

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, July 12, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Nine residents and one City staff attended.

Mayor Gaylor Baird
Tracy Corr – 40th & A
Gloria Eddins – Clinton
Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge
Paul Johnson - ECCO
Andy Gueck – Indian Village

Gerri Cotter – Irvingdale
Pat Bracken - Irvingdale
Russell Miller - Witherbee
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Russ Meyer – Taylor Park

Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

- **Vaccinations:**

- Steady progress, 12 years old and older are eligible.
- 66% of 16+ vaccination, 12-16 – 32% vaccinated.
- Encourage 12+ children to get shots before school year starts.
- Health Department is working with pediatricians for shots.
- Can look online for locations of clinics.
- Question – Who pays for hospital bill for those getting virus?
Answer: Cost of hospital generally far exceeds any problems from non-vaccinated person catching virus.
- Question – Are plans being made in case mass boosters are needed?
Answer: Mayor has not discussed specifically with Health Department, but HD Director has said that they are ready to get 12 & younger vaccinated when it becomes available.

- **Police Chief Search**

- Public input for candidates was strong.
- Believes that chosen chief is a strong candidate with great experience.
- Council agenda on Monday, July 19.
- Plans to start job end of August.

- **Mayor's Recommendations for 2021-22 City Budget**

- The budget can be viewed online at:
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/finance/budget/2021-2022-mayors-recommended-budget.pdf>.
- The City Council public hearing on the budget is Monday August 2nd beginning after a brief regular City Council meeting that starts at 3:00 p.m.
- Emails and letters can be sent at any time.
- Budget Highlights
 - Objective
 - Safe & Healthy City
 - Vibrant
 - Last year's budget changed to single-year with Covid emergency.
 - Increased support for Health Dept.
 - PPE for frontline workers.
 - Cuts of other areas to keep balance.
 - Remote work
 - Adapted services and operations to promote the wellbeing of the community.

- Sales tax revenue was projected to fall, but actually rebounded.
- Looking Ahead
 - Proposed tax funded Budget - \$224.5 Million for 2021-2022. 2.5% increase from two years ago.
 - Funding sources – majority from sales tax, property tax & other fees.
 - Lincoln’s Property tax levy is 11th lowest in the state out of the top 15 cities.
 - 16% of total property bill is for City of Lincoln.
- Safety & Health
 - Additional Police staff
 - Public safety = 58% of budget
 - Additional Health Dept staff
 - Dental,
 - Public health
 - Mental health
- Support Vibrant Economy & Quality of Life
 - Increases funds for parks & trails, including mowing
 - Playground repairs
 - Recreation centers
 - Full-service levels for library system
- Strong & resilient city
 - \$60.5M for transportation improvements
 - \$12.9M represents Lincoln on the Move projects
 - \$22.38M on Water infrastructure
- Equitable & Inclusive City
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Administrator position created
 - Support community learning centers
 - Affordable housing programs
 - New Aging center to be located at Victory Park.
 - Continuation of the NeighborLNK program
- Innovative & Operationally Excellent City
 - Technology upgrades
 - Supporting teleworking capabilities
 - Update and expand digital communications and information system.
- Capital Investments
 - \$11M to upgrade fire stations
 - Replace fleet vehicles
 - \$60.5M in transportation CIP
- For questions or additional follow-up contact Jon Carlson, Deputy Chief of Staff, at 402-441-7224 or Jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov

● **Questions**

Question: What preparations for cyber emergencies?

- i. Holding first tabletop exercises upcoming
- ii. City wellfield repairs from floods.
- iii. All fields are operation. Still working on repairs and strengthening facilities
- iv. Water rates generally increase about 5% per year, but impact fees have not increased for many years which means that older neighborhoods are paying for the infrastructure of new areas.

Question: How is increase in property tax values with no change in levy rate going to be reflected in the next budget?

- i. The City can use the funds to restore cuts in earlier years. Returning to the taxpayers is quite insignificant
- ii. Must show residents that the money is managed by the City well and increases the value received by the residents

- iii. The City Council needs to hear positive comments about the budget besides the negative comments. Applies to all future
- iv. Initial Budget on August 2 meeting, final August 23

- **Announcements**

- Get involved with the new City flag project ReflagLNK.com. Competition opens from now until August 1st.
- Taylor Park – August 3, 5:30. Dedication to fallen officer with music & events.
- August 8, 2:30 pm – Van Dorn Park – 100th anniversary of Van Dorn Park.

- **Next Meeting / Agenda**

- Comments and discussion about resuming in-person meeting.
- Suggestion to send out email to neighborhoods to vote on question.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson