

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health  
May 26, 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 26, 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, Andrew Snodgrass, 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](https://governor.nebraska.gov).

Upon roll call the following answer present: Wendy Snodgrass, Gregg Goebel, and Dr. Brad Vasa via Zoom; David Lacy and Mayor Bryan Bequette in person. 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, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, City Clerk-Treasurer Randy Dunster, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Moore.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1<sup>st</sup> item of business is the approval of the BOH May 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Wendy Snodgrass moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2020 as provided. David Lacy seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Gregg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa, David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor noted the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 situation update. Grant Brueggemann, Director of SE District Health Department, noted currently there are 12,355 cases/150 deaths; he added last week around this time we were somewhere around the mid-10,000 number which reflects the recent trend. In the SE District which includes Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties there a total of 16 cases; 6 which are in Otoe County, 6 in Johnson County, 2 in Nemaha County, and 2 in Richardson County; he adds the numbers have stayed relatively stable. He further added, the new Directed Health Measures will be in effect on June 1, 2020. He noted he has not seen the actual language of the DHM just the bulleted list that has been passed around the Governor's office. He knows they are still trying to alter some things and firming up language; he hopes it will relax some of the restrictions. That said, he cautions all to stay vigilant and not take advantage of the situation. Mayor Bequette asked a question on whether there is any update on the testing we had in town and whether a future date has been set. Brueggemann noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> in Nebraska City they tested 169 people; no positive tests came out of the event. None of the other SE District Counties had any positive tests come from there testing either. In terms of future testing, the National Guard got reprioritized to the test Nebraska initiative; he doesn't have anything scheduled in the near future.

Dr. DeFreece noted things are stable at St. Mary's. They have had a successful re-opening of elective procedures; he added they are going to potentially open up additional procedures as well as some of their rehab services in the next week or so assuming everything remains stable. He further added at this point they remain good on PPE; their testing supplies are adequate. As a quick comment on Test Nebraska, he advised he was the medical director for an afternoon for Test Nebraska CHI Health Center under the National Guard. He would advise people to go to [www.testnebraska.com](http://www.testnebraska.com), fill out the forms online, get routine reminders or questionnaires on whether you need to be tested or not. Very efficient process to test a large amount of people; allows to test those who are really ill that need to be tested within a healthcare setting. It also allows a better population testing for those who are high risk.

Dr. Brad Vasa, City Physician, noted nothing new that he is aware of. He added he did read something about the anti-body testing where they are questioning the meaning of it and how accurate it is; they will probably shy away from using it for a while. The City is stable as far as cases. He noted the new guidelines will come out June 1; it is his understanding it will affect everybody in the SE Nebraska including Lincoln and Omaha. He doesn't believe we need to do anything different at this time but follow the new guidelines when they come out.

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director provided an update. He noted for surrounding States, IA has 17,628 positive cases with 461 fatalities; MO has 12,167 positive cases with 685 fatalities; and KS has 9,218 with 188 fatalities. As for the County, starting today, the DMV at the Courthouse, have seen a large increase of the numbers coming in due to them looking at what Phase 2 of the Health Directive is going to be. Mayor Bequette asked whether the procedures at the Courthouse are still in place. Goebel stated yes, just seeing a large number of people coming out of their homes now.

Wendy Snodgrass noted nothing new to report from the State other than the new DHM coming out.

Marty Stovall noted same for City Hall still helping citizens in the foyer; doesn't look to change that anytime soon. A lot of preparation going on for the ball fields, restrooms, etc.

Jeff Kohrs for Utilities noted status quo; buildings still closed to the public. He continues to see that happen for the foreseeable future.

David Lacy noted things remains the same; continue distancing, washing hands, etc. He added Gregg Goebel did provide them with gowns and more disinfectant. Feels in good shape as far as supplies are concerned. Mayor Bequette asked question if there have been any issues on patrol as far as adherence. Lacy stated not that he is aware of but officers have noticed more people are out and about; more increase in traffic.

Rob Schreiner noted nothing new to report other than will have to require their members to wear Masks. Have plenty right now but will probably have to do a little updating in future.

Andrew Snodgrass added masks are ordered but haven't received yet. He further added we have now received back orders of product that were placed 2-3 months prior. Mayor Bequette asked for PPE are we seeing a drop in quality. A. Snodgrass replied the stuff that is coming in is what it should be. He noted from what he understands when the Department of Health and Human Services receives the product they have the onus to get it tested before they release it to insure it meets the standards.

Mayor Bequette moved the meeting towards tasks. He noted Drew Graham is on; however, as mentioned earlier our District is one that will be moving towards Phase II of the new DHM. With that Mayor Bequette went over the below bulleted points provided in the COVID-19 Outline of Changes to Upcoming DHMs Phase. The detailed list of the outline is provided on this [link](#).

- Travel Quarantine
- Team Sports, they are being categorized by contact level. Bequette added there is another guideline that will be published June 1 statewide on Sports Re-opening Guideline which is separate from the DHM Phase II guideline.

- Bars & Restaurants
- Childcare Facilities
- Gatherings
  - Our big concern right now is the pool. Our occupancy is 460 so we go by the greater of either 25 or 25%. 25% of 460 = 115. That is now our occupancy limitation under Phase II.
- Gyms, Fitness Centers/Clubs, health Clubs, & Health Spas
- Salons, Barber Shops, Massage Therapy Services, & Tattoo Parlors/Body Art Facilities.
- Wedding & Funeral Reception Venues.

Mayor Bequette asked if there were questions on the DHM; with none he moved on and went over the highlights for the Sports portion by reading through the below bulleted topics. Each topic is linked to the respective page:

- [Classification of Team Sports According to Contact Level](#)
- [Youth Sports Guidelines](#)

Mayor Bequette added Commissioner Wehling is working hard on 1<sup>st</sup>, the pool, with Scooter to follow the procedures put in place. Commissioner Wehling is unable to attend tonight's meeting due to other obligations. However, he is working out all the procedures, etc. He added they did post on Facebook the pool will be opening June 15; he will bring more to the Board of Health next Monday as well as to the City Council. He will be talking about procedures, price rates, etc. He noted we are going to lose 3 weeks of the season. He asked of the Board of Health if there were any concerns on the pool specific. A. Snodgrass stated he has something not directly related to the pool but noted the CDC earlier this week kind of re-affirmed their thoughts; the Coronavirus does not spread easily on surfaces. A report came out on that. He added he spoke with Commissioner Wehling about it late last week when it came out; they had a discussion about the Parks due to them not being included in any DHM whether the Parks have to be closed with the new data coming out. He provided an example: if you get your mail from your mailbox, you don't have to be concerned about it if it doesn't spread easily on surfaces. A. Snodgrass wondered if this would be a good time to loosen the restrictions on Parks with school being officially out. Mayor Bequette interceded and noted he and Commissioner Wehling spoke about that last night, his concern is with the equipment as well as the shelters and things like that and people coming in and using it. He wants to open it at the same time he opens the bathrooms. Mayor Bequette added he is assuming, although not specifically mentioned, bathrooms with the parks the consensus is with people present. He understands if you have scheduled games you know 100% people are going to be present so what does the bathroom cleaning requirement look like at Nuckolls Square Park or Wildwood Park. If we say it's going to be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. does that mean we have to clean it every 2 hours; those are the things we are looking at right now. It may be the type of summer we have to hire a bunch of folks just to clean restrooms. He further added we do want to open up things in the City but to do it right we are going to have to follow the guidelines. It will be a Council decision. On baseball Commissioner Wehling is working with all the Associations, Marty is aware of that. Marty and Drew are working with Commissioner Wehling. There was a lot of talk this week along with the League of Municipalities making sure that all of our standard documents/agreements between associations and player participation forms are in place. All the legal stuff due to COVID is in alignment. Mayor Bequette asked Marty or Drew to address concerns for baseball/softball. Drew Graham noted we have to prepare for baseball/softball in the way it was proposed originally by the Governor; those were kind of the testing grounds. He added with the help of the League we were able to draft most or all of the documentation we are going to need to do that this year. He doesn't know what this looks like due to the new guidance released in that it is far more inclusive than just baseball/softball. We need to think more about if we can address everything in one set of documents rather than having to have a set of documents for baseball/softball; a set of documents for tennis; etc. or whether we can standardize and use the same thing. He added they have told us baseball/softball is going to kind of be their testing ground but then added more than that. Worst case scenario we are about 95% ready with the documents for baseball/softball. Mayor Bequette asked whether we would be bringing those before the Council on Monday. Graham noted that is correct. Mayor Bequette asked of the Board if there were more



tasks to address....he hasn't heard of anyone requesting we be more stringent. He feels like these guidelines are in alignment for our health district. He added Cass & Sarpy Counties seems to be taking on a few cases; Douglas and Lancaster of course because of their population. He further added it is going to be interesting once we have games because we are going to be sending our teams into all those different places. Graham noted thinking ahead the Governor's Executive Order allowing for these meetings to be held virtually expires at the end of the month. Next Monday, absent some extension of the Executive Order, both the City Council and Board of Health, in order to meet as a Governing body will need to have a quorum present physically. That meeting will need to be made available physically to the public as well. Mayor Bequette advised Drew it got released today; W. Snodgrass added it is 20-04, extended the Order through June 30, 2020. It is written the same as 20-03. A. Snodgrass advised he just emailed it to Graham. Mayor Bequette added he hadn't seen it either until he walked into meeting.

With no other tasks from the Board, Mayor Bequette moved onto logistics.

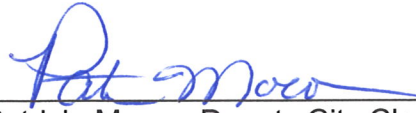
A. Snodgrass advised over the weekend he had been emailing back and forth with Scooter and Commissioner Wehling on disinfectant for the pool restrooms and other items. He emailed all Department Heads today on placing on order with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for hand-sanitizer. He added he will go up on Friday and pick up. After hearing back from most, they need around 40 2 ½ gallon containers for all City departments. He is also working with Scooter on CDC guidance on whether we can use chlorine and other things; need to figure out concentration and what the CDC says to kind of have a plan B and a plan C in case we run into troubles with that. The chlorine used in the pool is 2 parts per million; CDC guidance is 5 parts per 100. If we used that inside it would be a very strong substance. He added there are more things they are working through but at least we have a preliminary plan of other options for disinfectant. On the EMS side of things, working with the health district, Gregg Goebel, and other partners of theirs; PPE sitting well right now. He added we have noted an increase this week of some very sick patients; since our last meeting we have transported 10 potential COVID cases that kind of meet the symptom list. To the best of his knowledge, they have all tested negative. If that trend continues they are calculating what PPE will be needed in the future. Mayor Bequette added Scooter will need to project disinfect needs as well if having to do the baseball cleaning, the swimming pool cleaning, etc. A. Snodgrass stated the golf department has reached out as well due to them already using up the disinfectant they received a few weeks back (sanitizing golf carts, etc.). They are going to change to alcohol spray to try and make that work. PD is going through theirs as well.

With no other logistics from the Board, Mayor Bequette moved to Communications. He noted he was on B103 this a.m. and that will continue on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Bequette asked Goebel if they had the unified command meeting this a.m.; Goebel added they did. Mayor Bequette stated this Wednesday the Mayors will have the meeting with the League, next week it will be with the Governor again.

Amy Allgood of NCTC provided an update. She added NCTC has decided to postpone the start of the downtown movie series with the new guidelines effective June 1. That's still not a lot of people to get in that parking lot. She further added they are having some licensing issues with the theatres as well. She noted they will re-evaluate later in the summer if the circumstances change. As of now, the movie series that was set to start June 6 has been postponed. Mayor Bequette asked of Allgood if they were going with the 25 or the percentage. Allgood stated they don't really have a number of what the 25% would be because it's a parking lot. They were hoping it would be at 50 or more and then they could talk to Grant about whether families count as a group and keeping them 6' apart but with 25 there is just no way. Mayor Bequette interceded and noted we don't have a true occupancy number to put on that but questioned whether we could figure out a way to do that. Allgood further added there biggest issue right now is licensing; the theatres are trying to re-open so they have the same rights to the movies; it's just a little different this year to get those contracts signed. She added they are very expensive to work that far out to go ahead and sign the contract and then if we can't show it, it's pretty hard to recoup those costs. Mayor Bequette asked do you think it's worth-while to get some kind of occupancy statement for the square footage area of the sunken parking lot. Allgood added you can look into it to see if that's something we can do later in the summer but as of now she feels for June it safe to say we won't get anything set. They need at least 2-3 weeks out for contracts as well. Farmers Market is going great; she just sent in a request for the Council to expand the blue print for the street to keep that 6' social distancing

between vendors. They have quite a few vendors who want to start next month. She added those attending are doing their due diligence on social distancing, etc.; she feels vendors like it as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.



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Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer