

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, June 3, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on June 3, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Worksession by Council President Paul Hamelink with the following members present: Matt Fong, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm, Corey Stutte. Absent: None.

Council President Hamelink led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to adopt current agenda for June 3, 2019 Worksession. 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.

Paul 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 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.

1. Discussion of 16th Street viaduct.

Jay Bleier, Olsson Associates Project Manager, introduced Tyler Cramer and Emilie Hudon, bridge experts from Olsson Associates. A presentation was given by Tyler Cramer and Emilie Hudon. Tyler reviewed the presentation outline: immediate concerns, extensive repairs, replacement, summary, and questions. The immediate concerns include further deterioration requiring closure of the bridge and the inability to solve underlying issues with repairs. The substructure of this bridge is very old and will be hard to push longer, even with proper maintenance. The bridge was built in 1935, and the standard design at that time was 50 years bridge life. The city has attempted to elongate the life of this structure throughout the years. Repair options were discussed, with estimated additional service life of the bridge.

Photos were shown comparing the bridge inspection completed in November 2018 to the inspection done in April 2019, which demonstrated deterioration and extensive repairs needed. The next inspection is due in November 2019.

Discussion was held on how much money should be set aside for bridge maintenance annually to stay ahead. Emilie stated annual maintenance cost would be similar to the amount after the bridge repair, as for a new bridge. Either way, the city would need to clean the bridge, look at deck joints, repair the deck joints, and perform other regular maintenance items.

Dave Wacker stated the current Hwy 281 bridge was built in 1981, and has experienced issues with abutments and settlement. The current bridge on Elm Avenue was built in approximately 1991. The city's Engineering Department has been collecting traffic counts from the old viaduct and Burlington Avenue. Dave offered to email those traffic counts to council members.

State Statutes require, if the city builds a new bridge structure (bonding), it must go to a vote of the people. We could repair without a vote of the citizens. They discussed convenience, necessity, and public safety.

Tyler stated there might be additional options for repairs, but Olsson Associates has given a few recommendations. They also presented information on bridge replacement features, service life, timelines, and cost estimates.

Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, told the group it is not typical to have three overpasses within a mile, inside a city.

Brad Starling, Fire Chief, stated they use the viaduct to avoid traffic on Burlington Avenue and also as an alternate route. Closing the bridge should not affect response times, but it withdraws alternatives.

The city has not talked to the railroad regarding the issue, at this time.

Mayor Stutte stated there are no good options. He mentioned the city is talking approximately one year out, taking into consideration the process of engineering, bid letting, working with a contractor, and discussions with the railroad. It comes down to whether the citizens will support a new structure or we are looking at a closure. This is a safety issue, and we are looking at the options and what is best for the citizens of Hastings. For the time being, the viaduct is closed. The mayor asked staff to put together a fact sheet.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Chuck Rosenberg to go into closed session for reason of litigation and negotiation at 6:43p.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.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to come out of closed session at 7:09p.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.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong there being no further business to adjourn at 7:09p.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.