



*January 21, 2021*

**T** HE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Special Meeting on Monday, January 21, 2021, at 4:05 p.m. at the Lewiston City Library, 411 D Street.

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Collins; Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder; Councilor Kelly; Councilor Bradbury; Councilor Pernsteiner; Councilor Miller; Councilor Blakey

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Alan Nygaard; Jana Gómez; Kayla Hermann; Chris Davies; Travis Myklebust; Dan Marsh; Tim Barker; Laura Von Tersch; Lynn Johnson; Carol Mauer; Kari Ravencroft; Brittnie Purington; Brian Ellison; Aaron Butler; Carole Moehrle

**I. UPDATE BY CAROL MOEHRLE, PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

Public Health - Idaho North Central District Director Moehrle provided the Council with a COVID-19 pandemic update. She shared the number of cases in Nez Perce County and surrounding counties within in the health district. She reminded the Council that all data shared today could be accessed on the Public Health website.

Ms. Moehrle responded to Mayor Collins by explaining that students that test positive for the virus are reported to the local Public Health and are included in the case numbers. If the student tests positive for the virus at their place of residence prior to returning to school, the numbers are reported to the local state or county of the student. She continued by stating that the positivity rate is much lower than in recent months.

Councilor Blakey asked if Ms. Moehrle thought the mask ordinance was helping with the reduction in the number of positive tests. She said she feels that all mitigation strategies that have been put in place have helped keep the number of cases down. She explained that Nez Perce County would be having a mass vaccination clinic in early February with the help of partners, such as Schweitzer Engineering, Valley Medical, CHAS Clinic and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC).

Councilor Kelly asked if information was available regarding the current hospitalization rate for SJRMC. Ms. Moehrle replied that Public Health tracks hospitalization rates for all 5 regional hospitals on a weekly basis and that information can be found on the Public Health website.

Councilor Pernsteiner asked for data regarding exposure other than through family contact in older age groups. Ms. Moehrle stated that with contract tracing Public Health is able to gather information regarding exposure of the virus, but most of the exposures have been from a family member within the household or family events.

Councilor Bradbury asked if a medical provider is still required to perform a COVID-19 test. Ms. Moehrle confirmed. Councilor Bradbury asked how close the local hospitals are to full capacity. Ms. Moehrle stated that her understanding was that they are within normal range. City Manager Nygaard shared that currently there are only three hospitalizations at SJRMC.

**II. WASTEWATER COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE (Ellison)**

Wastewater Division Supervisor Ellison provided the Council with information regarding COVID testing at the wastewater treatment plant. He explained the process of collecting samples from the wastewater system to identify the virus within fecal matter. He noted that flow samples are collected twice weekly over a 24-hour period and sent to GT Molecular for testing and are reported back to the Wastewater Division.

Councilor Bradbury asked if the discharge from Clearwater Paper was affecting the results of the testing. Mr. Ellison replied that Clearwater Paper has their own discharge line, so the flow from that line is not included in the testing. He continued that what can be challenging is the high level of industrial flow that the city intakes. However, the high flows do not compromise the integrity of the sample being collected.

Councilor Blakey asked if the information collected is being shared with Public Health. Mr. Ellison stated that he shares the test results with Risk Manager Harrington and City Manager Nygaard.

**IV. POTENTIAL DIRECTION REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR CITY COUNCIL - ACTION ITEM**

Councilor Bradbury asked when the mask order expires. City Manager Nygaard replied that the order expires at 12:00 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, and is on the agenda for discussion at Monday's meeting. Councilor Bradbury suggested having the medical exception removed from the order if face shields provide the same protection as a mask.

Councilor Blakey stated that the education efforts, masks, handwashing and orders in place are working to lower the case numbers. He said he feels that the City needs to work in conjunction with the federal government and is in support of extending the mask order on Monday for an additional 45 days.

City Manager Nygaard thanked Carole Moehrle and Mr. Ellison for their presentations at today's meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Mayor Collins adjourned the January 21, 2021, Special Meeting at 4:56 p.m.

The City of Lewiston is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, and activities and encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided at this meeting, please contact City Clerk Kari Ravencroft at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting at 208-746-3671, ext. 6203.