

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
March 30, 2020
Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex**

The Nebraska City Board of Health met in regular session inside the Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex, 1518 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, NE via Zoom at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 30, 2020. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in at least three public places, the designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance to the media, the Mayor and Board of Health members of this proceeding and said meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Bryan Bequette called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Mayor publicly stated to all physically in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. He noted this meeting is also being broadcast in accordance with Governor Ricketts Executive Order No. 20-03 (Corona Virus Public Meetings Requirement Limited Waiver as of March 13, 2020). This Executive Order allows the meeting to be conducted via teleconference and videoconference; we are using the Zoom platform as published in our meeting notification. If you are in our zoom audience, please keep your microphones muted; if you wish to comment, please make our moderator, Andrew Snodgrass, aware you would like to comment and he will let me know, then we will call on you as a virtual attendee. Please state your name and address as well. You can find Executive Order 20-03 under <https://www.nebraska.gov/>. Upon roll call the following answered present: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, Dr. Brad Vasa, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Gregg Goebel arrived at 5:05 p.m. The following City Officials were present as well: City Administrator Grayson Path, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, City Clerk-Treasurer Randy Dunster, Paramedic Manager Andrew Snodgrass, Commissioner Gloria Glover, Commissioner Paul Davis, Commissioner Patrick Wehling, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Moore.

Mayor Bequette notes there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1st item of business is the approval of the March 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the minutes as written. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor noted the 2nd item on the agenda is discussion/action regarding a status update on the CoVid-19 situation; potential tasks, logistical needs and communication. While waiting on Grant Brueggemann of the SE District Health Department to dial in, the Mayor noted Cass County to our North has 2 positive cases; Fremont Iowa has not reported cases but the County East of them does. South of Fremont, Atchison MO has 1 positive case. South of Otoe, Nemaha County still has 1 case. Johnson County has not reported any cases. Lancaster to our West has 8 cases. Lancaster and Cass both are under Directed Healthcare measures. The State currently has 4 healthcare measures published; the last 1 being yesterday. Also Sarpy and Cass have also published a health department Directive as a County and that is going out March 30th. There are several overlapping directives now being published on the State's Coronavirus update page. All stating pretty much the same thing. The healthcare directive, the only thing different between us and the guidance right now, we are still under general guidance, which recommends that you not have seat in but you can, but you need to keep it to less than 10 folks. The directives pretty much remove that, all restaurants and bars no longer have in-seating, they have to do delivery or curbside only. Dr. Vasa asked if there are any restrictions on hair stylists? The Mayor noted there is no State directive at this time but some States are implementing due to not being able to provide the service with the 6' separation. Per Andrew, he believes Sarpy, Cass, all take effect tomorrow morning; only those Counties with the directive.

Question was asked if there are any concerns with large groups. Chief Lacy replies there has been a couple of complaints on establishments to where there was a concern; due to confusion on what the officers could or could not do, they didn't communicate with the establishments. Mayor notes it's guidance, not enforceable by law. Per discussion with Grant, no directed healthcare measures needs to be done if people adhere to the guidance. Chief noted there was an anonymous call to City Hall regarding an entertainment venue, apparently there were a lot of vehicles in front of business; of course, by that alone not sure how many people inside. Grayson noted Katie had communicated with him about the situation, it was after the fact.

Dr. Vasa gave updates on the medical side of things. He noted he spoke with Andrew earlier today, from the Rescue side of things doing ok on supplies. EMS is going to initiate masking every patient going forward; would like to get more supplies if possible. No positive tests in the County yet; we do have a couple of tests pending. At the hospital, see decreased volumes; they've stopped the Cardiac/Pulmonaria rehab programs until May 11, for now. Trying to do more telemedicine visits; trying to keep the vulnerable well and out of the hospital to prevent potential exposure. Andrew adds an individual called the PD several days ago, they were seen in the ER in Omaha and were not tested but were told they potentially have it. They didn't meet the criteria set by the State to be tested; however they were supposed to self-isolate for 2 weeks. No way of verifying unless we track down every provider, every single patient seen, on who meets the criteria, etc. Moreover, there are potentially individuals here that have the symptoms but don't meet the criteria to be tested in a lab.

Grant Brueggemann, is now dialed in through Zoom. He advises across the US there are approximately 159,000 cases; looking at the map mostly East Coast has hot pockets. Other areas are Omaha, Kansas City, Denver CO area. There are 145 confirmed cases in Nebraska; the majority is in Douglas County; Sarpy County has 13; Washington has 9; Lancaster 8; other Counties out West have 5 or 6. Our Districts, we still have the 1 confirmed case in Nemaha County; he believes the individual was released from quarantine today due to meeting his timeframe and his systems have gone away. Verification is still needed and he will confirm after call. He discussed presumptive positive cases; he noted we don't have capacity to track down all due to lack of manpower. They are mostly focusing on confirmed cases. The Mayor asked the question on directives for one on one services (i.e. barbers). Brueggemann advise no directives in our district. Can't speak on behalf of other Counties but not our 5 Counties or district.

Dr. DeFreece dialed in through Zoom. He provided an update and noted Dr. Vasa gave a good synopsis of what's going on at CHI (i.e. preparations for staffing, what they need to do if they see an influx of patients through the ER or clinic). How we utilize staff appropriately. He wants to focus on the appropriate use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), really just getting processes and procedures down to prepare for whatever may come. Education of public on call-ins regarding testing and symptoms and how to manage those. He noted, right now relatively quiet; he hopes it stays that way but if not they will be prepared for whatever comes.

David Lacy provided his update. He noted we are going to continue doing what we are doing. He said we will allow people to come into the facility but will have a table for handout documents. State forms can be completed online. They are just trying to educate the public; will probably implement the procedures next week. PD might call you back 1st versus face to face. Court system is going to come down with some rules on arrestable offenses.

Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management provided an update. He noted on the County side starting tomorrow, the County Courthouse is shutting down to 1 door as a point of access into the building. All the offices internally will be locked. Anybody coming into the Courthouse will actually have to have an appointment to get into the office; that's to protect those inside the Courthouse. Starting Thursday, a rep from his office will starting reaching out and making contact to the government/non-government/non-profit agencies to establish a primary point of contact for the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that the President put in place. This is the initial phase to getting

people on board. Original conversation we were going to have Andrew as the point of contact for Nebraska City but there are going to be more phone calls going out.

Grayson Path provides the City update and noted same operations as before. Grayson noted the City has been following the lead of the County on access to buildings. He asked Goebel what's the thought behind locking the doors. Goebel replies there will still be 1 point of entrance so the public can still go in. The problem has been people are not paying attention to the signage so they show up and just walk into the room before the room is ready for that person to enter. Due to the small confines of the rooms, puts a risk to those in the room. Therefore they are going to appointments in the offices, 1 door for them to come in so they can see the signage, then stop and call the respective office. Foot traffic has gone down significantly but still a considerable amount coming through. Grayson noted we still have restricted access, can come in the door but can't go much further than that. The Mayor noted we only have 1 point of access at both, correct? Grayson notes people can keep going until you get to the desk then people can congregate inside. Fortunately at City Hall don't generally have a lot of people coming in at the same time. He noted the Library had one of the busiest Saturday's they've had in a long time. 120 people throughout the day. Mayor suggests perhaps Library would like to look at scheduling software. Grayson reiterated that Saturday was an unusual day for the Library. It was decided to talk through with Donna. How do we manage the 10, etc.?

Jeff Kohrs provided an update for Utilities. He noted they are still continuing to have restricted access to the building. They are directing patrons to the various resources via online bill-pay, drop box, etc. He noted they are still doing same as last week's update.

The Mayor noted he doesn't believe Nebraska City would have issues with Directives not being followed. However, he said the East Coast is looking at shutting off electricity and water for those not abiding by the Directive (i.e. businesses).

The Mayor asked if there are any tasks or logistical needs we are aware of. Dr. Vasa reiterates PPE for the rescue squad is needed. The Mayor stated he noticed on one of the Emergency Management State updates they were starting to issue some State stockage to EMS. Goebel responds all the Fire and EMS, the hospitals, as well as law enforcement should have received an update from the State on how to request PPE by putting in their needs and asking everyone to fill that out. All are requested to look at 2 weeks at a time versus six months. Fill it out and send it to the health department so we can move it to the State. They can fill from that; then ask you to submit again. So about every 2 weeks looking for submittals for equipment. Wendy Snodgrass noted she thinks there is a survey to fill out for 1st responders; Andrew noted it went out this afternoon. He further noted, we have been lucky, an individual donated 5 boxes of masks to the EMS; he noted they gave some to the PD as well. From a week's difference they are doing well. Andrew discussed the implementation of new measures EMS is implementing, they are going to have staff wear masks on all runs, patients will be in masks as well. Also he has been working with Gregg on the CDC guidelines re the re-use of masks; thus not running through inventory as quickly. From the County standpoint, also working with Gregg, supplies such as medical gloves have been able to get a shipment in today can disburse amount themselves and other agencies. Takes about a month to get; all agencies helping each other out.

Wendy asks if there is anything from the community that's come in? Mayor Bequette responds by noting he has received a few phone calls and emails from people concerned there are too many people in establishments. He discussed normalcy visits, communities returning to normal. You would go into the stores to see what products were back on shelves... grocery stores do run out; he reports last night people did have toilet paper in their baskets at 7:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening. According to the President will go to April 30; people question if they need more. Food pantries and schools have their food set up.

Communication wide, anyone else we need to reach out to, etc. Dr. Vasa feels like we are plugged in with the powers that be and getting the appropriate directives to us. We have the flexibility to add on if

we see fit but doesn't feel like the need is there yet. Wendy noted the DHHS website you can sign up for updates. Chief Lacy noted from a story he heard, he believes the touch contamination... Dr. Vasa jumps in and stated this virus lives longer on surfaces than most. A lot of contamination is from a door knob or shopping carts. Reminder to wipe down carts when going to the store; he reiterates to continue to wash hands frequently. More discussion is hand along same lines.

Disinfectant is discussed immensely on not being able to find, alternatives, etc. Dr. Vasa noted just wiping surfaces down with soap and water helps tremendously. Again, washing hands is highly important and not touching face. EPA website has products listed; CDC site has a link to their page. 20-30 listed by product name. Bleach works. Jeff notes they can manufacture Bleach water at waste water treatment plant; he states that's what they disinfect with, Salt/Electric current water/Sodium hypochlorite. Just bleach water. Andrew noted he will have to see if that will work; Dr. Vasa stated concentrations would probably have to be diluted down. Mayor noted let's find out if we can get if it meets our needs. Jeff noted if we dispense needs to be in marked containers so someone doesn't believe it's distilled water, etc. The Mayor noted he hopes all our City Departments know where to find the list, where to find and know we are using the right stuff. Grayson requests MaryAnn be kept in the loop and knows about the list.

No comments from Zoom audience or wrap up comments. Grayson noted he communicated with Donna and no more than 10 were at the Library at a time. He will follow up on policies and procedures though.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer