HASTINGS UTILITY BOARD
AGENDA

Council Chambers – City Hall
220 North Hastings Avenue
July 11, 2019
9:00 AM

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

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

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. <u>All Consent Items.</u>

    (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of June 13, 2019

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. <u>Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.</u>

3. <u>General Business.</u>

    (a) Finance

i. Update on Staffing and Financial Reporting

ii. Preview of Capital Budgets Proposed, All Utilities

iii. Budget Review Plans for Board/Council

(b) Production

i. Solar Farm Construction & Customer Participation Update

(c) Operations

i. June 21st Storm, Post Mortem Update

(d) Administration

(e) Other

i. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

ii. New Board Member Update

iii. HU Overview Presentation Planning for New Board/Council Members

4. <u>Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).</u>

ADJOURN:

The Hastings Utility Board reserves the right to enter into an executive session at any time during the meeting, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, even though the closed session may not be indicated on the agenda. It is the intention of the Hastings Utility Board to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Hastings Utilities Board reserves the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedule of the Utility Board Members, persons having items on the agenda, and the public.

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 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 June 13, 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: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, 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 June 13, 2019 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Shayne Raitt seconded by Bill Hitesman to adopt the current agenda for June 13, 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, June 11, 2019.

Chairman Jack Schreiner read the Public Notice - 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 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 stated that a solar presentation later in the agenda will update the Board on the participation options for the customer pricing. Derek Zeisler will give that presentation.

Johnson said that this was Jack Schreiner's last meeting as his term is expiring and he has elected to not continue on the Board. Johnson thanked Schreiner for his leadership.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Jack Schreiner thanked the Mayor for giving the Board members the opportunity and trust to help make the transition from Board of Public Works to a Utility Advisory Board. He stated that staff has been tremendous to work with. Schreiner said that it is a difficult time for the employees of Hastings Utilities to make this transition, with new leadership and a whole new way of doing things. He said he appreciated the professionalism and the cooperation. He commended the Board and the Manager and said they have been great to work with.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Corey Stutte thanked Jack Schreiner for serving and said the City Council will be recognizing his service as a future Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

   (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of May 9, 2019.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. General Business.

   (a) Finance

      i. Budget Planning

Kevin Johnson stated that staff is close to finalizing the Utilities' capital budgets. He said that Keith Leonhardt has been putting in alot of work with staff to get them ready. Johnson stated that staff is just starting on the O&M budgets and that the planning process is to take the rest of June and early July to finalize the numbers and plan to have it before the Board and Council in August. Johnson said that the Finance Department is still working on their staffing issues. He asked the Board to contact him with any budget questions they may have early in the process

      ii. Financial Reporting and Staffing

Kevin Johnson stated that Roger Nash has posted, internally and externally, for a Manager of Accounting position with a CPA preference to bring additional head count and experience that the financial group needs. He hopes this person could bring in an outside perspective that would help with revisiting the processes they currently use. This will be a full time position.

Dave Ptak said that he worked with Roger Nash and Lori Hartman and think they have a good grasp of what this department needs. He stated that we also need to protect PPGA and through this process, this restructuring should address Kevin's needs.

Bill Hitesman asked how far the financials are behind on the budget side. Johnson stated that would be two months. Jack Schreiner stated the Board needs time to digest the budget and time to go through and make some adjustments if needed on it. He asked that any preliminary budgets be made available to the Board as soon as possible to get them started. Ptak stated that a recent state statute was passed which requires an additional public hearing. Both hearings cannot be held on the same day. This will also be stressed by the time crunch.

Mayor Stutte stated that Kevin Schawang and Roger Nash have gotten a proposal back from a consultant to help get Phase I of the ERP moving in the right direction. He is thinking a time frame for that would be the earliest in September.

(b) Production

i. WEC Outage Update

Mike Hernandez updated the Board on the WEC Outage. He said the outage was originally set for March 27, 2019 to May 10, 2019. The outage was extended an extra week because of the rotor. Hernandez stated the idea was to get it back on line yesterday, however, a thrust bearing was operating too hot, so he decided to take the unit back off line and investigate the problem. The plan is to fix the issue and bring the unit back on line this coming Sunday at 4 p.m. It may be a plan to skip the fall planned outage.

ii. Solar Pricing

Derek Zeisler gave an update on the City of Hastings Solar Farm. The review included Eligibility, Participation options, Program Length, and Enrollment Fee. He reviewed Solar Farm Rates and Billing, and gave solar option bill examples. Kevin Johnson reminded the Board that Hastings is not in the same boat as other municipalities that have higher rates that can bring in an option like this and maybe get a little bit lower and save a little money immediately. He stated that we didn't need additional capacity; we didn't need solar. We have very good rates. But it goes back to customers who are wanting solar and we want solar for educational purposes, understanding purposes, energy storage purposes in the future. This will not bring our overall cost down. This is an opportunity for customers to participate with us. Johnson said that we all know that prices increase over time. He said that the solar energy charge is locked in for customers for 30 years. He said O&M will change a little bit through the years, but not the solar energy charge and that is where the savings should be realized.

(c) Operations

None.

(d) Administration

None.

(e) Other

None.

4. <u>Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).</u>

Moved by Bill Hitesman seconded by Shawn Hartmann to 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 10:15 a.m.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Shayne Raitt that the meeting be reopened to the public at 10:44 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.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Shayne Raitt that there being no further business, the meeting adjourn at 10:44 a.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Shawn Hartmann, Bill Hitesman, Jack Schreiner, Joanne Seberg, Shayne Raitt. Nays; None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

APPROVED:

____
Board Secretary