in Lancaster County. The positivity rate for cases reported last week indicated 5.9% which is a drop from the peak of 14.1% in the second week of May. The over-all positivity rate in Lancaster County is 7.4%. Approximately 5.6% of the local population has been tested. Geographic clusters have been identified using hotspot analysts. 34 nurses are engaged in contract tracing, providing resources and education to individuals who have tested positive. Work continues with Cultural Centers to provide quarantine kits to families and resource assistance. The COVID-Dial has been moved to the higher yellow level, this was done based on the number of cases being more flat and/or the positivity rate decreasing. A team within the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has been working on creating a risk analysis matrix. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has distributed over four hundred and twenty thousand pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE's) to hospitals, long-term care facilities, and first responders. Volunteers are still being utilized to assist in making face coverings. Conversations are being had with Lincoln Public Schools on re-opening after the summer break.

Discussion followed

**VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS**

**1. RTSD – Christensen, Bowers, Raybould (06.01.20)**

Bowers reported the committee received a report on the Statement of Financial Activity, a report of the current budget status, and a draft CIP for FY 2020/2021. An update on the 33<sup>rd</sup> and Cornhusker project was provided. A public meeting originally scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the Directed Health Measures. Postcards and emails will be sent out in lieu of the cancelled meeting. The draft environmental document is planned to be completed by spring of 2021 with a formal public hearing to follow. Christensen added Rick Vest was voted in as the new Chair and James Michael Bowers was voted in as the new Vice-Chair. A formal request was made to the County Board for the levy, which is expected to be reduced because of reduced revenue to the County; this will directly impact the 33<sup>rd</sup> and Cornhusker project. A 1% increase in levy spending authority was passed. Christensen reminded Council members that it is his understanding that the RTSD is the one and only political/governmental organization in the state of Nebraska that can only spend money that it has. The RTSD can't borrow or bond money; they can only spend money as it comes in.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

1. A brief discussion was had regarding the upcoming Budget Department/Agency Meeting(s) schedule. Meginnis advised other Council members to let him know if they have any scheduling conflicts with the proposed schedule of meetings.
2. A brief discussion was had to continue the current process regarding Library Board vacancies.
3. Meginnis reminded Council members to keep City Council Administrative staff apprised of their schedules; primarily if they plan to attend an event so that the administrative staff can post the public announcements accordingly and follow protocols in regards to quorums'. Christensen added, it has been common practice of the Council members, when they are at an event where there are multiple members of the Council that they not congregate as they want to avoid the appearance of a problem.

Discussion followed

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.