CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, May 21, 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 May 21, 2018.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 18, 2018. 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. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

Discussion of allowing alcohol at Dutton-Lainson Park (Second Street & St. Joseph Avenue)

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, reported on the request to allow alcohol at Dutton-Lainson Park. Currently, this city property does not allow alcohol to be served at events. Public events held on city property must be pre-approved by council. Events held at Dutton-Lainson Park would not be exclusive to any entity. The consensus was made to put the item on the next council agenda.

Discussion of trail consultant.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, stated this item originated in the Complete Streets Committee. The committee thought it would be best to have an outside consultant develop the trail. Four consultants responded to the Request for Proposals on the Walkability and Connectivity Study. Bids were submitted by Olsson Associates, Clark Enerson Partners, JEO Consulting Group, and Dover, Kohl & Partners.

After consultant interviews, the decision was made to recommend JEO Consulting Group. A draft agreement for professional services was given to the council. Dave Wacker requested to add this item to the next council meeting, contingent upon revisions to the agreement.

JEO's proposal contained a significant amount of additional staff time and was the most comprehensive plan. JEO plans to walk sidewalks and intersections, writing summaries on those conditions. Results are expected in November 2018. The cost of the study will be paid from sales tax money for trails. Discussion was held regarding the long-range plan and benefits from the study.

Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, stated each firm had its own specialty. In choosing JEO, we would have a more complete grant ready proposal. Dave Wacker will send all consultant proposals to council for their review.

Discussion of mall visioning consultants.

Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, stated the city is looking at the blight and substandard area 13, which includes the mall, theater, Village Inn, and surrounding airport property. The CRA will pay for the study, so it will be at no cost to the city. The goal of the community meetings will be to shift community focus to a creative mindset, not just seeing the area as a shopping mall. There will be brainstorming on future uses of the property and overall visioning.

We need to look at the plan for what the property might look like moving forward and evaluate for developers. Developers want to know what the community would support, which will give assurance to developers. The mall is not on a high visibility collector or arterial road, which does not have a high traffic count, so we need help on a solution.

Discussion of solar regulations.

Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, stated there have been a few community solar proponents come in to have discussions. The city does not have regulations dealing with solar. We need to address land use and community impacts. The city wants solar here, but we want it done right.

The Planning Commission recommended a resolution to establish a moratorium on solar applications, while working on regulations. Regulations are expected within four to six months.

Mayor Stutte suggested a joint worksession with the Utility Board on renewables in the next several months. Dave Ptak, City Attorney, explained that Nebraska is a public power state, private development rules are not the same as other states.

City/Utility merger update.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, reported on the merger. The city has merged the IT Department and appointed Kevin Schawang as IT Director. The Personnel Department has also merged. Kim Woolery, Human Resource Technician, will move to the utility office and Finance Department will move to city hall on the first floor. Development Services has moved to the north side of city hall. Change is hard on people, so we are working through those issues.

Future consolidations discussed are establishing a central garage and merging Engineering Departments. The pace is slow, but we are moving forward.

Mayor Stutte thanked staff for pushing forward. Since last year, we have combined departments and have looked at physical locations. As the merger evolves, we will continue to find efficiencies.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley to go into closed session at 6:34p.m. for reason of personnel. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Jeniffer Beahm to come out of closed session at 7:06p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ginny Skutnik there being no further business to adjourn at 7:06p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.