

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, March 19, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Second Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on March 19, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Worksession by Council President John Harrington with the following members present: Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Phil Odom, Sarah Hoops, Corey Stutte. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Scott Snell, Paul Hamelink.

Councilmember Harrington read the Public Notice - 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 located at the back of the Conference Room. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the Conference Room, which is accessible to members of the public.

Presentation of Financial Audit for period ending September 30, 2017

Marcy Luth, Almquist Maltzahn Galloway & Luth, presented the Financial Audit for the City of Hastings, period ending September 30, 2017. The city's accounts receivable and revenue in the governmental funds were decreased \$132,455. Accounts payable and expenses were increased \$547,387 on the governmental funds to record unrecorded liabilities. She commented on a lack of segregation of duties, which is difficult with smaller amounts of office staff. The City Council must remain involved in the financial affairs of the City to provide oversight and independent review functions. Budget amounts versus actual came out well. She explained the best practice comparison chart given to council members, comparing cities with populations over 10,000 to come up with the averages. Ms. Luth went over recommendations, audit findings and issues. (Complete Financial Report is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office).

Presentation of HPAC Annual Report.

Lorie Schiefelbein, Hastings Public Access Corporation (HPAC) Program Director, presented their Annual Report. The city continues payment of 1% cable franchise fees to HPAC, which has allowed them to provide education and government programming to the community. Lorie thanked the council for obtaining grant funds to assist in purchasing equipment, which has allowed a wider range of programming in digital format. She told council there are 124 organizations that are currently using the Community Bulletin Board with 120 messages in constant rotation during the day.

Update on railroad quiet crossings.

Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, presented the Quiet Crossing Preliminary Schedule. The project will be a community driven process. The railroad impacts the community in many ways, so we want equitable treatment across the community. There are no dates on the timeline, as scheduling with both NDOT and railroads will be lengthy and labor intensive to get everyone to the table for discussion. Street crossings will need to be a part of those discussions. The city needs to be realistic and get updated cost on closing crossings. We need to realize choke points and kids crossing railroads to school. This shows the importance of where planning comes into place, prior to the physical changes. The expectation is to start as soon as possible, but this will probably take two years to get through the entire process.

Discussion of the bidding of high dollar items.

Councilmember Butch Eley stated that the cheapest bid is not always best. He requested notification to the council prior to bids taking place on high dollar items. Joe Patterson asked for specifics on when the council would like to be notified (dollar threshold) and what information they want at that time. Butch stated he would like notified of a bid that would be around \$100,000 and over, so that council has time to review. He also asked for the reasons if the lowest is not the best bid. Dave Ptak stated the standard in Nebraska is lowest responsible bidder. The lowest bid is not always the best bid, but you look at what you are buying and what it is being used for. We should not only look at upfront cost, but over the lifetime what is best. Joe agreed to add bid notifications to currents sent to council. Discussion took place on local vendor preference and state bids.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Sarah Hoops to move into closed session at 6:32p.m. for reason of personnel and negotiations. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Scott Snell, Paul Hamelink. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by John Harrington to move out of closed session at 7:15p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Scott Snell, Paul Hamelink. The motion carried.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ginny Skutnik no further business to adjourn at 7:15p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Phil Odom, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Scott Snell, Paul Hamelink. The motion carried.