CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 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 July 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: Hitesman, Seberg, ~~Raitt~~, Hartmann. Absent: Shayne Raitt. *(corrected by motion 8/8/2019)*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

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

Before voting to adopt the current agenda, Acting Chairman Bill Hitesman recommended that Item E. I. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair be tabled until the next meeting when he hopes a full Board will be in attendance and the members concurred.

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

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

Acting Chairman Bill Hitesman 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:

None.

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 June 13, 2019

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. General Business.

   (a) Finance

      i. Update on Staffing and Financial Reporting

Roger Nash updated the Board on staffing in the Finance Department. He and Dave Ptak have done a first review of the applications for the Finance Manager - Utilities. They plan to start interviews next week. Roger stated that the April and May financials are substantially complete. Staff has turned their focus to budgeting so the final financials are not complete

      ii. Preview of Capital Budgets Proposed, All Utilities

Kevin Johnson gave an initial review of the Capital Budget. He went over the highlights of each department budget. He stated that the O&M budget is still being finalized. Johnson stated at this point, funding for this budget is yet to be determined, after all the information is available, but hopes that rates will not be affected. He would like to have a Cost of Service Study completed for both electric rates and gas rates before those decisions can be made.

      iii. Budget Review Plans for Board/Council

Nash said that he has reached out to our Auditing firm in Grand Island and have hired one of their auditors to help compile and review the budget information as staff is getting the information.

Nash said that the budget completion schedule is as follows: The Utility Budget will go to the Utility Board on August 8th. On August 12th, the proposed City/Utility Budgets will be presented to the City Council. On August 19th, there will be a worksession with the City Council and the Utility Board at 5:30 in the Public Library. The Combined Budget will go to the Council for approval on September 9th and an approved budget needs to be received by the State by September 20th

   (b) Production

      i. Solar Farm Construction & Customer Participation Update

Derek Zeisler gave an update on the Solar Farm construction and customer participation. He stated that Curt Gosser from the Museum has developed a brochure that will be sent to customers with the customer bill. He thanked Lindsey Stone on her help with developing a website for customers to get information. cityofhastings.org/solar Derek stated that the rates are set. A billing forecast tool will be up and available soon on this website. As far as construction, the piles are currently being put up and panels will be started next week.

Zeisler said that he is scheduling a customer meeting for 5 p.m. on August 8th as an informational meeting. Site is yet TBD. He may schedule a day meeting on August 12 to help people with their signups as that is the day that signups can begin.

Bill Hitesman stated that energy storage is the next big issue. He said that Central Community College can do a program and would like the Utilities to come out to CCC and update on this issue. Kevin Johnson stated that he has been invited to an updated energy storage session in Kansas City in October. He stated that other options can also be considered, ie. electrification of vehicles. He recently saw fake trees with solar panels installed in them. He said many changes could be coming.

(c) Operations

i. June 21st Storm, Post Mortem Update

Kevin Johnson said that because of the severity of the June 21st storm, he held a Post Mortem Storm meeting with the Leadership Team. He said we have no concern with our response, but the coordination in the office/dispatch center is still very manual. He recommends we get aggressive to look toward automation. He has instructed staff to look into automation options. Wet coal was another issue that our staff was working with AGP and Chief on.

Mayor Stutte said that he appreciates the emails he is now receiving to keep him informed of outage events and updates.

(d) Administration

None.

(e) Other

i. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

Tabled to next meeting.

ii. New Board Member Update

Mayor Stutte stated that he hopes to have a recommendation on a new member for the Utility Board at the next Council meeting.

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

Kevin Johnson stated that he asked Al Meyer and Carol Crecelius to put a presentation together for new Council and Board members to help educate them on utility functions. He said we will be scheduling sessions for any Board or Council members wanting an overview.

Dave Ptak introduced new City Attorney, Clint Shukei. Clint is originally from the Adams County area.

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

None.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Joanne Seberg that there being no further business, the meeting adjourn at 9:49 a.m. Roll Call: Ayes;: Shawn Hartmann, Joanne Seberg, Bill Hitesman. Nays: None. Absent: Shayne Raitt. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

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Board Secretary