

BY-LAWS

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

(Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board)

(Effective _____, 2020)

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this assembly shall be the City-County Common, hereinafter referred to as the Common.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Common shall be to foster a spirit of cooperation between the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County and to facilitate joint decision making in areas of mutual concern to City and County government. To further this purpose, the Common will meet as provided in these By-Laws to:

- a. Receive information;
- b. Discuss issues;
- c. Take informal action;
- d. Coordinate the decision-making process on matters of importance to both the City and County; and
- e. Refer action items to the City Council and County Board for formal decisions.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Common shall consist of all elected members of the Lancaster County Board, the Lincoln City Council, and the Mayor of the City of Lincoln.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

Section 1. Schedule. The Common shall be scheduled to meet ~~one time each month~~ **quarterly each year**, and at such other times as business requires, at times mutually agreeable to the City Council and County Board. At the request of the County Board or City Council, the regularly scheduled ~~monthly~~ **quarterly** meeting may be cancelled by the Chair of the Common if there are no important matters to be discussed. Meetings will be televised by 5 City-TV.

Section 2. Open Meetings. Common meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Public Meetings Law, Neb.Rev.Stat. §§84-1408 et. seq.

Section 3. Quorum. Seven members shall constitute a quorum, provided at least three County Commissioners and four City Council members are present.

Section 4. Staff. Staff support for conducting the meetings and business of the Common shall be provided for alternating calendar years by either the City Council or the County Board, commencing with the City Council for 2005. Pursuant to the direction of the Chair of the Common, staff shall be responsible for preparation of agendas, taking minutes, giving notice of meetings, and other similar duties.

Section 5. Rules of Procedure. The current addition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a general guide, so long as they are not inconsistent with these By-laws or any special rules of order adopted by the Common.

Section 6. Super Common. From time to time issues coming before the Common may involve other public bodies. The Common shall have the authority to invite such other public bodies to join the Common at a special meeting to further the purposes stated in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. Positions. There shall be a chair and vice chair, each serving a one-year term. Each year the position of chair shall alternate between a member of the City Council and County Board, with the position of vice chair being held by a member of the other governing body.

Section 2. Duties. The chair shall be responsible for presiding over meetings, selecting the time and place for meetings in consultation with the County Board and City Council, preparing written agendas and minutes for meetings, and giving notice of meetings to members and the public.

The vice chair shall perform these duties in the absence of the chair.

Section 3. Election. Officers shall be nominated and elected by the members of the Common during the December meeting **set for the final quarter of each year**, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. The incumbent officers will continue to serve until new officers are elected.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of both the City Council and County Board. Any proposed amendment must first be presented to the Common for discussion before being referred to the City Council and County Board for action.

These By-Laws are hereby adopted by the Lancaster County Board this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Sean Flowerday, Chair

These By-Laws are hereby adopted by the Lincoln City Council this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Jane Raybould, Chair