

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
September 8, 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 at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 8, 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 5:04 PM. The Mayor publicly stated to all in attendance that he is required by law to inform the public that a copy the Open Meeting act is posted on the wall to your right as you come in the door of the Rowe Building Gary White Memorial room. This meeting is being recorded. If you are present and wish to speak please come to the podium and state your name, address, and speak directly towards the microphone the entire time you are addressing the Board. If you are listening in via the zoom platform please keep your microphone muted; if you wish to make a comment, 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. When you speak please state your name and address.

Upon roll call the following answer present: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, Greg Goebel, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Dr. Brad Vasa was attendance via Zoom. 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, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover, Parks Commissioner Patrick Wehling, City Clerk-Treasurer 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 August 31, 2020 meeting minutes. Greg Goebel moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 31, 2020 as provided. David Lacy seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Wendy Snodgrass, Greg Goebel, David Lacy, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bequette 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. He noted, the director of the SE District Health Department, Grant Brueggemann is on; Grant would you please give us a situation update.

Brueggeman noted, he is on the road so doesn't have a total count for the State. However, for the SE District we currently have a cumulative count of 299 cases with 190 of those within the last 30 days. Otoe County has around 125 cases. Trending wise Otoe County is at a slow rate; seems to have leveled off slightly. They will have a better picture towards the middle of the week. Numbers provided were as of last Friday. Mayor Bequette asked Brueggeman if he has any outstanding concerns on any of the AppleJack events as you've been briefed or is there anything you still need as a department to hear from. Brueggeman noted after speaking with Amy Allgood of NCTC, he knows the events are going to be spread out to reduce the crowd size as much as possible. He believes that is helpful. However, he does have concern about the parade knowing that a lot of people are

going to be packed in a small area and whether maintaining social distancing will be feasible. Mayor Bequette asked is there is anything releaseable yet on the Phase III/Phase IV timing; are we still just waiting on a news release to see whether we are going to stay in Phase III or move to Phase IV. Brueggeman replied to the best of his knowledge we will likely move to Phase IV effective September 14 provided the hospitalizations don't increase significantly.

Mayor Bequette asked for a hospital update from Dr. DeFreece. Dr. DeFreece noted he doesn't have many updates from the hospital side. They continue their work with TestNebraska and it is going well. They have gotten some reports of people not seeing them as the test site when they go into the portal; others have had no issues. They will work with TestNebraska on those issues. If anyone needs to get tested they can sign them up on the physical site as well; it takes a little longer but they don't want the issue of not being able to sign up online to be a barrier if someone feels they need to be tested. Otherwise they continue business as usual and are staying busy at the hospital and clinic with their routine day to day concerns. Mayor Bequette asked for TestNebraska are you still testing on Wednesdays from 10-noon. DeFreece repeated times and advised there are other sites around the SE District that are doing the testing as well on different days/times.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg provided the update noting NE has 35,975 positive cases with 404 deaths; MO has 95,113 positive cases with 1,661 deaths; IA has 70,845 positive cases with 1,176 deaths; KS has 46,914 positive cases with 485 deaths.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass if anything from the State. Wendy noted DHHS put out a quick update; the Panhandle District will be moving to Phase IV on September 11. Quick reminder, regardless of the County resident it is still recommended that all Nebraskans continue to use social distancing as well as wear face coverings, wash your hands frequently, stay home when sick, and asks that anyone with close contact with someone testing positive is encouraged to quarantine and get tested.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy advised nothing has changed over the past week.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty Stovall for an update from the City. Marty advised no changes at this time to the City. Everything has been operating as it has been and all employees are working including the one who was on quarantine.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs for an update from Utilities. Kohrs advised all operations are continuing as they have in the past; all of their employees who were on quarantine are back to work. Mayor Bequette asked if you have changed anything. Kohrs replied they continue to practice social distancing, masking, trying to keep separation from each department. Guys in the back have tried to maintain their own respective areas and have tried not to intermix as much as possible. They are still closed to the public. All are just more conscious of the threat so practicing social distancing, etc.

Rob Schreiner addressed board per prompt of Mayor Bequette on status of Fire/Rescue. He advised nothing new to report at this time; they are wearing their masks on their 1045's. Getting used to the new protocols is all he has for an update.

Donna Kruse from the Library was prompted by the Mayor to provide an update via zoom. Apparently she stepped away at the time of prompt.

Mayor Bequette asked if there is anything else on situation updates... he noted things are about the same yet hospitalizations seem to be down.

Mayor Bequette asked the City Attorney, Drew Graham to provide an update on tasks. Graham advised no tasks unless something changes. The City/County will be moving to Phase IV effective September 14 under the last announcement from the State, barring a change that's the next step.

For logistics, with Andrew being out he asked Stovall and Commissioner Glover if they have any updates to provide. Stovall felt we are in good shape at this time; Glover was not aware of anything to add.

Mayor Bequette asked of Moore if we got the presumptive pay portal submitted yet. Moore advised she and Andrew Snodgrass have been working on it; the spreadsheet keeps changing. Bequette asked if the deadline was the 15th. Moore replied she believes so but also believes it will be submitted timely.

For communications, per prompt of Mayor Bequette, Goebel advised for the Unified Command meeting there was a mishap with the timing of the last meeting and a problem with the zoom technology as well. Next Tuesday they will have another meeting at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Bequette noted Marty will be interested in this. For the next town hall meeting with the Governor (unsure which Wednesday at this time); they've asked that the Transportation Director Kyle Schneweis be at the meeting to advise on projections as to what they think the highway funds will be looking like next year given the reduced gas purchases, etc. Bequette further advised we will hear from NCTC at tonight's Council meeting on AppleJack; he knows the parade is a concern. He doesn't know if anybody in the State is having them yet under the circumstances.

Mayor Bequette advised the next BOH meeting will be Monday, September 21.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer