

MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
Monday, August 9, 2021

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

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

Chair, Bowers opened the meeting at 2:08 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act

I. MINUTES

Minutes from August 2, 2021, approved and adopted

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.

Beckius will recuse himself on Item 2.b. due to a possible conflict of interest.

Under Consent Agenda - Petitions and Communications – Items 2.a. through 2.j. will be called together.

Under Public Hearing Liquor Resolutions – Items 4.a. and 4.b. will be called together. Items 4.a. and 4.b. will be called together. Items 4.c. and 4.d. will be called together. Items 4.f. and 4.g. will be called together.

Under Public Hearing Ordinances 2nd Reading – Items 6.a. and 6.b. will be called together. Items 6.e. through 6.g. will be called together. Item 6.h. there is a request for a two-week delay with continued public hearing.

Under Ordinances 1st Reading & Related Resolutions - Item 8.i. has a request to have a Motion to Suspend the Rules to have introduction and public hearing today, Monday, August 9, 2021.

The City Clerk made note that Items 6.i. and 8.i. will be called together as they are related items. Yohance confirmed on record the public is prepared for 8.i. to be heard for public hearing as it is related to 6.i.

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Gaylor Baird advised Council members that Covid-19 hospitalizations continue to climb and are doubling every two to three weeks. The seven-day average of hospitalizations went from 14, on July 1st to 43 at the end of July. Public Health officials are seeing increased symptoms with the Delta variant. It was reported a vast majority of people hospitalized have not received the vaccine.

Currently more than 68% of the 16 years of age and older population have been vaccinated. 50% of the population are not vaccinated. The city continues to offer vaccination clinics, noting that vaccinations are important for continued health and economic development. Vaccines are readily available at neighborhood clinics and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department are running vaccine clinics on Mondays and Fridays and in the late afternoon on Wednesdays.

Rent and Utility assistance resources are still available for at-risk individuals. Currently 6.5 million

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dollars has been dispersed to assist individuals in the community. Partnering organizations have been doing an amazing job assisting in getting funds distributed.

A brief discussion was had in relation to the need of catalytic converter legislation.

V. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. Justice Council – Shobe (08.06.21)

Shobe reported discussion was had on the number of individuals housed in the County jail and the concern that capacity is nearly at the maximum level. Individuals being housed at the Lancaster County jail are receiving vaccines, currently over 220 vaccines have been administered. Housed individuals who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus are being housed separately from other individuals. Discussion also included alternative detainment options due to an uptick with individuals who are being released and within an hour or two of their release are repeat offending and being re-detained. The question was raised if the level of incarceration is appropriate for these individuals and if there are any alternate detainment option or if counseling services would be an alternate option for these types of re-peat offenders. Members of the Justice Council was briefed on an out-of-state training program that helps law enforcement officers learn how to intervene and/or de-escalate a situation when a fellow officer is performing inappropriately. Discussion was had on possibly bringing this type of a program to local law enforcement agencies.

Chair, Bowers adjourned the meeting 2:30 p.m.