

**MINUTES**  
**DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**Monday, August 3, 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; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; and other City Staff present

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes from July 20, 2020, approved and adopted

**II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

**III. CITY CLERK**

Under Consent Agenda – Items 2.a. through 2.c. will be called together.

Under Public Hearing Resolutions – Item 4.a. will have a Motion to Amend No. 1.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Items 5.c. through 5.e. will be called together. Item 5.f. will have a Motion to Amend No. 1 and a Motion to suspend the rules to allow Council to take action and vote today.

Under Ordinances 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading – Items 7.a. and 7.b. are for action only.

**IV. MAYORS OFFICE**

Mayor Gaylor Baird briefed Council members on the Economic Recovery Taskforce; in the coming weeks recommended strategies to support local businesses and workforce development are expected to be finalized and present them in a final report by the end of the month. In the spirit of engagement and gathering input and feedback from the residents and the many organizations throughout Lincoln, a survey was offered to gather information on the impact of COVID-19. Over 280 organizations responded to the survey. The top areas in which companies are seeking support include; clear guidance on how to create a safe working environment; information on accessing financial assistance; access to personal protective equipment (PPE); and guidance on how to support their employees mental health and social connectedness. There was also a great deal of interest, from individuals who took the survey, in connecting other organizations who may be interested in peer-to-peer or business-to-business support. The taskforce will be taking a closer look at how the City can support those types of peer-to-peer opportunities. The point person, in the Mayor's office, on the taskforce is Alyssa Martin.

The COVID-19 Risk Dial contains a matrix of data and information to determine the placement of the dial. The City of Lincoln has been featured as a community, in terms of the dial, on the innovative efforts to communicate risk and navigate the pandemic in Bloomberg's Cities newsletter that is distributed to cities throughout the country and internationally.

**V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE**

**LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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

Lopez briefed Council on the latest guidance and concerns regarding COVID-19. Lopez reported Lincoln-Lancaster County currently has 3118 positive cases, additional tests are expected to be reported later this afternoon. Approximately 45,500 people or 14% of the population have been tested. The positivity rate for the racial and ethnic minority group is currently at 47%. Within the past few weeks 77% of all positive cases have been in the white population. 63% of all the cases reported in the first full week of July were in the 20-29 year age group. In the last week of July that percent dropped to 43%. 15 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Lincoln Lancaster County. There are several individuals who are critically ill at the present time. The positivity rate for cases reported last week, ending Saturday, is 7.2%. The overall positivity rate is 6.8%. There are currently 24 individuals in the hospital due to COVID-19, of those individuals 10 are from Lancaster County and 2 are on ventilators. Hospital capacity remains really good; 47% of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds are available and 87% of the hospital ventilators are currently available. Contact tracing continues to be completed within 24 hours after receiving notification of a positive individual. The LLCHD continues to work with the Governor's office and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to resolve longstanding testing issues and results being received in a timely manner. The risk dial contains a matrix of a variety of measures of data that go into the risk dial; this information can be viewed on the website. Calls related to changes the in DHM have decreased. People in the community are reporting through see-click-fix. The LLCHD has met with bars in the downtown area to discuss doing individual work and make sure they have the tools they need to be successful in being open. Bar owners have a strong desire and willingness to remain open and the LLCHD desires to help them achieve that. 4500 test kits have been distributed to long-term care facilities; testing needs to continue at the long-term care facilities in order for them to move forward in allowing individuals to visit family members. The LLCHD has provided 384,000 pieces of PPE to 33 long-term care facilities throughout the community. The LLCHD has approved 41 events. Test Nebraska has moved to Gateway, CHI/Saint Elizabeth is also in the Gateway parking area, Bryan continues testing at their 27<sup>th</sup> and Pinelake Road location.

Discussion followed.

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

1. **PAC** – Shobe, Christensen, Bowers (07.28.20)

Shobe reported discussion was had on the current directive, StarTran Modification Plan and Handi-Van services. Shobe expressed concerns with providing a fair and accurate evaluation of the current directive due to COVID-19 directly impacting the accuracy of the data. Discussion was also had on ideas for the upcoming directive.

2. **PRT** – Bowers (07.30.20)

Bowers reported there are a few properties still on the pending list, some cases have been removed and there are properties that continue to be monitored.

3. **DEC** – Ward (07.21.20)

Ward reported the DEC was briefed by Lincoln Electric System (LES) on customer financing obligations should peers default on their DEC payments. The DEC bonds will be renewed this fall so the is looking ahead and having conversations with their customers to determine if any issues or concerns may arise.

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**4. WHJPA – Ward (07.23.20)**

Ward reported the approval to the TDP Phase One and Phase Two restrictions of the Haymarket were approved.

**5. JBC – Bowers, Washington (07.21.20)**

Washington reported discussion was had on the progress of the Lancaster County Juvenile Justice data. Washington stated the City deserves to give themselves a pat on the back, be uplifted and recognized for the work and efforts of the JBC in providing funding for mental health services throughout the community; through keno/lottery funds. The JBC received an update on how COVID-19 has affected the community. A robust conversation was had on the racial equity and justice and what can be done to elevate and move forward that area in juvenile justice work.

**6. ILC – Christensen, Shobe, Washington (07.27.20)**

Christensen reported a discussion was had regarding the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) interactions with liquor establishments and the success and/or failures of compliance with the current Direct Health Measure (DHM). Washington added that she was assured by Lopez that there was a lot of communication with individual bars; including face-to-face conversations, phone calls, letters, multiple ways; to encourage folks to adhere to the DHM before the direction is given to close for 24 hours. The LLCHD is working proactively to work with establishments before actions are taken. Shobe echoed Washington's statements regarding the communication efforts and referenced that the LLCHD will be making extra efforts in communicating with bar owners.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.