

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, September 17, 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 September 17, 2018.

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

Others present: Kevin Johnson, Dave Ptak, Dave Wacker, Jeff Hassenstab, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Renae Jimenez, Mikki Shafer, Maggie Vaughan, Caleb Maschmann.

Moved by Scott Snell seconded by Jeniffer Beahm to adopt the current agenda for the September 17, 2018 Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: John Harrington, Phil Odom. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 14, 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 Resolution No. 2018-44 authorizing allocation from the Hastings Utility Department's 2018-19 fiscal year budget for the benefit and support of the HEDC and economic development activities.

Maggie Vaughan, Interim Hastings Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) Director, stated much of the \$125,000.00 of funds budgeted from the Hastings Utility Department goes towards salaries. She gave an overview of the HEDC programs such as **Inspired by Hastings** - connecting and retaining students and young people in the community, **Startup Hastings** - entrepreneurship, **Hastings Young Professionals** - creating future leaders, **Hastings Projects** - what is going on in the community and **Discover the Opportunities** - help students and young professionals looking for internships and jobs. *(Handout attached and made part of original minutes.)* She also talked about the North Park Commons development which was started due to the housing shortage in Hastings.

Mr. Patterson asked if HEDC put money into the North Park Commons project.

Ms. Vaughan stated they had put \$100,000.00 into the project and as those funds are paid back, they will be used for other projects.

Councilmember Hoops asked if they help place anyone who is looking for a job.

Ms. Vaughan stated that they work with Hastings College and they know she is the outlet for jobs in Hastings as well as internships.

It was stated that the HEDC is membership driven with dues amounting to about a \$100,000.00 from the memberships of about 90 members.

Councilmember Skutnik questioned the return on their investment and if the small businesses are really putting back into the community.

Councilmember Hamelink stated they are developing new customers, new revenue sources and hopefully growing Hastings. He stated that the North Park Commons project will be a significant customer base of Hastings Utilities and that the HEDC, the Hastings Chamber and Community Redevelopment Authority are all pieces in growing Hastings.

Discussion of Resolution No. 2018-45 authorizing allocation from the Hastings Utility Department's 2018-19 fiscal year budget for the benefit and support of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce during the fiscal year 2018-19.

Mikki Shafer, Hastings Chamber President, gave an overview of what the \$30,000.00 Hastings Utility Department funds are used for. She talked about the re-branding of the Shop Hastings and the videos, ads and quarterly round tables to help retailers and restaurants. She mentioned Small Business Saturday, the Hastings Shopping Guide and the retail survey they provide to new businesses.

Discussion of Ordinance No. 4570 regarding weapons in city vehicles and on city property.

Dave Ptak, City Attorney, stated this ordinance came from concerns of City staff members and after talking with Captain Brian Hessler and Chief Adam Story, he realized the City was deficient of any restriction in regard to weapons. He stated that the ordinance impacts concealed weapons as well as those brought out in plain sight.

Chief Story stated that the City currently has no legal recourse if someone openly carries a gun into any City building or on to any City property. He stated many cities have ordinances that deal with firearms. He indicated that their main focus is buildings and staff.

Councilmember Eley asked if it infringes on concealed carry.

Chief Story said it blanketed over weapons period.

Mr. Ptak stated that is the way it is designed. He told Council what they have before them is the most restrictive and where we go from here is up to Council.

Councilmember Hamelink stated he is not comfortable with people openly carrying a gun into the City Library and still we want to be able to have gun shows. He felt they may need to define City property better and carve out exceptions. He stated he felt if someone has ill intent this is not going to stop them.

Discussion was had on exempting specific City property, about how the permitting might work and how the properties would be posted so that everyone would be made aware and about being careful not to be too restrictive. Concerns were also expressed regarding inadvertently getting caught carrying a concealed weapon on City property.

Councilmember Eley stated he liked the way it was written as far as ease of enforcement for officers.

Councilmember Hamelink suggested another worksession on this issue before it goes to Council.

Mr. Ptak stated they don't want to infringe on the private rights of citizens so this needs to be a

delicate balance.

A revised ordinance will be brought back to Council.

Discussion of 12th Street traffic study.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, stated there was a concern regarding safety on 12th street so a speed study was conducted August 15th through August 22nd. He reviewed with Council the state and federal regulations on how speed limits are set and the use of the 85th percentile speed. (Handout attached and made part of original minutes.) Mr. Wacker reviewed the 12th Street area speed results with Council. He suggested that some spot enforcement in that area might help to bring people down in their speed but stated he felt 45 m.p.h. may be to low and may have a lot of violators where as maybe 50 m.p.h. would be better.

Mr. Patterson questioned if the radar trailer had been put out in this area. Chief Story indicated that it had not.

Mr. Wacker stated maybe they put the radar trailer in the area to remind people of the speed limit and add some more signage in the area.

Councilmember Beahm questioned traffic backup. Mr. Wacker stated that when school started initially there was backup.

Councilmember Eley expressed his concern regarding trying to get out onto 12th street and questioned the use of a flashing light.

Mr. Patterson suggested dropping the speed limit to 50 m.p.h., placing a solar power radar unit in the area and enhancing enforcement.

Caleb Maschmann, citizen, stated that there are as many as 10 cars backed up from 7:30 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. in the morning and stated that the study only shows three days of school and no preschool going on at the time the study was done. He also mentioned the young drivers in that area.

It was the consensus of the Council that an ordinance be placed on the agenda lowering the speed limit on 12th Street.

Closed Session for the discussion of negotiations.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley to go into closed session at 6:50 P.M. for the discussion of negotiations. Roll Call: Ayes: Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: John Harrington, Phil Odom. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley to resume open session at 7:46 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: John Harrington, Phil Odom. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 7:46 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: John Harrington, Phil Odom. The motion carried.