CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, January 6, 2020

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 January 6, 2020.

The Worksession was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by City Council President Paul Hamelink with the following members present: Ginny Skutnik, Butch Eley, Chuck Rosenberg, Ted Schroeder, Matt Fong, Jeniffer Beahm, Scott Snell.

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Dave Ptak, Dave Wacker, Clint Schukei, Roger Nash, Jeff Hassenstab, Kevin Johnson, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Amy Hafer, Becky Matticks, Lori Hartman, Mike Doremus.

Others Present: Wes Wahlgren, Jay Bleier, Matt Neeman.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley to adopt the current agenda for the January 6, 2020 Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Council President Hamelink read the Public Notice - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, January 3, 2020. 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.

Discussion of transportation related issues:

Proposal for viaduct demolition.

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, stated they were looking at three issues interrelated due to the Council's decision regarding demolition of the 16th Street viaduct, which due to the additional traffic, warrants looking at left turn signals on Burlington Avenue, and developing an overall transportation and parking plan. He indicated they are looking to move traffic more efficiently through the city and asked that Council to direct staff to send out the Request For Proposals (RFP) for the transportation and parking plan. This plan will give us a start as to what to look at for our overall transportation needs.

Dave Wacker, City Engineer, introduced Jay Bleier, Structural Engineer from Olsson, and stated he was directed to get a cost estimate for demolition of the 16th Street viaduct. He stated he wanted to mention a couple things that are not included in the document before Council. He said it does not provide for removal of the embankment on the northerly portion of the project and the proposal does not provide for the connection from 16th Street and St. Joseph Avenue and 16th and Kansas Avenue. He suggested that they look at a street design at this time also. Mr. Wacker indicated the time frame of June 1st to have plans and approval from the railroad. He explained to Council the requirements of the railroad and the three separate submissions needed.

Mr. Bleier talked about the minimum time frame of four weeks dealing with the railroad and stated that could be stretched to 60 days but they were hoping for the shorter end of the time frame. He indicated he would be project manager, the local person on scene. He told Council that bridge experts will come out from Lincoln and that half the budget is dedicated to working with the railroad and complying with their regulations. Mr. Bleier stated they need to work with the railroad in a cooperative process.

Mr. Ptak stated he would recommend the two items Mr. Wacker mentioned be included in the agreement. Council discussed the submittals to the railroad and what they include such as specific railroad forms, forms regarding safety, bonding requirements and plans.

Councilmember Snell asked about the flow of water and drainage and if a staging area was needed and if the city needed to buy property to accommodate that.

Mr. Bleier suggested they lease property rather than purchase it. Mr. Wacker indicated the city does have some city property for staging but he said it could be an issue and once their plan was put together they could determine the need for additional property. Mr. Bleier addressed the water question and stated they would make sure not to put additional runoff on adjacent properties.

It was the consensus of the Council to include the 16th Street connection with Kansas Avenue and removal of the north embankment in the agreement.

Councilmember Rosenberg and Snell stated they wanted removal of the north embankment to be done right if they were going to do it. Mr. Wacker did explain to Council that the more dirt you move, the more expense incurred.

Left turn signals on Burlington Avenue.

Mr. Wacker introduced Wes Wahlgren, District Engineer for Nebraska Department of Transportation and Matt Neeman, Traffic Control Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Mr. Wahlgren talked about the 16th Street, Kansas Avenue and North Shore intersection studies and indicated that the 16th Street left turns increased by 103% so it qualifies for a left turn signal but the other two intersections did not. Mr. Neeman talked about warrants and how and why counts are taken and that they are generally taken over an eight hour period. He indicated that the southbound movement on 16th Street would warrant a left turn phase. Mr. Wacker stated that a project replacing signals along Burlington Avenue in the future would be the ideal time to change signals at 16th Street. Council discussed traffic signals and time adjustments. Council President Hamelink asked if the 7th Street and Burlington Avenue intersection could be looked at in the future as well.

Consensus of the Council to place on the agenda a formal resolution requesting studies to be done on the intersections of 7th Street, 9th Street, 12th Street and 14th Street.

Request For Proposals (RFP) for long-term transportation and parking plan.

Council President Hamelink asked if it was the consensus of the Council to have the City Administrator prepare a RFP for a City of Hastings, Nebraska Comprehensive Transportation and Parking Plan. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with directing the City Administrator to prepare a RFP for a transportation and parking plan. Mr. Ptak indicated they were looking at alternative ways to move traffic around the community. Councilmember Rosenberg mentioned the one way streets going back to two way streets in relation to the quiet crossings. Adam Story, Police Chief, brought up appropriate signage on the bypass truck route. Mr. Wacker indicated that the county refused to allow signage as some county board members were against funding the road. Council President Hamelink stated we need to find out what it takes to put signs up.

Presentation of Museum Annual Report.

Becky Matticks, Museum Director, reviewed with Council the Museum Annual Report and spoke about the collections process, attendance, programming, memberships, income, expenses, debt repayment, and the 1/2 cent sales tax projects. She discussed fundraising and bequeaths, donations for collections, the NAD exhibit and the flow through the exhibits in the Museum. *(Museum Annual Report attached and made part of original minutes.)*

Presentation of Library Annual Report.

Amy Hafer, Library Director, reviewed with Council the Library Annual Report and previous year comparisons. She indicated they are 3% down in physical items checked out and foot traffic but it is pretty much true across the state. She spoke about the Library programming and how the hands on learning is growing, about the maker space grant and staffing for it and story times. *(Library Annual Report attached and made part of original minutes.)*

Review of Library Policies.

Ms. Hafer explained when they switched to an advisory board they did work on Library bylaws and policies that now need to be brought to Council for approval. Councilmember Fong brought up the Library Advisory Board voting for the Library to become fine free. Council President Hamelink asked that discussion of the Library going fine free be put on an upcoming worksession agenda. It was the consensus of the Council for the Library bylaws and policies to be placed on the January 13th Council Meeting Agenda for approval.

Discussion of alarm monitoring resolution.

Councilmember Rosenberg questioned false alarms in the proposed resolution. Chief Story stated they have some problems with certain businesses, but will work with customers in correcting false alarm situations. Mr. Ptak stated that the resolution is the result of a new alarm software program the 911 center has installed. They are increasing the alarm monitoring fee from $.50 a day to $1 and the increase would take affect August 1, 2020. He mentioned to the Council that the 911 Center's new software is able to generate statements, accounts payable and receivable. He indicated that this should streamline the process and make it more responsive to citizen questions. Councilmember Eley asked if the fee increase would create a drop in alarm customers. Chief Story stated he didn't feel it would. Councilmember Snell suggested promoting the alarm monitoring service. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the fee increase.

Discussion of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) manual and application.

Mr. Ptak indicated there were some blanks that needed to be filled in the PACE Program Manual. He asked Council about the minimum amount of PACE financing to be extended to projects within the Hastings city limits and extending within the extraterritorial jurisdiction. It was the consensus of the Council to use the amount of $250,000 for both.

The PACE Project Application was discussed. The developer would fill this out and file it with the city and if it was approved there would be a PACE contract to follow. Councilmember Fong asked if this application was consistent with other communities. Mr. Ptak indicated it was developed off what existing communities have in place. Councilmember Hamelink asked if Council was okay with the fees. Council indicated they were comfortable with the fees.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik, seconded by Jeniffer Beahm to go into closed session at 7:15 P.M. for the discussion of personnel. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik, seconded by Matt Fong to resume open session at 7:37 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik, seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 7:37 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.