

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health  
January 18, 2021  
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 Monday, January 18, 2021. 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 he is required by law to inform the public that a copy of the Open Meetings 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. We also have speakers joining the meeting via the zoom platform; we now have an Executive Order from the Governor that allows Board members to be present and voting via Zoom as well. 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, Patty Moore, there is a comment from one of our virtual attendees. When you speak please state your name and address.

Upon roll call the following answered present: Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Gregg Goebel and David Lacy were not in attendance. The following City Officials were present via zoom and in person: City Administrator Lou Leone, Construction and Facility Manager Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities General Manager Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Police Captain Lonnie Neeman, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover 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 January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 4, 2021 as provided. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bequette 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 asked for an update from Dr. DeFreece of CHI St. Mary's. Dr. DeFreece advised they are seeing about the same activity as of recent. CHI health numbers are hovering around the same numbers as well. They are seeing decreased testing numbers for TestNebraska; he is unsure what that reflects. The big focus right now is vaccinations. They have pretty much completed Phase IA; healthcare workers in general. They have done some Phase 1B vaccinations as well; they have given 92 doses of Moderna to 75+ population. They are now in the process of working with the Health Department and the State on their supply of vaccine they will receive in the coming weeks. A lot of that has to do with how Phase 1A completes in the bigger cities and of course the vaccine supply from the Federal Government. They are working on a system that will allow people to go in and sign up; they will be put on a list and then notified. Dr. Vasa asked question on when will the system be in place to have people sign up? Dr. DeFreece advised they are working on some testing right now but

doesn't know exactly when it will be available. He advised he believes it will probably mimic how TestNebraska is set up. CHI will become a vaccination site for the list. He expects it will be out in the next week or two but don't hold him to it. Mayor Bequette asked question of Dr. DeFreece on whether it's the State or Health District who is working on the site. Dr. DeFreece advised both but he believes the State will house it, if you will. Then the Health Departments will be having people go to that site. Mayor Bequette asked additional question on if he has any idea on how the assisted living or residence homes in their phase/distribution. Dr. DeFreece noted it's a different process whether they get their vaccines directly from the pharmacy; he believes Grant and Stephanie would have that information but he doesn't know how they are doing on their vaccines. Dr. DeFreece advised for communications they will continue to work with the local news outlets for information as well as social media outlets, etc. Premature to say when and how much we can give until we get the final supply numbers from the State. The sign up system will be well documented as TestNebraska has been.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for an update. He added he doesn't have anything new to add other than it's still here even though the numbers are going down somewhat. Hopefully the vaccines will prevent the third wave. He knows people are getting mask fatigue but we still need to do it, it's still out there, there are still people walking around with COVID spreading it around. The day is coming when we are not going to have to wear masks; it's just not here yet.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass if she has an update from the State. Wendy advised she has a couple of vaccine updates from DHHS. Phase IB is now going to include those 65 and older; they dropped that from 75. DHHS did hold a Facebook live session last week that is going to be archived and available on the video tab of the DHHS Facebook page. They discussed the new age groups and answered questions. She advised they mention a couple of things on here, they said to contact your local health department for the electronic signup but they also said DHHS is launching a website to help Nebraskans register for the vaccine, receive updates, schedule information and follow up reminders. It's kind of conflicting but she thinks it's mostly with local health departments for the sign ups. The sign up is not in place yet but there is a hotline available; it's staffed 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the number is 833 998-2275. She further advised Gregg sent her his numbers. MO is at 438,840 positive with 6,256 deaths; IA is at 305,622 positive with 4,324 deaths; KS is at 259,822 positive with 3,525 deaths. Mayor Bequette noted we didn't cover Nebraska's numbers but like Dr. Vasa said the numbers are going down. The active hospitalizations are down to the low 400's. He advised Otoe County has just over 1,100 positive cases with 4 fatalities, possibly expecting a 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Bequette asked Lou Leone for an update from the City. Lou advised we are still the same as from the last 2 weeks; status quo with no quarantines or isolations.

Donna Kruse per prompt of Mayor Bequette advised no changes for the Library; not back to doing browsing.

Mayor Bequette asked Captain Neeman if he has anything to report for the Department. Nothing new to report; he advised the Officers who tested positive around Christmas are back to work.

Mayor Bequette prompted Chief Schreiner for a Fire Department update. He advised they are status quo right now with no active cases or quarantines. For EMS, they have received their first round of the vaccine as well as their 2<sup>nd</sup> shots. For the fire department, they are going Wednesday to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> shot.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs to provide an update for Utilities. Kohrs advised they did have one employee who has quarantined as a precaution but has since been tested and returned to work this a.m. otherwise they are status quo.

Mayor Bequette prompted Graham for an update as he moved the agenda to tasks. Graham advised the State is still in the blue, until that changes either up or down, we will maintain all the same regulations. The current DHM, #18, runs through the end of January. So presumably sometime towards the end of this week or next week he anticipates another DHM probably extending it an additional 30 days. He further advised the Governor did announce a new Executive Order that extends the virtual meeting allowance through March 31 of this year he believes. It is the same as the prior Executive Order just extends the effective date.

Mayor Bequette asked if there are any concerns on the departments with logistics. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether we've received the Presumptive pay. Moore advised we received \$400,000 + perhaps 3 weeks ago. However, she believes there is the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave for the dispatcher position that we haven't received.

For communications, Mayor Bequette noted the next Board of Health meeting will be on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Wendy asked question if Mayor Bequette has thought about having monthly meetings. Bequette noted he would be fine with that. It was decided to stay with the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday so all would still meet on February 1, then would move to monthly meetings at that point. All noted we would more than likely have a new DHM then as well. Mayor Bequette noted there is a Mayor's dial in to the Governor's office on Wednesday of this week; he will probably participate but it will be with the Governor's Chief of Staff due to the inauguration taking place on Wednesday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.



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Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer