

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, May 3, 2021

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

Others Present: Brandi Lehl, Deputy City Clerk; Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; Jon Carlson, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor; and Jamie Wenz, Public Information Specialist, City Communications; other City Staff present.

Chair, Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:01 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from April 19, 2021, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

Under Public Hearing Liquor Resolutions – Item 4.b. and 4.c. will be called together.

Under Ordinances 3rd Reading – Item 6.d. has a Motion to Amend for a change of date to correct the year.

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

A brief discussion was had in relation to a follow-up email Councilmembers received from Jennifer Brinkman related to Mr. Hahn's concerns about some areas of over-growth and fires near and around the encampments in the West "O" area.

Carlson advised Councilmembers that there is mixed ownership in the area and varies between the City of Lincoln, NRD, private ownership, and railroad property. Carlson further advised; Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR) are charged with responding to any fire on public and/or private property. Access for LFR becomes a concern with there being no access roads in the area of the encampments. With that being said, LFR has and does respond to the calls in this specific area.

Discussion also included community outreach efforts in relation to the homeless camps that have recently sprung up in the area including flood-plain management.

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Lopez reported the total number of cases in Lancaster County to date is 31,005 (32 additional cases Yesterday, 05/02). The total number of cases reported last week ending May 1st was 247 which lower than week ending April 24th which was 300. We are having this weekly case rate of around 289 cases per week for the past 4 weeks. To date in April, we had 1310 cases.

The positivity rate remained relatively flat in the previous 4 weeks averaging 7%. Last week ending 5/01, positivity rate was at 6.4% compared to 7.1% a week earlier. In Lancaster County, we have 28,050 or

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90.5% of all the positive cases are recovered. We have 232 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County. In February, we had 23 deaths. In March, we had 6 deaths. In April, we had 5 deaths.

As of yesterday, we administered 271,628 doses of vaccine to Lancaster County Residents. Of these doses, 163,256 individuals received 1 dose and 108,272 received 2nd doses of either Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. In all, 119,899 or 48.7% of the 16+ age group individuals completed their vaccinations. Last two weeks, we are had special clinics in high schools. The TestNebraska Site in Lincoln is offering Vaccine on Wednesday and Saturday. J&J vaccine is approved and we are offering the vaccine. Last week, we completed the second dose clinics for 8,000 individuals in the 49+ age group. This week, we are offering 8000 second doses on Thursday and Friday at the Lancaster Event Center., We had another clinic at UNL this am to provide J&J vaccine. We will also have clinics ta the Air Park Rec Center Tues. 3-7 and Belmont Rec center Wed from 4-6 this week.

In Lancaster County Hospitals as of last Friday, 29 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID. 20 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 9 are from out of the county.

Discussion followed.

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Discuss Public Comment via Zoom

Council members briefly discussed offering testimony on specific agenda items and during public comment. In relation to the discussion Wenz provided insight to Council members on the technology and staffing requirements that are needed to implement this type of service during public meetings on a regular basis.

Wenz advised there are three rooms, in the City-County Building, that are currently in the process of being integrated to allow for the capability to offer meetings to be ran through Zoom.

Concerns related to constituent residency were raised and the process of monitoring this to ensure Zoom testimony would be restricted to individuals who are not residents of Lincoln.

Meginnis proposed forming an ad-hoc committee to further discuss implantation this type of service and possibly implement a policy related to the matter.

Yohance briefly spoke on the legalities related to offering public testimony via Zoom and stated that at this time he does not have any legal concerns related to the matter. He further stated that he would look into the best practices and policy procedure that should be put in place, should this move forward.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting 2:38 p.m.