

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, November 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 November 19, 2018.

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

Others present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Kevin Johnson, Dave Wacker, Steve Kostner, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Jennie Theesen

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, November 16, 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.

Presentation of Heartland Pet Connection Annual Report - Jennie Theesen.

Jennie Theesen, Heartland Pet Connection, distributed the annual report (*Attached and made part of original minutes.*) to Councilmembers. She indicated this was the 14th year serving the community and spoke about their new partnership with Hastings College which includes a volunteer program, education and marketing research. She reviewed with Council shelter animal numbers.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, questioned if there was a dominate dog breed for dog bites. Ms. Theesen stated there is not really one specific breed. He indicated that the City contracts with Heartland Pet Connection for animal services in the amount of \$52,000.00 per year.

Councilmember Snell asked about number of animals. Ms. Theesen stated numbers are up from the last couple of years.

Councilmember Hoops asked about volunteer numbers. Ms. Theesen stated they have from 20 to 30 volunteers currently and have some in training so the number should go up in the future.

Councilmember Harrington questioned if they have had any issues with chickens. Ms. Theesen indicated they hadn't. Adam Story, Police Chief, stated they have had a few complaints about roosters being in town, about the number of chicken you can have and a few chickens that have wandered away, but really no serious issues.

Discussion of 2018 City of Hastings Snow Removal Plan.

Steve Kostner, Street Superintendent, provided Council with a copy of the 2018 City of Hastings Snow Removal Plan (*Attached and made part of original minutes.*) Mr. Kostner started by explaining to Council that the Street Department has other tasks as well as snow removal during a snow emergency. He reviewed snow removal operations and phases, reviewed equipment and stated they use contractors when available, talked about snow dump sites, parking lots the Street Department cleans, snow fencing, time frame for snow cleanup tasks, reviewed with Council unforeseen things that come up during a snow emergency and funding for snow removal. He explained that snow removal takes a lot of staff time and money and cooperation

between City departments as well as other entities. Mr. Kostner encouraged Council to visit the Street Department or do a ride along during snow removal.

Councilmember Hamelink talked about ways of letting the public know about a snow emergency and indicated Randy Chick, CRA/BID Director, sends text messages to downtown businesses letting them know when snow removal downtown is going to take place. He stated that he felt good communication is important.

Councilmember Skutnik asked about using salt brines on streets. Mr. Kostner indicated it takes a lot of time, equipment and manpower and actually eats up the concrete and can cause potholes.

Councilmember Skutnik asked if Utility employees have been helping out. Kevin Johnson, Utility Manager, indicated that they have.

More discussion was had on different avenues of communicating to citizens and businesses regarding the snow removal process during snow emergencies.

Discussion of Airport Service Agreement.

Mr. Patterson indicated what the Council has before them is a draft Airport Services Agreement. He stated that Dave Ptak, Paul Hamelink, Mayor Stutte and himself had met with Luke Meyers and landed on what was in this agreement. He indicated it mostly has to do with fuel, an airplane shuttle and working with our staff at the airport. He stated that Mr. Meyers has the agreement but has not responded yet. Mr. Patterson stated they wanted to get this task completed and move forward. He said there is some loss in revenue but felt the increase in service outweighed the lost revenue.

Mayor Stutte spoke to Council about the monetary terms of the agreement and stated he felt it was a good starting point for Mr. Meyers. He also talked about Mr. Meyers' responsibilities and felt the City is just dipping our toe into service possibilities at our airport and stated that the aviation community feels there is a demand.

Councilmember Hamelink stated he felt this is a first step in the right direction and that there is more going on at the airport than people think. He stated the airport is a first point of contact and that there is a lot of opportunity for economic development.

Councilmember Beahm questioned if any improvements needed to be made at the airport before this agreement is approved. Mayor Stutte indicated there wouldn't be any additional expense on our part and stated he would like this to go before the current City Council.

Councilmember Harrington questioned if this would really make a difference. Mayor Stutte stated it could be significant and we don't have a lot to lose and there could be a lot of potential benefits.

Councilmember Odom stated it might be a small group of people but they can make a difference and the right impression and the first impression are important.

Councilmember Odom left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Sarah Hoops to go into closed session at 6:16 p.m. for the discussion of negotiations and personnel. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley,

Phil Odom. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Sarah Hoops to resume open session at 6:40 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Phil Odom. The motion carried.

Moved by Sarah Hoops seconded by Jeniffer Beahm there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Scott Snell, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Phil Odom. The motion carried.