

Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
May 4, 2020
Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex

The Nebraska City Board of Health (BOH) 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, May 4, 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 BOH 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 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. Also he noted it is available under Governor Ricketts Executive Order Number 20-03 *Coronavirus Public Meeting Requirements Limited Waiver* as of March 13, 2020. This Executive Order allows us to conduct the meeting by video conference or teleconference and to do so we are using the Zoom platform, as published in our meeting notification. This meeting is also being recorded. If you are in our Zoom audience please keep your microphone muted. For those who are wanting to comment, please do the following: for those joining us via the Zoom app, or through their computer please click on the "Raise Hand" button, for those joining us through the call-in feature, please press *9 (star nine). This will notify our moderator, Randy Dunster, there is a comment from one of our virtual attendees and he will let me know that you wish to speak. I will then have him unmute you. When you speak, please first state your name and address. You can find information on: The Open Meetings Act at <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings> and Executive Order 20-03 at Governor.Nebraska.gov.

Upon roll call the following answer present: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, and Gregg Goebel via Zoom; and Mayor Bryan Bequette in person. Dr. Brad Vasa joined the meeting via Zoom at 5:09 p.m. The following City Officials were present as well via Zoom and in person: Interim City Administrator Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Commissioner Gloria Glover, Commissioner Paul Davis, Commissioner Patrick Wehling, City Clerk Randy Dunster, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Moore.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1st item of business is the approval of the BOH April 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Bequette moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 27, 2020 as provided. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Gregg Goebel, David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, 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.

Mayor Bequette requested a status update. Grant Brueggemann, Director of SE District Health Department, noted there are 5,910 positive cases across the State; and 78 deaths have been reported. In terms of the SE District, we have 7 confirmed cases (2 in Otoe County; 4 in Johnson County; and 1 in Nemaha County); 4 active, 3 recovered. Trend line has continued to go up with meat processing plants and general manufacturing type environments being a big interest. Biggest outbreaks in Dawson, Buffalo, Hall, Adams, Nor Folk area, Dakota and Cook County are some of the hot spots. Mayor Bequette advised we did finally get the Directed Health Measure SEHD-001; it went into effect as of May 4.

Dr. DeFreece provided an update on the hospital. With the Governor opening up elective procedures; they have processes in place to do so beginning May 11. Right now doing diagnostic testing. They are seeing a small increase in activity in the clinic (i.e. routine visits, etc.)

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director provided an update. He provided a few additional numbers on surrounding States noting IA has 9,703 positive cases with 188 fatalities; MO has 8,754 positive cases with 358 fatalities; and KS has 5,245 with 136 fatalities. For the Courthouse nothing will change until after the election then will revisit how things will be handled.

Marty Stovall, Jeff Kohrs, David Lacy, Dr. Vasa, City Physician, Donna Kruse, all note operations are status quo since last update.

Mayor Bequette advised Andrew Snodgrass, EMS Director, wanted him to let all know they are using a little PPE (have about 3-4 weeks available); they hope orders continue to come in from the State. He also noted for himself, through meetings, the talk was Directed Health Measures were coming out and Counties were going to be able to roll back somewhat. Still looking at revenue projections from the State seeing how the different taxes are going to be affected. He added the League of Municipalities is working with Congressman Bacon on trying to submit a bill; noting right now under the CARE ACT, all the money coming to a Municipality must go directly to offset a COVID cost. They're trying to present an amendment that would say the lack of revenue has been COVID caused so then we should be able to meet operational requirements, if need be, later in the year with CARE ACT money.

Drew Graham, City Attorney, addressed the Board. On tasks as the Mayor advised, the State has issued a new Directed Healthcare Measure; he sent out a summary to the BOH members as well as the City Council members. In his opinion, the biggest changes are the limitations to hands on businesses (he advised on restrictions). He went over restaurant in house dining and worship service limitations as well. He noted he sent an email to Patty and Randy on adding the new DHM and the respective State's guidance for Restaurants and for Worship facilities to the Cities website or a link to the State's website so people can find. He doesn't believe at this time the BOH needs to take additional action; will wait and see how it all plays out and insure that the community is following the new guidelines.

Mayor Bequette noted for the new DHM Drew sent out he provided a great outline pointing out the highlights. He asked of the Board as well as the audience if there are questions on what can or can't be done under the current DHM for the SE Health District-001; basically considering the rollback or opening of some businesses.

With no other tasks brought to light, Mayor Bequette asked if any of the Departments has any logistics that need addressed. He asked if the COVID related supply orders for the City are still being processed through Andrew. Donna Kruse replied Andrew mentioned some had come in today; she wondered if the City would be using the CARES money for that type of supply. Mayor Bequette noted we are trying to capture that as a COVID directly related cost.

With no other logistics addressed the Mayor moved to communications. He added we are going to continue to meet next week at 5:00 p.m. with same format unless things change. He stated Gregg you are continuing to run the unified command for Otoe County meeting on Tuesdays. He added he will be on B103 tomorrow meeting at 9:00 a.m. noting he hasn't had anyone email or call in yet but he is willing to sit there and chat with Marcus on how things are going. He further added the Governor is going to continue his teleconferences with Mayors on Wednesdays at 4:20 p.m.

Amy Allgood with Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce addressed the Board to discuss the Farmer's Market. She noted they are set to open the market on Thursday, May 7. They will be following the guidelines for Farmer's Market operators.

- Location: Memorial Building parking lot; will not increase footprint into street, want a controllable amount of vendors.
- Vendors capped at 10 to insure 6' order.
- Only producers are allowed to handle their product while wearing protective gloves and masks; customers have to shop with their eyes, wear masks, and attend alone.
- No sampling allowed

Commissioner Wehling addressed the Board on Golf Course concerns brought to his attention. He noted the Recreation Director, Scooter Edmisten and Golf Manager, Ashli Leydon brought up to him the option of loosening the restriction of one person per cart unless they are a member of the household. He noted Leydon has done research by reaching out to surrounding courses in the area and pretty much everyone is allowing two in a cart; some are suggesting only one; some are saying if they drove to the course together they can ride in cart together. It seems like we are the only one currently restricting anyone that is not a member of the same household to not be able to ride together. He did further add some who are allowing 2 in a cart are restricting it to the same driver the entire time. He wanted to get the Board's opinion. Other discussion is had on other courses and what they are doing.

Marty Stovall addressed the Board and noted Table Creek does allow 2 in a cart. Drew Graham added perhaps if requiring separate carts, then only charge for 1 cart; could be a cost issue with patrons. Wehling added that's their current practice to not double dip; have amended prices. The biggest issue staff is telling him, with people able to still play golf they are super busy, therefore running out of carts. Having to turn people away so they looked at renting additional carts but not cost effective. Mayor Bequette brings up Restaurant guidance on party of six noting it doesn't say it has to be members of your household. Graham confirms same. Discussion is had on how to regulate whose part of your household. With the adjusted rates perhaps those who want to maintain separate can and those that don't we allow them to share carts. Same comparison with restaurants. Wehling addresses the golf course just making the change and now reversing their action but COVID numbers still going up. Again, he wanted to get direction from the Board. Dr. Vasa agrees with the State guidelines as they are and the comparison to the restaurant party of six versus 2 in a golf cart, he doesn't see any issues. 6' concern addressed as well. Wehling believes the pulling of the flags current policy should still stay in effect. It was left can go ahead with 2 per cart but suggest 1 per cart; shared cart price left in place.

Commissioner Wehling addressed pool concern as well. Research was done by Scooter by reaching out to separate communities on how they are addressing the question on when to open or if to open, all others in same boat. They are waiting for more direction from the Governor. Unless 10 person rule changes no way they can open; if the number went to 50 would be difficult as well. Wahoo had a potential plan if it opened to a 50 person rule, would have 2 hour timeslots for people to swim. Then move to another group, etc. It could be doable. Have to plan like we are opening but basically in a holding pattern. Graham added in the Governor's most recent press briefings his recommendation for Cities was no one open swimming pools prior to July 15; there is no order, it's just their recommendation. He further added the Governor did state they are looking to issue additional guidance in May to address the pools on what they should do. Wehling adds per discussion with Scooter, a lot of the Cities have reached out to the Governor for direction.

Marty addressed the Board on the Wildwood Period House; they are currently not open. They are asking when they can open and if they can start bringing artists in to stock with art. Want to be ready to open when the time comes. Has concern on attracting tourists from out of town, etc. and asked for input from the Board. Mayor Bequette noted if small parties, then the tours could potentially take place, perhaps ask to wear masks. He feels like the Barn would be like any other retail operation in town and believes staff could start stocking the retail side of things; however, not sure if we are ready to open it up. Marty reiterates at this time you feel we can allow them to reach out to their artists, bring in inventory, and work one on one with each artist as they bring their stuff in; then see where we are at in 2 weeks. Mayor Bequette believes that would be prudent. Commissioner Glover added she would like to mention whatever direction they take at that museum, there are other museums watching; moreover, others will probably follow suit in town. Dr. Vasa agreed to treat as any other retail business but limit size of tours. Mayor Bequette agreed with Marty's suggestion. He added we can address with the Council as well.

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



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer