

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, December 7, 2020

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

Absent: 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 2:32 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from November 16, 2020, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Resolutions – Action Only – Items 6.a. will have a Motion to Amend to adopt a Substitute Resolution.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Item 7.a. will have a suspension of the rules to have 2nd Reading with public hearing and action today on December 7, 2020.

Under Ordinances 3rd Reading – Item 8.a. will need a Motion to remove the item from the table. Item 9.d. will have a Motion to delay for one week to allow Councilman Bowers to participate in the vote.

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:

Case Data:

The Total Number of Cases in Lancaster County to date is 18,616 (231 additional cases yesterday, 12/06). The past 7-day average of cases is 282 cases per a day.

In Lancaster County, Long Term Care Facilities that include Assisted Living and Nursing Homes, we have 249 cases among residents of these facilities within the last 3 weeks; which is 61% of all cases among the residents reported so far in the last 9 months.

Last week ending Saturday, the Positivity rate is 33.9%. This is the highest positivity rate we had seen so far and this also indicates widespread transmission of COVID19 in the community.

In Lancaster County, we have 5,438 or 29% of all the positive cases are confirmed recovered.

We have 93 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County. 20 Deaths were reported Last week. We had 37 COVID19 deaths in November. Additional deaths will be reported today.

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Approximately 134,000 people or approximately 42% of the Lancaster County Population have been tested. On average, we are receiving 6,000 labs in the past 4 weeks. Test Nebraska has added another pod at the "Gateway" testing site; this will increase testing to about 1100 per day.

Hospital Usage:

138 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID. 82 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 56 are from out of the county.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

We're getting closer to having those first doses of COVID-19 arrive here in Nebraska. Projected numbers Pfizer – Ultra cold – 16,500 doses.

Discussion followed.

V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Future meetings, public crowd size, and safety requirements for public participation

Councilwoman Raybould opened the discussion with the following data:

In addition to November being the worst month of the pandemic; Citing the Press Release that was released last week; Thirty-four Lancaster County residents died from COVID-19 in November, 40 percent of all COVID-19 deaths to date. About 40 percent of all new cases were reported in November. At the end of October, the weekly case count was 890. By the last week in November, we were up to 1,876 new cases a week, an increase of 111 percent. At the end of October, the seven-day rolling average of new daily cases was 124. By the end of November, the average had increased to 278, a 124 percent increase. At the end of October, the weekly positivity rate was 13.3 percent, but by the end of November, the rate was up to 29.6 percent, increasing 123 percent. The number of daily COVID-19 patients hospitalized was 84 at the end of October. At the end of November, the number of daily hospitalizations was up to 172, a 105 percent increase.

Raybould Motioned to allow public comment via Zoom for the next two City Council meetings being held on December 14th and 21st:

Seconded by Ward and carried by the following vote: AYES: Washington, Ward, Meginnis, Raybould; NAYS: Shobe, Christensen

Raybould Motioned to allow one person in the Chamber at a time to allow public testimony and the individual must depart the Chambers after they have testified:

Washington requested a friendly amendment to allow support individuals, clarified through Council discussion to mean; legal counsel, interpreter, or specific individual(s) directly involved to the related item being discussed, to accompany the testifier.

Seconded by Ward and carried by the following vote: AYES: Raybould, Christensen, Meginnis, Ward, Washington, Shobe; NAYS: None.

Raybould acknowledged Washington as the recent recipient of the Roger T. Larson Community Builder Award.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.