

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2021

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

Absent: Richard Meginnis, Jane Raybould

Others Present: Soulinnee Phan, City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Liz Elliott, Director, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities; Steve Henrichsen, Principal Planner, Planning Department; Lynn Johnson, Director, Parks and Rec; and other City Staff present.

Vice-Chair, Bowers opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from March 22, 2021, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Public Hearing Resolutions – Items 5.c. there is a request by Raybould for a Motion to request a delay of action with continued public hearing to April 12, 2021.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading - Items 6.b. and 6.c. will be called together.

Under Ordinances 3rd Reading – Items 7.a. through 7.c. will need another Council member to introduce these items in the absence of Raybould.

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Gaylor Baird advised Council members that three departments will be providing updates on snow, short-term rentals, and Cooper Park.

Mayor Gaylor Baird advised Council members that in a recent call with the Governor's office there are plans to redirect vaccine dosage allocations from health districts that have lower demand to more populated and higher demand districts.

Mayor Gaylor Baird advised Council that Acting Chief Engler has been nominated to be the permanent chief of Lincoln Fire and Rescue. In regards to the Police Chief search; last week, a report was released on the four week public engagement process that was conducted. In addition to publishing that report, the job position announcement and the updated Police Chief job description was also published. The published items can be found at lincoln.ne.gov/policechiefsearch.

Liz Elliott advised Council on the Winter Weather Operations Budget; Invoices form all of the contractors have been received and replenishment of supplies have been determined. The current Winter Weather Operations Budget for this fiscal year is \$5.3 million. Elliott stated that it appears the City will be exceeding that by about \$1.2 million, which accounts for all of the costs that it will take to replenish the brine, salt storage, as well as anticipated personnel hours for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is expected that the residential test program will continue for this year and will go out for re-bid this summer.

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2021

Steve Henrichsen provided a brief update on Short-Term-Rentals, advising that the most recent proposal draft related to Short-Term-Rentals was released to the public in February. The basic proposal is that it be a conditional use so that it would not require a special permit. The condition would be that there would be a license required for the Short-Term-Rental operators. The proposal also stated that owners would not have to occupy the property and the Short-Term-Rentals would need to be spaced out by a minimum of a 600 feet or two-block radius. Apartments would be limited to 10% of use for Short-Term-Rentals. The proposal also includes a grace period for current existing Short-Term-Rental operators who may have properties within the proposed 600 feet, two-block radius.

Discussion followed.

Lynn Johnson briefed Council members on Cooper Park; a meeting will be held at Park Middle School, in the library, on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Brief presentations will be had on the Cooper Park Masterplan implementation, the Park Middle School improvements, the proposed land transfers, the 8th Street improvements, lastly a question and answer session. Notice of this meeting have included letters being sent to residents within a 200 foot radius of Cooper Park, six on-site fliers, the Lincoln Journal Star ran an article in yesterday's newspaper, and on social media.

Discussion followed.

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Case Data:

The Total Number of Cases in Lancaster County to date is 29,840 (33 additional cases yesterday, 04/07). The total number of cases reported last week ending April 3rd was 360 which are higher than week ending March 27th which was 343. We are having this weekly care rate of around 335 cases for past 6 weeks. In December, we had 5,833 cases, in March we had 1453 cases; so we are seeing some improvement.

Last week ending Saturday, the Positivity rate was 7.8%. The previous week it was 6.7%. We have changed the positivity recovery rate, which can be seen on the dashboard. This number reflects the change in definition that was adopted last week; if anyone is past 60 days of being positive and currently not hospitalized and has recovered we count them as a recovery rate number. There are still several individuals who remain hospitalized for a longer period of time.

Vaccinations

As of yesterday, we administered 182,865 doses of vaccine to Lancaster County Residents. Of these doses, 116,083 individuals received 1 dose and 66,782 received 2nd doses. 72,164 or 29.3% are individuals 16 years of age or older in our community have completed their vaccination. Last week a second dose vaccination clinic was held at the Asian Community and Cultural Center. A clinic was also held at Mt Zion Church. We intend to continue working with African-American pastors to sponsor additional events in the community. An additional 5000 2nd doses were administered to individuals age 65 and older. This week we are vaccinating 16,000 2nd doses for individuals age 55 and older and an additional 8000 first doses to those individuals age 50 and older. There are plans to host a 5000 doses Johnson & Johnson vaccination clinic next Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Last Thursday we held our

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2021

first event at the Lancaster County Event Center which distributed 5000 doses to educators and those over the age of 65. This Saturday, vaccination clinics will also be held at both hospitals for individuals with serious underlying health conditions. We are expected to vaccinate more than 30,000 individuals this week.

Hospital Usage

In Lancaster County Hospitals today we have an increase from 19 cases on Saturday to 29 cases hospitalized; 25 of these individuals are residents from our community. Many of the individuals who are being hospitalized are in the younger age groups.

Discussion followed.

Vice-Chair, Bowers adjourned the meeting 2:45 p.m.