

**MINUTES
LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MEETING**

7:00 p.m.

September 21, 2009

Minutes are not a verbatim transcription, but rather an attempt to capture the intent of the speaker by the City Clerk.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Lakewood Civic Center, 480 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

Those present were: Mayor Bob Murphy, Presiding

Doug Anderson
Karen Kellen
Sue King
Debbie Koop
Ed Peterson
Tom Quinn
Adam Paul
Vicki Stack

Absent: Diana Allen
Cindy Baroway

Staff in attendance: Kathy Hodgson, City Manager
Paul Kennebeck, Deputy City Attorney

Full and timely notice of this Study Session had been given and a quorum was present.

ITEM 3 – PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON PREPARATION FOR H1N1 VIRUS

Jay Hutchison, Director, Planning and Public Works, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation and introduced Jody Erwin, Jefferson County Public Health Representative.

Mr. Hutchison provided prevention tips on the H1N1 virus, which included staying at home when you're sick; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or using your elbow; washing hands often and long enough; not touching your eyes, mouth or nose. This is a serious situation and we need to deal with it appropriately.

He said Mr. Erwin would talk about what Jefferson County is doing, and Brian Nielsen would speak on how the City will react if the virus affects City employees.

Jody Erwin, Planning and Response Coordinator, Jefferson County Public Health Department, spoke about the background of pandemics, viruses and seasonal flu and the differences with H1N1. Pandemic is widespread. He noted some similarities with the seasonal flu, i.e. the seasonal flu impacts the older population whereas H1N1 impacts those 24 years old and younger. There is some immunity with seasonal flu, but little to none with H1N1.

It is the assumption with H1N1 that it is expected to gain strength and impact communities at some level. Vaccine for H1N1 is expected in mid-October and there will be limited weekly deliveries. Priority groups include pregnant women; household contacts of children less than six months old; medical personnel who perform direct patient care. He said persons six months to 24 years old and persons 25 to 61 years old, with underlying conditions, are still on the priority list, but because Jefferson County will not get the anticipated amount of vaccines, this group will be secondary recipients.

Distribution will be controlled by local health providers in the community as dictated by the federal government.

Brian Nielsen, Environmental Services Manager, City of Lakewood, talked about City level preparations for upcoming flu season by noting that a flu committee has been formed with the purpose of coordinating the City's actions and providing timely and accurate information to employees. He reviewed the City's Pandemic Administrative Regulations. Posters, both in English and Spanish, have been placed in various locations throughout City Hall as reminders to employees.

Other H1N1 preventive measures taken by the City include "no touch" paper towel dispensers, seasonal flu vaccinations offered to employees, flu training sessions for employees, Pandemic Contingency Plan (each department lists daily functions and activities and notes what would happen if staff levels were to drop 25% or more), a Business Continuity Plan (identifies critical functions within the City that must be performed regardless of what calamity hits the City.)

He also noted that the City of Lakewood has stockpiled thousands of various supplies (masks, respirators, gloves, antiseptic sprays and hand wipes). The most effective method to use in warding off infection with the virus is good personal hygiene. He shared recommendations from the Center For Disease Control (CDC) and noted that the City of Lakewood has addressed said recommendations. For more information, persons can contact Jefferson County Health Department, Jeffco Schools, and www.flu.gov or www.cdc.gov.

Mr. Hutchison encouraged persons to continue to check with the websites listed to be informed of current information and to take whatever action(s) one can to minimize risks.

Question and answer session ensued.

Booklets are available that include information on pandemic planning and how to take care of infected persons.

ITEM 4 – OPEN DISCUSSION

Councilman Peterson asked about the possibility of placing speed limits in the parks because of the difficulties handicapped persons have had with bicyclists in Belmar Park.

Kathy Hodgson, City Manager, noted that as part of the Master Plan for Community Resources, they are putting together a new signage package for parks and recreational centers, especially regarding bike trails. She agrees that there is a need for etiquette for the use of bike trails and hopes the signage program will improve the situation.

Mayor Murphy asked if there were any enforcement mechanism in place.

Kathy Hodgson stated there is no enforcement in Lakewood at this time in regards to bicycle speeding. However, staff will post articles in “Looking At Lakewood” regarding bicycle etiquette in the parks.

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

Mayor Murphy and City Council Members reported their attendance at previous meetings and events and announced upcoming neighborhood meetings and events.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council; Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by:

Sharon Blackstock, Acting City Clerk