

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, November 1, 2021

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

Others Present: Soulinnee Phan, City Clerk; David Cary, Director, Planning Department; Steve Henrichson Planning Department; Chad Blahak, Building & Safety; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Pat Lopez, Health Department; Dave Engler, Fire Chief; Jenni Ryan, Human Services; and other City Staff present.

Chair, Bowers opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

There were no minutes available to approve or adopt.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

The Mayor's Award of Excellence will be at the beginning of the regular scheduled City Council meeting.

No Council Meeting on November 14th due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

Under Public Hearing Resolutions – Item 3.c. will have a motion to amend to adopt a substitute resolution. Item 3.d. will be delayed one week.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Item 4.b. has a request to move the item to pending with no date certain. Item 4.c. will be withdrawn. Items 4.h. and 4.i. will be called together. Items 4.k. through 4.m. will be called together.

Under Ordinances – 3rd Reading – Items 5.a through 5.c. will be brought back for action.

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Gaylor Baird advised Council members that the goal to have 75% of citizens ages 16 and older was met and celebrated. We now move into the next phase goal of having 75% of the entire County population vaccinated. We are excited for movement from a regulatory standpoint of having the vaccine available for 5-11 year olds and are preparing for having that available soon, coordinating with pediatricians and setting up some large scale clinics.

Rent and Utility assistance resources continue to be available and in high demand. We are cutting checks for approximately \$500,00 per week. The City has exhausted \$13.4 million in ERA1 funds and are now utilizing the \$4 million in ERA2 funds. The City also recently received a second tranche of ERA2 funds in the amount of \$6 million from the US Treasury Department. There have been good conversations with the State about possibly redistributing their ERA funds to the cities. So many people have been working together to make this happen.

Mayor Gaylor Baird expressed gratitude for the adoption of the Climate Action Plan. The plan is an initiative for the community on how we can work together to reduce greenhouse gases by net 80% by the year 2050. A goal of completing 25 of the identified initiatives was set for this fiscal

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year, of which we've already completed 10. Looking ahead we are on track to complete a carbon sink inventory by the end of the year at no cost to the City due to technical assistance from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Collaborative partnerships have also formed between community partners to provide additional climate work and support.

V. DIRECTOR'S CORRESPONDENCE

Steve Henrichson, Director, Planning Department provided a reminder about Items 5.a through 5.c. They are for an annexation, rezoning and another annexation from a first-time property developer. It will create a housing area called Reunion Ridge.

Liz Elliot, Director, LTU provided some background on Item 4.a. which is repealing a prior ordinance. The original ordinance was passed in 2017 and they haven't been able to get enough support from the other property owners in the area. Letters of support for the repeal are available from the initial property owners.

Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department provided an update. Case numbers are up this week. Positivity staying around 10.5%. Last week there was an outbreak in an assisted living facility which resulted in about 40 cases. We continue to have cases in corrections. We've given over 10,000 booster doses. We have 86 individuals in the hospital today; 48 of them are from Lincoln. The hospital remains very full. Flu clinics for employees will start next week. We are working with pediatricians, Parks & Rec, and Firefighters to have activities for vaccine clinics for 5-11 year old's to create a fun environment for those ages. Councilman Shobe asked for clarification on eligibility for booster doses. Director Lopez clarified that as long as 6 months have passed since the second dose, they are eligible. The Health Department is notifying those who've been vaccinated through their system by age group. Pfizer & Moderna doses are both available for boosters. They are trying to notify people on the State registry as well.

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. DLA – Meginnis, Ward (10.26.21)

Meginnis reported they discussed the different holiday projects such as lights and Santa activities. They are getting updated on drainage projects. Shop the Blocks occurs Nov 11th.

2. DEC – Ward (10.19.21)

Ward reported they discussed the next fiscal year budget which will remain flat from this year. They appointed David Levy as the new attorney for DEC.

Chair, Bowers adjourned the meeting 2:28 p.m.