

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, May 16, 2016

The Worksession was called to order by Vice President Goebel with the following members present: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Chuck Niemeyer, Michael Krings, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Everett Goebel. Absent: Kathy Duval.

Others Present: Joe Patterson, Dave Wacker, Dave Ptak, Syed Ataullah, Tom Leikam, Wes Walhgren, Mike Owen, James Kindig, Dawn Miller, Ron Sekora, Chuck Shoemaker, Al Meyer.

Moved by Chuck Niemeyer seconded by Ginny Skutnik to adopt the May 16, 2016 Worksession Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Chuck Niemeyer, Michael Krings, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Everett Goebel. Nays: None. Absent: Kathy Duval. The motion carried.

Council Vice President Goebel read the Public Notice - Notice posted on Thursday, May 12, 2016. Pursuant to the 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. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

Discussion on Hastings Southeast (Highway 6) Construction Project.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, stated that there were representatives from the State Highway Department present. He introduced several of the representatives and began by stating that he had been part of this project for 40 years and is anxious to see it move forward.

James Kindig, District 4 Highway Commissioner, began the presentation on the Hastings Southeast Construction Project and thanked the Council for allowing them to come before them and present on this project. (Presentation attached and made a part of original minutes.)

Wes Wahlgren, District 4 Engineer, reviewed with Council the limits of the project starting on "J" Street, up Elm Avenue, turning on South Street and extending just beyond Showboat Boulevard. He reviewed with Council the typical roadway section and further went over funding and agreements and stated it would be a Build Nebraska Act Project with 80% funding, a 20% match by the City of Hastings and requiring an agreement between the Nebraska Department of Roads and the City of Hastings.

Syed Ataullah, Assistant Roadway Design Engineer, reviewed with Council the funding and how it was arrived at. He stated that this is a Build Nebraska Act Project and is an 80/20 split with the 20% being the City of Hastings' share. He stated that as of today the cost of the project is \$25,800,000 with the City's share being \$5,150,000 but noted that the cost of the project could go higher or lower. He went on to explain how they arrived at the design of the project and that the City as well as Adams County had been involved. He told Council that stakeholder meetings had been held to explain the project and receive input. He indicated a public information meeting is tentatively scheduled for late June, 2016 with a Highway Commission Meeting scheduled for the fall of 2016. Mr. Ataullah indicated from there they would hopefully be ready for final design, right-of-way appraisals and acquisition of properties in 2017 and 2018 with anticipated construction beginning in 2019 to 2020.

Tom Leikam, Olsson Associates, reviewed with Council an Elm Avenue overview map and a South Street Overview map. He reviewed the 5-lane section being built and followed the project down South Street. He talked about the realignment of "J" street to improve safety and overall

traffic movement. He indicated they would be replacing some culverts, consolidating driveways to acquire access control and constructing a new frontage road. He spoke of the need for acquisition of property along the proposed road project due to a lot of driveway closures and the close proximity of properties to the road construction. Mr. Leikam indicated that the project will be constructed in phases and they would provide temporary pavement to maintain local access to businesses located along the construction. He also stated that in order to help reduce the congestion in the construction zone, there would be a detour route provided.

Mayor Powers asked if the construction would be staged from east to west.

Mr. Leikam stated they would probably build the north/south portion first.

Mayor Powers expressed concern about CPI customers during harvest time.

Mr. Leikam explained that temporary pavements would have to be built during construction in that area.

Mr. Ataullah indicated that the Council was provided with a draft agreement describing what the City of Hastings' responsibility would be as well as the cost sharing.

Councilmember Krings asked when this agreement needed to be signed.

Mr. Ataullah stated they would like to have it signed before their June meeting to show City support and that they are on board with the project.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, questioned if the City had the right of rejection if the bids come in high or does that decision fall completely with the state.

Mike Owen, Planning and Project Development, stated that as the agreement is currently written, it does not have a right of refusal but it could be added. He also commented on the budget and said they are trying to maintain the price range that is stated in the agreement and have the same concerns as the City.

Councilmember Krings questioned if acquisition costs are included in the estimated cost.

Mr. Ataullah stated that they currently have \$5 million budgeted but at this time they don't know for sure what that amount will be until they get into the acquisition part of the project.

Councilmember Krings asked who owns the properties once acquired and will they just acquire the portion of property they need.

Mr. Ataullah stated with the right-of-way negotiations, it is up to landowner. He indicated some owners want to be bought out because they will no longer be able to do their business and others will just sell the portion of their property needed. He said they don't know until they get in to it. He stated if they have to buy more property than is needed, the state will own the property after the construction is complete.

Councilmember Odom asked if the information and maps provided at the meeting tonight would be provided online.

Mr. Ataullah stated it would be available on their NDOR website as well as at the public information meeting.

Mr. Wacker stated that he has worked with a number of officials from NDOR and he supports the design on this project and indicated it is one that really needs to be looked at and moved forward with. He stated it is an entrance to Hastings that he receives a lot of comment about due to the condition of it. He stated that drainage has been a concern, sidewalks and street lighting would be complementary to the area, and a new utility system would be beneficial since what is currently there is very old and in some places non-existent. \$5.2 million may seem like a lot but it is reasonable when you look at the long term benefit to the community.

Councilmember Odom questioned the pedestrian crosswalk in the "D" Street area and if there is enough room for the proposed future hike/bike trail.

Mr. Ataullah stated they could coordinate with City on the trail.

Mayor Powers asked Mr. Patterson to explain about bonding.

Mr. Patterson stated they initially issue BANS and then convert to bonds, the debt would be issued over a prescribed period of time, probably 20 years, and then annual payments are made.

Councilmember Krings questioned if they could issue bonds soon.

Mr. Wacker stated you would need actual bids on the project.

Mr. Ataullah indicated this project could move along very quickly after their public information meeting.

Councilmember Krings asked about date and time of that public information meeting.

Mr. Ataullah stated it is currently set for June 28, 2016 in the Hastings City Council Chambers from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Patterson asked if individuals impacted by the project would be notified of the scheduled public information hearing.

Mr. Ataullah indicated that they would.

Mr. Patterson questioned if they wanted Council action on this item before or after the public hearing.

Mr. Ataulla stated they would like it before to show City support.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Sarah Hoops to adjourn the Worksession at 6:17 P.M.
Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Chuck Niemeyer, Michael Krings, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Everett Goebel. Nays: None. Absent: Kathy Duval. The motion carried.