

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2020

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

Others Present: Soulinnee Phan, City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; and other City Staff present.

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from November 2, 2020, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Consent Agenda – Items(s) 1.a. through 1.b. will be introduced by Christensen. Item(s) 1.c. through 1.f. will be introduced by Raybould. Item 1.g. has a clerical note that the item is to be placed on file. Item(s) 2.a. through 2.d. will be introduced by Christensen and are for setting the hearing dates for liquor.

Under Public Hearing Liquor Resolutions – Item(s) 4.a. and 4.b. will be called together. Item(s) 4.c. and 4.d. will be called together. Item(s) 4.e. and 4.f. will be called together; Item(s) 4.g. and 4.h. will be called together and Item(s) 4.j. and 4.k. will be called together. Item 4.k. is an SDL that was sent to Council members this afternoon.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Item(s) 6.f. through 6.h. will be called together and has a request of Action Date 3 weeks to December 7, 2020.

Under Pending List Date Certain – Item 9.a. will have Action on November 23, 2020.

IV. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Lopez briefed Council on the latest guidance and concerns regarding COVID-19. Lopez reported the following:

The Total Number of cases in Lancaster County to date is 12,875 (408 additional cases yesterday, 11/15 our single day highest total so far). In the past 8 days, we have three highest peaks so far.

The total number of cases reported last week ending November 14th is 1,721, which is the highest number of cases reported in a week so far. Our previous highest weekly total was a week earlier at 1,246 cases in the week ending 11/7.

We had on an average of 693 cases a week in October. In November, of the first 2 weeks, we have an average of 1,483 cases per week so far in October, we have 3,129 cases. 57% of our cases to-date are from September 1st.

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In first 15 days of November, we have 3,174 cases which mean we have had more cases in the last 15 days than the entire month of October.

In the last 10 weeks, 40% of our cases are in the 30-59 age groups. Another 13% of the cases are in the 60-79 age groups.

Case investigations suggest that this new increase in cases are due to family and social gatherings and surprisingly in small events like dinner parties, game day events etc. This is not unique to Lincoln by any means. This is happening throughout our County, Washington Post published an article on this last Thursday; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/11/12/covid-social-gatherings/>.

In Lancaster County, we have 4,673 or 36 % of all the positive cases are confirmed recovered. We have 59 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County. 14 Deaths were reported this month. We had 21 COVID19 deaths in October. In contrast, in May, we had 8 deaths in the midst of our biggest outbreak. The positivity rate for cases reported last week ending Saturday (11/14) was 29.3% which is higher than the previous week ending 11/7 at 25%. Our overall positivity rate for Lancaster County: 11.2% 7 day rolling average for daily cases in Lancaster County increased from 77 cases a day in the first week of October to 250 cases a day in the past 7 days.

Approximately 114,000 people or approximately 36% of the Lancaster County Population are tested. On average, we are receiving 5000 labs in the past 4 weeks. In Lancaster County Hospitals as of midnight yesterday, 137 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID, 15 additional individuals are awaiting confirmation. 53 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 84 are from out of the county. 2 out of 13 individuals on ventilators are Lancaster County residents. As of midnight, 11/15, 39% or % (356/920) of hospital beds are available. Though the beds are available, staffing those beds has been a challenge for all the hospitals in Nebraska.

With the increase in the Hospitalization throughout the state, Governor Ricketts issued a new DHM based on the COVID19 hospitalization. When the statewide capacity of COVID19 Hospitalizations, reaches 25% or 1,170 cases hospitalized, State would move into Red category

Discussion followed.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.