

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on April 11, 2019.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Regular Session by Chairman Jack Schreiner with the following members present: Jack Shreiner, Bill Hitesman, Joanne Seberg, Shawn Hartmann, Shayne Raitt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Chairman led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR April 11, 2019 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Bill Hitesman seconded by Shawn Hartmann to adopt the current agenda for April 11, 2019 regular meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Chairman Jack Schreiner 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 Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Kevin Johnson informed the Board that we currently have a scheduled maintenance outage in progress at the Whelan Energy Center. He relayed an invitation from Mike Hernandez to extend an invitation to the Board to visit the plant either tomorrow or early next week to see everything dismantled before the process of putting it back together begins. This will show the complexity of the task.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of February 14, 2019

Moved by Shayne Raitt seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve All Consent Items. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. General Business.

(a) Finance

i. Presentation of the 2017-2018 Audit

This meeting was intended to be the presentation of the 2017-18 Audit which the Board should have received and had time to review. It was presented by the Auditors at the City Council meeting in March. Marcy could not be here today, nor Roger Nash, so Kevin asked the Board if there were any questions that Renae Jimenez or he could answer. Otherwise, submit any questions in an email and those emails will be presented to the auditors to be answered.

ii. Fiscal Year End 2017-2018 Financial Review

Kevin Johnson reported that we are still behind on the monthly financials. The new Finance Director/City Treasurer will be starting soon, and another staff account clerk has recently started. With a full staff, they hope to start getting caught up. Kevin Johnson gave a presentation of the year end September report. He reviewed with the Board the Balance Sheet Highlights fiscal year-end, Summary Highlights for each department, Production Highlights, and a sheet showing Unit Sales and Cost Analysis.

(b) Production

i. Solar Project Update

Derek Zeisler gave an update on the Solar Farm Phase 1. He reviewed the current status, showed the probable location of the project, and the next steps moving forward.

(c) Operations

i. Recommendation from Staff for Award of Contract for Water Main Improvements (Contract HU 2019-03 IC-08)

Moved by Bill Hitesman seconded by Shawn Hartmann to recommend the City Council award a contract for Water Main Improvements (Contract HU 2019-03 IC-08) to Van Kirk Brothers of Sutton, Nebraska, for a total of \$267,075.00. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(d) Administration

i. Irrigation Customer Feedback Planning

Brian Strom gave the Board a head up of what staff is developing for changes for the irrigation customer rate.

Staff is planning to merge the two current irrigation rates and present a single irrigation rate for all irrigation customers. This rate will eliminate the interruptible portion of the rate and all the customers will be on this rate paying the horsepower charge at the beginning of the season.

Brian said that he plans to conduct a customer focus group with all the irrigation customers and get their feedback on the proposed single rate. He will then bring that feedback to the Board for further discussion.

ii. Approval of Release for Early Termination of NPGA Membership

Allen Meyer explained that the National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) assists smaller gas distribution communities with their natural gas supplies. Although the City of Hastings was a charter member of this agency in 1991, we have not been active because we have in-house capability to perform the functions required to arrange for our own gas supplies so do not require NPGA assistance. We have basically become a resource for other smaller communities.

Allen said that a change in the by-laws created an opportunity for the City of Hastings to become an Associate Member of NPGA. This will still allow the City of Hastings to keep our affiliation but allows us to not participate in the requirements for full membership. The approval by the City of Hastings for the Release for Early Termination of NPGA Membership agreement and accompanying City Council resolution is the first step for transition to associate member status. It is anticipated that the NPGA Board will act on the resolution requesting the conversion to associate membership on June 13, 2019.

Moved by Joanne Seberg seconded by Shayne Raitt to recommend to the City Council the approval for Release for Early Termination of NPGA Membership. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: Absent. The motion carried.

iii. Strategic Initiatives Summary Report

Kevin Johnson distributed copies of the 2017/2018 Strategic Initiatives, Goals, and Critical Capital Projects showing their status and completion percentage.

(e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

Moved by Bill Hitesman seconded by Shayne Raitt that this Board go into Closed Session, which Closed Session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest in that said Closed Session will consist of a strategy session relative to negotiations. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

The meeting closed to the public at 9:55 a.m.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Joanne Seberg that the meeting be reopened to the public at 11:04 a.m., and that no decisions were made nor official actions taken during said Closed Session. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Joanne Seberg seconded by Shawn Hartmann that there being no further business, the meeting adjourn at 11:04 a.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary