

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Municipal Airport, 3300 West 12th Street, on May 26, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Beckby with the following members present Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Matt Fong, Brian Hoffman, Marc Rowan. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; City Clerk, Tyler Ficken; Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash; Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; Information Technology, Kirk Layton; Public Information Manager; Tony Herrman; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Safety Director, Trent Clark; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Police Chief, Adam Story.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Moved by Michael Anderson seconded by Matt Fong to adopt the current agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 22, 2026. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is available for public review and a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Fong provided an update on the Library summer reading kickoff. Councilmember Hoffman provided an update on the Hasting Community Foundation give day. Councilmember Rowan provided information on the Nebraska Antique Airplane hamburger lunch, bed-turning event at the museum and Germans from Russia walking tour. Councilmember Anderson thanked veterans following Memorial Day, the work of the Police Department on the obstacle course and congratulated the Museum on their re-accreditation.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Don Willnerd spoke in support of item 4c. Mitch Houser, Anita Ruybalid, Chris Shade, Lee Johnson, Mark Millard, Tom Murray, Grant Nitzel, Elwyn Fitzke, Paul Knott, David Stuehrenberg, Edward Krantz, Robert Lemke and Matt Sass spoke in support of item 5b, and Jonathan Canterbury spoke in opposition.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of May 11, 2026

(b) Approval of claims and payroll

(c) Approval of the manager application of Molly Johnsen in connection with the Class "CK" Liquor License of the Adams Co. Agricultural Society dba "Adams County Ag Society" located at 947 S. Baltimore Avenue

(d) Approval of the request of the Adams County Agricultural Society to utilize city property for the Kool-Aid Days Parade on August 15, 2026

(e) Approval of the request of the Adams County Fairgrounds to utilize city property for the Kool-Aid Fun Run on August 16, 2026

(f) Approval of Pay Requests (#7 - #11) in the total amount of \$146,810.56 from the Community Redevelopment Authority for work completed at 405 W. 2nd Street for the Community Development Block Grant Project 21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization

(g) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #16, in the amount of \$146,810.56 for project activity work completed for Community Redevelopment Block Grant Project 21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization

(h) Approval of Pay Estimate #2 in the amount of \$160,160.40 from Diamond Engineering for work completed on the Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008, Mobile Home Communities

(i) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #6, in the amount of \$112,112.28 for project activity costs for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008, Public Works

(j) Approval of the request of St. Michael and St. Cecilia Catholic Church to utilize city property for the Religious Procession on June 10, 2026

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

None.

4. General Business.

(a) Presentation of Library Impact Report. Kelly Reisig presented the Library Impact Report.

(b) Approval of fabrication work by Spohn Ranch for skate park renovation. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve fabrication work for the skate park renovation by Spohn Ranch Inc. in the amount of \$79,500.00. Director of Parks and Recreation Jeff Hassenstab reported that the Kiwanis club is helping with the project with donations and grants. Approval of the fabrication work would allow the off-site work to begin in August and complete the project before winter. The project will be completed with donations, grants and half-cent sales tax. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

(c) Approval of contract amendment on the Community Development Block Grant Project 23-ED-001, WR Reserve/Noah's Ark Economic Development. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve contract amendment on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project 23-ED-001, WR Reserve/Noah's Ark Economic Development Project. Lori Ferguson with the South Central Economic Development District reported on the requested extension; the extension is necessary due to a delay in funding from the USDA meat and poultry production expansion program. The construction began in early 2025 and was followed by weather delays. The original CDBG project was scheduled to end in August of 2026, and a one-year extension is being requested. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

(d) Approval of contract with Mammoth Sports Construction to replace the infield turf and the netting backstop at Duncan Field. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Matt Fong to approve the contract with Mammoth Sports Construction in the amount of \$402,000 for the replacement of the infield turf and netting backstop at Duncan Field. Director of Parks and Recreation Jeff Hassenstab reported that the infield was transitioned to turf in 2018 due to high use of the field, and the netting backstop was installed in 2010. This project would replace both items using sinking funds and the half-cent sales tax for the remainder, and if approved, the project would begin in September. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4830 to convey the 6th Street right-of-way between Hastings Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and the alley to the south to the Community Redevelopment Authority (Second and possible Final Reading). Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Ordinance No. 4830 to convey the alley and 6th Street ROW to the CRA on Second Reading. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance 4830 on final reading. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule was declared

suspended for consideration of said ordinance. The ordinance is declared to be lawfully adopted upon publication as required by law.

(b) Ordinance No. 4831 amending Section 4-104, Hours of Sale and enacting Section 4-118, Alcohol License Revocation or Suspension (Requested by Councilmembers Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brad Consbruck and Mike Anderson). Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Ordinance 4831 amending City Code Section 4-104, hours of sale, and enacting City Code Section 4-118, Alcohol License Revocation or Suspension. Mayor Beckby read the ordinance into the record. Councilmember Larry Consbruck stated that he and Councilmember Rowan had collaborated on Ordinance 4831. Councilmember Larry Consbruck stated that he doesn't believe the Lord created women to be objectified; there are lots of issues that add to moral decay in society, and there is a responsibility to pick them off one at a time to have a better society. Brad Consbruck stated that he has received a lot of emails on this issue as a Council member over the last 3 1/2 years to regulate alcohol and nudity. Councilmember Anderson stated that he had received a lot of emails, and it is clear from the turnout that it is an important topic, and he will do the people's will. Councilmember Rowan stated that he is not a bar guy, and he doesn't like the idea of one business having the advantage of being open later than others with liquor licenses; he would like to see all of them close at 1:00 a.m. Councilmember Fong inquired with Police Chief Adam Story on the infraction history of this business, and Chief Story reported that there had not been any infractions and statistically there have been three calls for service to request a removal or report an assault; this is typical of an establishment that sells alcohol. Councilmember Rowan asked if the number of these establishments had been curtailed in Nebraska; Chief Story and City Attorney Oswald did not have the numbers. Councilmember Larry Johnson stated that he is not looking at infractions, but a scourge on society; it's a moral question. Chief Story stated that he serves everyone in the community, regardless of faith or beliefs in the community. Mayor Beckby asked if the establishment in question has been problematic above and beyond other bars with a class C liquor license; Mayor Beckby provided the distinction between the Class C and Class M license, which is not allowed to serve alcohol and does not make money from alcohol. Chief Story stated that based on complaints, given the type of business, the Police Department has invested more time into checking and running operations, but there have been no violations which includes State Patrol Liquor Enforcement Division. Councilmember Fong stated that it is often the case that personal feelings must be set aside, and he is concerned that this law targets one specific business. People have a choice to go to the business, and the Ordinance could begin a slippery slope of targeting morality-related issues; studies say that alcohol challenges many families, smoking in the same vein. This business is following the state regulations and local rules, and they should be able to operate the business they choose. Councilmember Larry Consbruck reiterated that the Lord did not create women to be objectified. Councilmember Hoffman expressed his apologies for missing the meeting that could have added additional revenue to the City budget, as it was an opportunity for Hastings to grow; at this meeting, the question was asked whether a business should go away. The business is in good standing with the City with taxes paid and employs people who in turn pay taxes. Brad Consbruck stated that the ordinance would remove alcohol and not close the

business down. Councilmember Hoffman stated that, per the owner, 75% of his sales occur during those hours. Jonathan Canterbury, owner of The Platform, stated that his business opens at 8:00 p.m.; from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. there are typically 50 to 100 people during that time and from 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. there is typically an additional 100 to 300 people; the business has 25,000 members. He purchased the operation from the prior owner and has done things the right way, no history with the police or citations. His employees are upset about their potential loss of income. Mayor Beckby asked if the change would shut down his business and Jonathan Canterbury stated that it absolutely would and that easily 75% of his income comes between the hours of 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Jonathan Canterbury stated that he does not make money from alcohol and that helps other liquor businesses that sell alcohol to go. Not everyone drinks alcohol at his establishment, and many people come and sober up; he sells non-alcoholic drinks and gives away free water and provides free entry for designated drivers. Jonathan Canterbury added that he passed a one-year probation with the State of Nebraska. Councilmember Rowan stated that he hears that we shouldn't regulate morality, but there is a duty to uphold ideals and beliefs that we think will make the community a better place. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Nays: Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion failed.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

None.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

9. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

(a) Executive Session to update City Council on pending litigation and possible authorization of settlement authority. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Matt Fong to make a motion to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation and for the further reason that the closed session is necessary for the protection of the public interest. Mayor Beckby stated that the pending motion is to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and for the further reason that the closed session is necessary for the protection of the public interest. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Abstention: Larry Consbruck. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried. Mayor Beckby stated that the motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and for the further reason that the closed session is necessary for the protection of the public interest has been approved. Discussion will be limited to discussing pending litigation. No official actions or votes will be taken during the executive session. Time in: 7:34 p.m. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to come out of the executive session where no official actions or votes were taken. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion

carried. Time out: 7:42 p.m. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Matt Fong for settlement of claim by Mayor and City Attorney pursuant to the authority requested. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Steve Huntley, Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Beckby adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(S E A L)