

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Monday, March 1, 2021

555 S. 10th Street

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. MINUTES

1. Approval of Directors' Minutes from February 8, 2021

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Administrative Approvals from February 16, 2021 through February 22, 2021

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Suspended until further notice

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. On-going Emergency Declaration – Christina Kasy
2. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – Jane Sype
3. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – Paula Bohaty
4. Standing Water – Rita Webb
Staff response provided by Liz Elliott, Director LTU
5. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy - Linda Muehling
6. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – Brad Muehling
7. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – April Sears
8. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – Mike Fitzgerald
9. Support for the safety of all Lincoln citizens – Paula Bohaty
10. Public Comment – Cori Bierbaum
11. Options for testifying – Amanda Callaway
12. Ordinance related to Conversion Therapy – Lissa Buhr

VIII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Discussion on future meetings, public crowd size, and safety requirements for public participation



Memorandum

Date: ♦ February 24, 2021

To: ♦ City Clerk

From: ♦ Rhonda Haas, Planning Dept.

Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals

cc: ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from February 16, 2021 through February 22, 2021:

Administrative Amendment 20071, to Change of Zone 2179K, Centro Plaza, approved by the Planning Director on February 19, 2021, to change "Retail Shops" to "Commercial" for use designation, on property generally located at 400 North 48th Street.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Christina Kast <christinakast86@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Ongoing emergency declaration

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello council,

My name is Christina Campbell and I'm a Lincolnite of almost 11 years. I'm writing this out of concern for this city which I'm sure you all share, being that you made the choice to serve.

On March 14, 2020 I got engaged to my now husband, and I believe it was two days later that an "emergency" was declared. We're coming up on one year since our engagement and we realized we've spent the entire time in "quarantine." A year. Don't we think enough is enough? Can we go ahead and lift that now?

One of my closest friends worked in the hospital on the front lines in NYC at the beginning of the pandemic and she sent updates of all the craziness there and please be assured, Lincoln Nebraska did not come CLOSE to being in an emergent state. And we still aren't according to the kindergarten dial we have to run our lives by. Mrs. Mayor can pat herself on the back, she did real good and thankfully we here in Lincoln escaped the worst. If she wants to take credit for that, then so be it... but can we go ahead and lift that now?

I know there's a mask mandate here and if you want to think that helps, I can't stop you. But I have worn one extremely rarely and I've been in numerous situations where I was around massive crowds. I'm not sorry. But do you know when I got Covid? It was when I was following your little guidelines. I didn't get tested because there's no point, you just treat it like you would any other illness. I did lose smell and taste and I had some congestion. You know what I did? I stayed home just like I would for any other illness, and I took vitamins and hydroxychloroquine and here I am right as rain. And now cases are down all around the state and it's not because of masks or an emergency declaration, it's because that's what happens with herd immunity. That's normal. Can we go ahead and lift that "emergency" now?

Aren't you all so sick of seeing us, day in and day out, here in front of you? Aren't you tired of letting one person control your opinion, your family activities, your health, your job as a council person... your obligation to us here in the city you serve? Can we go ahead and take back power from the mayor yet?

You're not promoting unity, or helping bring people together. We the people of this city are so tired of living under this. You're willing to throw away businesses, take away rights, ruin families, let kids suffer mentally. You're willing to allow people to suffer monetary losses that your boss has not had to deal with at all, because she can afford to stay inside. All for... what? Because she said so? Can we please lift this "emergency" now?

When is enough enough? When you lose your spot on city council because you didn't use your voice and the backbone God gave you? When more people kill themselves because they can't bring home a paycheck and their business went under because of the mayor's unbelievable ego trip? Maybe when people get respiratory issues from mask wearing? How about when they suffer panic attacks that they spent years overcoming only to have them return because they have to relive trauma as a result of her mandates? (Speaking from experience here, hence why I don't wear a mask unless I am forced to.) Can we please lift this and live our lives now?

How close does it have to come to you to affect you personally enough that you'll take your power back? This "emergency" is RUINING LIVES. Does it need to affect your kid? Your husband or wife or significant other, or your mom or dad? You?

What's it going to take? Stop letting one person dictate your life. Take back YOUR power that you are ENTITLED TO as a council person, and abide by the city charter that has fallen by the wayside. Do the right thing. Can we go ahead and lift that "emergency" now?

Christina Campbell

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jane Sype <janesype@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: RE: proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Council,

My name is Jane Sype at 9011 S. 72nd Street, Lincoln, NE 68516. I'm praying you read this in time! I'm writing you to please ask that you **oppose** the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. I see it as a real threat to freedom of speech and especially freedom of religion. I am among many who believe the greatest counselors cannot be used to impose government's views on their patients. Please allow Christian counselors to love their patients by helping them according to God's Word. The proposed ordinance would be punishing sincere people of good faith holding different beliefs on human sexuality than those currently in power. Please oppose this unconstitutional ordinance.

Sincerely and with prayer,
Jane Sype

Angela M. Birkett

From: Paula Bohaty <pmoonbo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion Therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Council Members:

I support Councilman Bower's ordinance to ban conversion therapy for minors in Lincoln and seek your support to end this hateful, malicious harmful practice.

Thank you,

Paula Moon Bohaty
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Elizabeth D. Elliott
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Sandra J. Washington; rwebb42@hotmail.com
Cc: Angela M. Birkett
Subject: RE: Standing Water
Attachments: 20210222_161245_HDR_resized.jpg

Ms. Webb,

I'm sorry you're having to deal with this issue. Unfortunately, with the historic amount of snow that we've received this year and the warmer temperatures, we now have a lot of snow melting and street gutters can often become overwhelmed during this period. Streets are designed to drain down the gutter pan. Naturally flatter areas, such as the area you live in, have slower drainage and puddles are more evident. This stretch of 42nd St. has minimal slope and puddling is a problem year-round. This type of issue is difficult to correct and require complete rehabilitation of the road to change the elevation of the corridor, otherwise we just push it from one spot to another. Given this issue, we are not able to prevent this from happening and there's not a easy solution to it. I apologize for not being able to give you a better answer. When the time comes to rehab that portion of 42nd street, we will make sure to take care of any drainage and slope issues then.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Elliott

Director of Transportation and Utilities | Administration

O: 402-405-3544 | M: 402-405-3544

555 S. 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

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From: Sandra J. Washington <SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:50 AM
To: rwebb42@hotmail.com; Elizabeth D. Elliott <Elizabeth.Elliott@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Standing Water

Hello Ms. Webb: I'm sorry to hear about the problem you're having with standing water in front of your house. You can report the issue through UpLNK (below). I am copying your email to the Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Department, so they are aware of the issue as well. –Sandra Washington

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Payments-Services/UPLNK>

I have water the length of my property line reaching into th street. Very difficult to have access to my house. If it freezes it will be dangerous. Would you see if it could be reduced?

The house is 300 South 42 Lincoln.

Rita Webb
402 489 5663
Thank you.

Sent from my LG Mobile



Angela M. Birkett

From: Linda Muehling <lindamuehling2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: tonight's vote

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello, my name is **Linda Muehling** and I live in Lincoln at **7000 Glynoaks Drive**. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance that would violate the free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors and their patients.

- We can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We should also agree that all individuals and families should be free to choose the counseling goals best for them.
- Professional regulations prohibit abusive and coercive therapy, but this ordinance uses broad language to encompass any sort of counseling, including basic talk therapy.
- Freedom of speech is a fundamental right guaranteed by the First Amendment, and this proposed ordinance violates freedom of speech within a very private relationship.
- In a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, space must be given to people with differing views on how best to approach these sensitive issues. The City Council should not attempt to suppress the moral beliefs of its citizens with regards to human sexuality.
- This ordinance undermines individual freedom through its restrictions on counseling and unconstitutionally engages in viewpoint discrimination.
- The proposed ordinance demonstrates hostility toward many of the world's major religions, including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, that teach about the sacredness of our biological design. These are sincere people of good faith who should not be punished for holding different beliefs on human sexuality than those currently in political power.
- A counselor shouldn't be used as a tool to impose the government's views on their patients.

I urge you to oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Linda Muehling

Angela M. Birkett

From: Brad Muehling <bmuehling2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:25 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

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Hello, my name is **Brad Muehling**, and I live in Lincoln at 7000 Glynoaks. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance that would violate the free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors and their patients.

- We can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We should also agree that individuals and families should be free to choose the counseling goals and methods.
- Professional regulations prohibit abusive and coercive therapy, but this ordinance uses broad language to encompass any sort of counseling, including coercive therapy.
- Freedom of speech is a fundamental right guaranteed by the First Amendment, and this proposed ordinance violates freedom of speech within a very private counselor-patient relationship.
- In a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, space must be given to people with differing views on how best to approach these sensitive issues. The City of Lincoln should not attempt to sanction the moral beliefs of its citizens with regard to human sexuality.
- This ordinance undermines individual freedom through its restrictions on speech and unconstitutionally engages in viewpoint discrimination.
- The proposed ordinance demonstrates hostility toward many of the world's major religions, including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, that teach about the sanctity of our biological design. These are sincere people of good faith who should not be punished for holding different beliefs on human sexuality than those currently in political power.
- A counselor shouldn't be used as a tool to impose the government's viewpoint on its patients.

I urge you to oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Angela M. Birkett

From: April Sears <aspringer7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:38 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Regarding the hearing on conversion therapy ban for minors

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to voice my concern about conversion therapy and wish to make it known I would vote to ban it for minors.

I believe that it causes psychological harm. Although many people involved in ministries come from a place of sincerity, the methods used in conversion therapy have proven to be damaging in my life.

Living in Nebraska and growing up as a person of faith, I wish to see young and older people work along side each other to build a stronger community. Supporting our neighbors through the struggles of life can be challenging. We don't always know how to help. Churches are a good place to get connected, find community, and engage; however, negative past experiences can prevent people from going to churches for help. Conversion therapy is a very broad spectrum of techniques that are not regulated or proven to be successful, resulting in harm.

Counseling is necessary sometimes, conversion therapy is not.

Sincerely,

April Sears
1721 Deweese Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68504

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mike Fitzgerald <sevenfranch@windstream.net>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:30 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Re: "Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance"

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello Lincoln City Council Members,

We are writing to ask that you oppose the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. This proposal goes against the reasons that people seek guidance. People seek counsel to understand themselves and their behavior. The relationship between a client and their counselor needs to be valued and protected. This proposal violates free speech for both the client and the counselor. The proposal is being pursued towards something other than the protection of our youths' mental health. Please oppose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael & Elizabeth Fitzgerald

3794 H Street

Angela M. Birkett

From: Paula Bohaty <pmoonbo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:11 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Pat D. Lopez
Subject: Thank you

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Council:

A quick thank you for supporting the safety of all Lincoln citizens throughout this pandemic.

Our Mayor and Health Director and each of you are responsible for saving lives.

I support all you do to keep supporting our CDC guidelines and our mask mandate; we as a city and state are a long way from getting everyone vaccinated.

Many in our community are immune-compromised and will never reap the benefits of the vaccine, we also have a tremendous amount yet to learn from science about asymptomatic spread, these are just a few reasons we need to keep protections and health directives in place.

We've lost 500,000 Americans as of today to this horrendous pandemic, many of us have lost friends and loved ones.

The science deniers that come before you have never accepted the realities of the pandemic, they live in denial and anger; they show their fear by childish spewing vitriol.

They selfishly are incapable of caring for others' health or safety, and why your leadership is so vitality important.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Best Wishes,
Paula Moon Bohaty

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Cori Bierbaum <bcori30@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Public comment

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello,

I wanted to reach out to express how frustrated I am with your rule against allowing anyone during public comment from commenting on potential policies. You have kept the emergency order on pending for too long! We the people should be able to come to you with anything in your perview that we want addressed. The idea that we as your employers can't hold you accountable in the city council. Your reaction to Sam Lyons and the speaker before him was disgusting! Your jobs are over if you don't stop this charade and let the people talk! We are given limited time, get over yourselves! Thank you Christiansen for be one voice of reason!

Corenia Bierbaum

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amanda Callaway <acallaway@necv.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Options for testifying

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hi there, I was just wondering what changes have been made to testifying at a city council meeting now. I know that the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners are allowing virtual testimony, is that an option with the city council? If that is, can I have information on how one can register to do so.

Thank you!

--
Amanda Callaway
Program Manager
Nebraska Conservation Voters
(402) 430-8025

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lissa <lakeratlissa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

My name is Lissa Buhr. I live at 7700 S 96th Bay in Lincoln. I am contacting you to urge you to oppose the Proposed Youth Mental Health Ordinance that would violate free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors and their patients. One can look around today and see free speech being suppressed right and left. ie. on Facebook, Twitter, Parler to name a few.

Freedom of speech is a right guaranteed by our great constitution, and this proposed ordinance violates that right in a very private setting. The proposed ordinance also demonstrates hostility toward many of the worlds major religions including Judaism, Islam and Christianity that teach about the sacredness of our God given design. People in political power have no right to oppose or abuse that. I urge you om behalf of my 9 grandchildren and all the other children of school age in the city to vote NO on this please. Thank You.

Lissa Buhr

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10