

**MINUTES**  
**DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021**

**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; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; and other City Staff present.

Chair, Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes from May 3, 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.

**IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

Mayor Baird thanks members of the Council for supporting community improvements with regards to City roads as we head into street construction season.

Mayor Baird stated she is pleased and proud of the vaccination work that has occurred in the community; including all the volunteers, physicians, nurses, public health team, the medical society, and everyone who has worked so hard in these clinics. Currently about 54% of the eligible population have been vaccinated in Lancaster County. There is still a lot of unfinished business, there is still many, many thousands of folks who we want to get to; the Health Department has been pivoting towards a more targeted approach. In addition to these big clinics at the arena and event center we are looking at having more targeted neighborhood based clinics; such as the rec centers and churches, bringing it closer to people's homes. The Health Department has done some pretty incredible work to determine where vaccination uptake rates might be lower and trying to put clinics in those zip codes so we can make it as easy to access as possible in the hopes of getting more folks. During the school based clinics, 2600 students have been inoculated, which is another great way to reach not only students but parents and guardians who may not have had access or found access another way. We know this is important for public health and we know it's important for economic recovery because consumer confidence increases as people feel safer to go out into the world once again and reclaim the joys of more familiar ways of living.

We are also focused on economic recovery. By way of an update on rent and utility decisions, Dan Marvin, Urban Development Department Director is here to answer any questions. Unlike many states across the country who have encountered issues getting these dollars out the door; here in Lincoln, Lancaster County our people have come together. Dan and his team, the UNL Center for Children and Families and the law, many non-profits in our community converged and said "how do we set up a seamless portal of entry, people can come through our virtual doors or our actual doors and access these resources". To date they have issued over 1300 checks, distributed about four million dollars in rental and utilities assistance that has helped keep people housed and helped keep people taken care of during the pandemic so that those other problems that occur once you lose the stability of shelter have been avoided. We are really pleased with the work that they have gotten done. [Lincoln.ne.gov/rent](http://Lincoln.ne.gov/rent), there are still dollars

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on hand to assist.

Mayor Baird reported that other help is here thanks to the ARP. We are expecting our federal allocation to come through to our bank account anytime. We still don't have the guidance and are expecting the Treasury to issue that simultaneously so we know how we can deploy those dollars to have maximum impact for our economic recovery here in Lincoln, Lancaster County. There are grants available now through that plan for individuals, who run venues; entertainment venues; theatre; performing arts organizations; museums; movie theatres; all of these folks have an opportunity to apply for grants online at our business resource tab on our website. Just last week, the restaurant revitalization fund grant application program opened up so restaurants, bars, and other similar places of businesses that serve food and alcohol can seek additional resources and relief if they were impacted and experienced loss due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Baird reported that the application deadline has come and gone for the Police Chief. The police Executive Research Forum are vetting applications to identify folks who meet the minimum qualifications and will eventually be presenting us with a list of identified candidates that we can be put forward to the search committee for interviews later this month. We will be looking to nominate a Police Chief following another public forum, probably in June, where the finalists are identified, where we'll have a chance to interact and ask questions and then a public hearing here in the Council Chambers on the nomination of the next Police Chief.

**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 31,178 (13 additional cases yesterday, 05/09). The total number of cases reported last week ending May 8<sup>st</sup> was 184 which lower than week ending May 1<sup>st</sup> which was 247. We have a weekly case rate of around 248 cases per week for the past 4 weeks. To date in April, we have 1310 cases.

The past 7-day average of cases has been 25 cases per day.

The positivity rate is in a downward trend averaging around 5.9%. Last week ending 5/08, positivity rate was at 5.1% compared to 5.9% a week earlier. In Lancaster County, we have 28,392 or 91.1% of all the positive cases are recovered. We have 232 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County In April, we had 5 deaths. In the last 20 days we have had no deaths reported.

As of yesterday, we administered 287,374 doses of vaccine to Lancaster County Residents. Of these doses, 164,799 individuals received 1 dose and 122,575 received 2nd doses of either Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. In all, 133,792 or 54.4% of the 16+ age group individuals completed their vaccinations. Last week, we are had special clinics at the Air Park and Belmont Rec Centers. The Test Nebraska Site in Lincoln continues to offer Vaccine on Wednesday and Saturday.

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Last week, we completed the second dose clinics for 8,000 individuals in the 16+ age group at Lancaster Event Center. This week we are hosting Second dose clinics at the University, Mission, Corrections and, our county, Private and Parochial High Schools.

In Lancaster County Hospitals as of last night, 31 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID. 23 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 8 are from out of the county.

Additional clinics are underway for this Friday and Saturday.

Discussion followed.

Chair, Meginnis adjourned the meeting 2:17 p.m.