

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, March 18, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Public Library, 314 North Denver Avenue, on March 18, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Worksession by Councilmember Hamelink with the following members present: Matt Fong, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Jeniffer Beahm, Ginny Skutnik, Mayor Stutte. Absent: Scott Snell.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to adopt current agenda for the March 18, 2019 Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Scott Snell. The motion carried.

Councilmember Hamelink 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 Library conference room. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and is accessible to members of the public.

1. Presentation of Financial Audit for the City of Hastings and Utility Department ending September 30, 2018 - Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C.

Marcy Luth (Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C.) presented the 2017-18 Financial Audit. The report gave best practices, recommendations, and benchmarks with comparable cities. This is an unmodified opinion, which includes governmental and utility budgets. The two component units not included in the audit are the Library and Museum Foundations. They have separate audits. (Complete Financial Report is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office.)

There were two letters issued by the accountants. The first letter points to segregation of duties, and the second contains significant audit findings.

2. Presenting plan for Hastings Walkability and Connectivity Study - JEO Consulting Group.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, reported the Request for Proposal for the Walkability and Connectivity Study started about one year ago. JEO Consulting Group was chosen for the project. Dave introduced Mike Malon and Ryan Kavan, JEO Consultants, for their presentation. (PowerPoint attached and made part of these minutes.)

JEO conducted a GIS inventory of potential project routes. They looked at data from the 2010 census and held public information meetings to gather input. Citizens voiced concerns on desirable routes, which included poor sidewalks and no sidewalks.

JEO's presentation included maps with proposed trails. They gave examples of signage for routes and provided a prioritized list of projects. They will recommend eight-foot trails in

certain locations and provide cost estimates for all locations. Discussions need to be held with BNSF Railroad regarding new crosswalks. JEO will include comments in their final report on a future trail to Westbrook.

Discussion was held on how to pay for sidewalks in neighborhoods where they do not currently exist. Some areas would need sidewalks and driveways rebuilt because of slopes.

Ryan Kavan stated these projects were presented in priority order, per public comment, but can be shuffled around as the city desires. Jeff Hassenstab, Parks Director, stated \$2.5 million sales tax has been earmarked for trails. Grant funds might be available for several segments of these trails.

Councilmember Scott Snell entered the meeting at 6:33p.m.

3. Discussion of amendment to weapons ordinance.

Councilmember Eley requested that city parks be added to the recently passed weapons ordinance. Dave Ptak, City Attorney, pointed out that the ordinance might become too vague and hard to patrol and enforce in the parks. The ordinance currently covers city buildings, which have easier access controls. Mayor Stutte stated the best path is to follow state statute. Police Chief Story stated we need to consider the reason and intent of the ordinance, which is to keep citizens and staff safe.

Councilmember Fong asked for an amendment to address parks, so that council can vote on it. Mr. Ptak was directed to draft an amendment to the ordinance to ban open carry firearms in all parks. This item was requested to come back to another worksession, prior to taking to a council meeting for a vote.

4. Discussion of Request for Proposals (RFPs) and bids for City equipment. (Requested by Councilmember Eley.)

Dave Wacker gave multiple handouts to the council and explained the process used by the Engineering Department on project and equipment bids. Dave Ptak explained Chapter 81 of the statutes, regarding award of bid to the lowest responsible bidder.

Council was concerned about recent projects/equipment receiving only one bid. Council requested to have a consistent bidding policy for the city, using best practices to ensure the public gets the benefit of the lowest responsible bid.

Ideas were given on how to better advertise bid lettings, including form letters being sent to interested companies, and calls made to plan holders prior to the letting date.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Paul Hamelink there being no further business to adjourn at 7:38p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.