

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, February 1, 2021

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

Others Present: Soulinnee Phan, City Clerk; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor; Yohance Christie, City Attorney; and other City Staff present.

Chair, Richard Meginnis opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from January 11, 2021, approved and adopted

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Washington proposed that Council have a discussion on public comment by multiple means.

III. CITY CLERK

Reminder: This agenda is a combination of items from the January 25, 2021 agenda that carried over.

Under Public Hearing Resolutions – Item 5.b. will have a Motion to Amend No. 1; Accept a substitute attachment and Motion to Amend No. 2; Amend and add language.

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Gaylor Baird briefed Council on the City crews and private contractors who cleared city streets after the historic snow event that occurred last week. Crews worked in twelve-hour shifts, back-to-back, day after day. Residents even stepped forward to help assist in digging out parked cars and neighbors. Constituents have been providing feedback, both good and bad in relation to the snow removal efforts. Private contractors were able to clear residential streets thirty-seven hours sooner than city crews were able to. Feed-back from residents continues to be monitored so improvements can be made.

The mass vaccination clinic is up and going and Pinnacle Bank Arena and is showing great signs of success. The site of PBA was chosen due to its accessibility, parking, and spacing to allow for social distancing. Over 4800 individuals from the healthcare industry have been vaccinated through these two events. Phase 1A is almost complete and we plan to move into Phase 1B later this week. The supply and allocations of vaccinations is determined by the state. Based on the doses that are allocated to Nebraska, Lancaster County is expected to receive approximately 3900 vaccines per week; more doses can be expected in the coming weeks. Residents are able to register for the vaccine through the local registry link that can be found at covid.lincoln.ne.gov.

With regard to Micro-Purchasing; this is part of the efforts, because throughout the pandemic we have been looking at supporting and protecting lives and livelihoods. This is coming out of the work from the Mayor's Economic Recovery Taskforce. As you

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know, there was a community wide launch to buy 1% more local campaign, Residents have been encouraged to shop local and Businesses have been encouraged to source supplies locally. This is also a way the city can help out by looking at the current purchasing policies and creating an opportunity, with a category of micro-purchasing, to make purchases with local businesses based on reasonable pricing without a competitive bid.

Mayor Gaylor Baird also advised Council that the updated Climate Action Plan will be posted to the website later this week. Miki Esposito is leading the Resilient Lincoln Initiative.

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 26,718 (68 additional cases Yesterday, 01/31). The total number of cases reported last week ending January 30th is 546 which are lower than previous week ending January 23th which is 978. Our previous highest weekly total was a week earlier at 2,112 cases in the week ending 12/5. We had an average of 1,370 cases per week in December compared to an average of 1,675 a week in November and 693 cases a week in October. In December, we had 5,833 cases, in November we had 7,161 cases compared to 3,129 cases in October. To date in January, we had 4,058 cases or 916 cases a week.

Last week ending Saturday, the Positivity rate was 26.7%. This is lower than the 33.0% reported four weeks earlier. We had a declining positivity rate in the previous four weeks. In the past 4 weeks, we also had a significant decline in testing. In November and first 2 weeks of December, we had an average of 6,000 tests reported per week, but in the last 4 weeks we are seeing an average of 3,200 tests per week a decline of 46% in testing. In Lancaster County, we have 10,259 or 38% of all the positive cases are confirmed recovered.

We have 198 deaths due to COVID19 in Lancaster County. 74 Deaths were just in December or 45% of all our deaths and another 34 COVID19 deaths in November. 119 deaths or 60% of all deaths in Lancaster County are reported in last 2 months (December and January). In January, we have 45 deaths so far.

Hospital Usage

In Lancaster County Hospitals as of midnight 01/31, 55 individuals are hospitalized due to COVID. 34 of these individuals are Lancaster County Residents and 21 are from out of the county. This is the lowest rate of hospitalizations we have seen since 2nd week of October.

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Vaccinations

As if yesterday, we administered 22,300 doses of vaccine to Lancaster County Residents. We administered an additional 2400 doses at a mass clinic for Tier IV and Tier V at the Pinnacle Bank Arena on Friday.

We Launched a Vaccine Registration to the general public in 1B, that is, those about 65 of age and for those who have underlying health conditions. After our stressed servers at 8:30 a.m., when 100 people were signing up every second. As of this morning, 66,600 (updated at 2/1 11:45 a.m.) people signed up to receive vaccine. We are encouraged by this tremendous response.

Discussion followed.

VI. COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council had a brief discussion regarding virtual public comment and allowing virtual testimony on specific Agenda items; as this is related to moving towards the future in accessibility and transparency.

Washington Motioned to allow on-going open public comment by Zoom, seconded by Raybould. After a brief discussion Council decided to table this discussion to allow City Law to provide clarification on how to best handle this going forward.

Washington withdrew her Motion and Raybould withdrew her second.

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