

City Health Board Meeting Discussion Record
April 9, 2020

Voting members in attendance: Dr. Mary Milroy, City Manager Amy Leon and Mayor Nathan Johnson.

Ex Officio members in attendance: City Attorney Ross Den Herder, Police Commander Jason Foote, Community Development Manager Brad Bies and Community and Economic Development Director Dave Mingo.

Leon discussed upcoming elections. The Governor's executive order stated local governments can hold elections on any Tuesday in June. Our City Commission already established June 2nd as the date for the city election. Absentee voting will begin on May 18th. Johnson asked if voting by mail is a possibility and referenced Nebraska as an example of where that occurs. Den Herder will investigate and advise. It is advisable to wait a couple of weeks and see how things evolve prior to considering any adjustments.

Leon discussed park drinking fountains, the splash pad and decorative fountains. Should they be opened on their regular schedule? Milroy stated that drinking fountains would be the biggest question. Decorative fountains should be fine. The splash pad should be okay with proper distancing and hygiene. Leon stated it is probably good to have bathrooms open for hand washing but may leave drinking fountains off until we do a little more research.

Den Herder discussed the draft "Resolution and Advisory" that is a very strong advisory but does not include the force of the law. He read through the document and the Board discussed specific provisions. Milroy suggested that the advisory basically say that whenever people are outside their home interacting with others, they should wear a face covering even when social distancing. Leon stated that education is still the key and the advisory will help with that by providing clarification on certain issues.

Leon discussed the Governor's recent executive order that allows the Commission to hold meetings without a physical location. The Board concurred that is a good idea as it supports our objectives.

The Board then discussed specific types of businesses that are generating the most public comment. Tanning salons, hair stylists and pet groomers. Milroy suggested that we should stay with current language for at least as long as our numbers are increasing. Johnson concurred and stated this will be a difficult thing for some to understand because what we are doing is working which has kept our numbers from growing rapidly. Leon stated that we are already in the process of pre-planning our reopening strategy.

Bies discussed specific industry best practices for individual types of businesses. They provide an opportunity for us to learn from them. Leon stated that the Beadle County example is proof thus far of the effectiveness of active ordinances. Johnson stated that widespread rapid testing and possibly therapeutic treatments will be key to a reopening plan. Milroy agreed.

Motion by Milroy, seconded by Johnson to recommend the City Commission approve the Resolution and Advisory with the language adjustments discussed. All voted aye.

Motion by Leon, seconded by Johnson to recommend the City Commission temporarily suspend the requirement of having a physical meeting location. All voted aye.

Foote reported that enforcement going well. The Police Department has had to address the issue with a few small groups of young folks gathering.

Motion to adjourn by Milroy, seconded by Johnson. All voted aye.