

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, July 20, 2020

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

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 2:03 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from June 22, 2020, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Consent Agenda – Items 1.c. through 1.e. will need a Motion to suspend the rules for a vote.

Under Petitions & Communications – Item 2.c and 2.d. will need introduced and a Motion to suspend the rules for a vote. Item 2.d. should be dated July 27, 2020 not June 27, 2020.

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

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Items 5.a. and 5.b. will be called together.

Under Ordinances 3rd Reading – Item 6.c. has a Motion to Amend. Item 6.g. has a Motion to Amend No. 1 and No. 2. Item 6.l. has a Motion to Amend No. 1.

IV. MAYORS OFFICE

Brinkman advised Council on the new Direct Health Measure requiring face coverings started today. A list of “frequently asked questions” (FAQ) have been posted to the following website lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/. If there is anyone with questions or need access to face coverings can contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 402-441-8006. Website information can be translated in the following languages: Arabic; Karen; Spanish; Ukrainian; Vietnamese.

StarTran will begin normal operation on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

The 2050 Comprehensive Plan is moving forward; scenario summaries and FAQ can be found on the following website Lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/forward/.

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 the total number of COVID-19 cases in Lancaster County to date is 2,482; 52 additional cases have been reported, so far, today. For the week ending July 11, 2020, the total number of cases reported was 229; for the week ending July 18, 2020, the total number of cases reported was 311. Lancaster County reports 817 confirmed recovered cases. 54% of the positive cases are individuals of the ethnic minority population. Different trends are emerging in Lancaster County. Within the past two to three weeks 77% of the positive cases are in the white population; 38% of the positive cases are in the 20-39 age group. In the past fifteen days 76% of the cases are in the under 40 age group. The positivity rate for cases reported for the week ending July 18, 2020 was 6.6%. There has been an increase in the positivity rate for the past three weeks. For the eight weeks prior, there had actually been a decline in the positivity rate.

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Approximately 37,000 people or 11.5% of the Lancaster County population have been tested. Once you are tested and become a “case”, you’re only a “case” one time; being tested multiple times does not increase the number of “cases”. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) has distributed over 500,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the community. 28 community events have been approved; the only event that has been denied was the High School Rodeo Finals. LLCHD has decimated 3500 test kits to long-term-care and assisted living facilities. Testing response has dramatically improved with a 48-72 hour turn-around time in retrieving results. Staffing has allowed contact tracing to be completed within 24 hours of the LLCHD being notified. As of this morning 610 individuals are currently being monitored.

Throughout the pandemic there have been difficult and serious conversations being had with multiple sectors of the community; to summarize: the LLCHD has been working with local government agencies, education business and child-care facilities. Decisions regarding the Directed Health Measures (DHM) have been data driven from the local community; other factors include consultations with National experts, guidance for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and partnerships with the local medical community and health systems. Dr. Rademacher, who is the consultant for the LLCHD, recommended the wide use of face coverings in the community and was supported by the Lancaster County Medical Society.

Discussion followed.

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. DLA – Meginnis, Ward (06.23.20)

Ward reported the board adopted a flat budget for this year. There will not be a meeting in July. A brief discussion was had on the “O” street landscape project.

2. BOH – Bowers (06.23.20)

Bowers reported the BOH will meet tomorrow.

3. PRT – Bowers (06.25.20)

Bowers reported cases continue to be monitored.

4. WHJPA – Ward (06.25.20)

Ward reported the WHJPA authorized a \$600,000 increment expenditure payment for the Pinnacle Bank Arena (PBA) for cash flow purposes. The payment will be repaid upon PBA business returning to “normal” after the current COVID-19 situation.

5. Parks & Rec – Christensen (07.09.20)

Christensen reported there were a couple of naming projects that came forward from the Parks and Rec policies committee; naming of the south Haymarket trail segment that connects “N” Street to the Jamaican North Trail is proposed to be named the Chris Beutler Trail. The Rock Island/Jamaican North Trail Bridge is proposed to be named the Great Plains Trails Network Bridge. These items were approved by the Parks and Rec Advisory Board and will come before Council for final action.

6. PBC – Meginnis, Raybould (07.14.20)

Meginnis reported the County Assessor remodel project is complete. The Hall of Justice (HOJ) security entrance remodel is about halfway complete; equipment still needs to be installed, Raybould added final completion is scheduled for August 12th. The courts have been utilizing space in the 605 building, Council chambers and the Auld Pavilion. The PBC also approved amendments and vouchers and will be dealing with their budget in August.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council members had a brief discussion on allowing future tele-conferencing for public comment for future City Council meetings and the upcoming Public Hearing on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget set for August 3, 2020.

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Discussion followed.

Vote on providing public comment via tele-conferencing the July 27th, August 10th, and August 31st
Seconded by Bowers and carried the following vote: AYES: Raybould, Christensen, Bowers, Ward, Washington, Shobe, Meginnis; NAYS: None. Motion passed.

Vote on providing public testimony on the Mayor's Proposed Budget during the August 3rd Council meeting via tele-conferencing.

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

Discussion followed.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.