

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, December 2, 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 December 2, 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, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Mayor Corey Stutte. Absent: Butch Eley, Jeniffer Beahm.

The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, David Ptak; City Attorney, Clint Schukei; City Clerk, Kimberly Jacobitz; Police Chief, Adam Story; Fire Chief, Brad Starling; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Finance Director, Roger Nash; City Engineer, David Wacker; Utility Manager, Kevin Johnson.

Council President 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.

Discussion of Complete Count Committee.

Councilmember Fong reported the Complete Count discussion began at the League of Nebraska Municipality Conference. He stated the 2020 census will be done differently, with information allowed to be submitted online. The conversation centered around census education in our community. The city would benefit by reaching out to those organizations we work with in our community to assist with the education component. The census will begin in March 2020.

Mayor Stutte met with Matt Fong regarding the Complete Count Committee, which could include community partners and council members. There is flexibility related to how the committee would be formed. The city signed up for the development program, in order to load new addresses into a database for accurate census information.

Council discussed the library as a potential link to helping people with the census, involving use of library computers and the internet. Utility billing could be an option to distribute information to rate-payers. If a committee is formed, one council member could be appointed per ward. Members of the council should contact Mayor Stutte if interested in serving on the committee.

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, reminded everyone the census is very important, as it affects apportionment of representation.

Discussion on whether to repair or raze old U.S. Highway 281 Viaduct.

Jay Bleier, Olsson Associates, was present at the worksession. Tyler Cramer, Olsson Associates, was available on the phone for questions and comments.

Jay Bleier reported their road and bridge crew put together four options for the U.S. Highway 281 Viaduct. It is appropriate that a decision be made immediately. This is a safety situation for the community. He emphasized that something needs to be done as soon as possible.

The four options discussed are as follows:

Option 1: Develop scope of services for the preparation of plans and specifications for demolition of structure including coordination with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and construction observation for the project, and prepare demolition cost estimate.

Option 2: Develop plans and specifications for repairing the east abutment, removing southern span, wrap pillars, repair expansion contraction joints, and prepare cost estimate.

Option 3: Develop plans and specifications for removal and shortening span of the bridge over the UPRR using MSE walls or other side slope construction, including coordination with UPRR and construction observation, and prepare preliminary cost estimate.

Option 4: Develop plans and specifications for new alignment of a new viaduct structure on Eastside Boulevard from 14th Street to 26th Street including coordination with UPRR and construction inspection, and prepare preliminary cost estimate.

Jay made the council aware of the options and estimated cost associated with each of them. The railroad will be involved, no matter which option is chosen. Cost associated with railroad requirements is in the contingency cost. Rebar is exposed and corroded, and bridge joints need remediated. He emphasized the design life has been surpassed by many years. The road and bridge group gave a 5% construction increase cost per year. There are many variables in the cost, as there is no way to determine how corroded the rebar is or the extent of necessary repairs. Olsson personnel would be available to look at repairs during the construction phase.

A new bridge lifespan is around 75 years. It is Jay's opinion the city would make better use of community dollars by replacing the bridge, over the choice of repairing. Otherwise, the community will have these conversations again in 25 years, but at a much higher cost. He explained when you get within 75 feet of railroad property, the railroad will want their project manager onsite. The railroad will hire third party flaggers, at the expense of the city. If the railroad has to reroute trains, the city should expect to be responsible for that cost. Dave Wacker, City Engineer, stated the railroad usually requires a high dollar performance bond for contractors. That will affect the number of contractors able to bid the project.

Council discussed options to alleviate traffic issues, with one option being a traffic study. Police Chief Adam Story talked to safety concerns with traffic after an accident. We cannot stop trains from blocking traffic, but we can reroute to other streets in case of accidents. They try to open one lane of traffic moving both ways as quickly as possible after an accident. People usually take alternative routes on their own, prior to reaching the traffic backup. It is a rarity to have accidents on the overpass. Police Department works with Street Department to treat the overpass for icy roads.

Mayor Stutte stated it is time to make a decision. We need to move forward, even though it is a difficult decision. State wanted to demolish this bridge in 1985. This is a safety issue and an abandoned nuisance. Dave Ptak handed out the financing cost for each of the options. He

broke down the cost for five, ten, fifteen, and twenty year amortizations as it effects taxes for a \$100,000 house in Hastings. Council discussed the possibility of freeing up funds, but this would cause other street projects to be cut or delayed on the One & Six Year Plan. Mayor Stutte mentioned there are several projects the city has committed to do, which total in excess of ten million dollars. These projects include Highway 6 and 42nd Street. We need to pay attention to the accumulated cost of all projects.

Dave Ptak stated it is our desire to draft a resolution with four options and place on the December 9th council agenda. If the council motions and the first one does not pass, then another option can be motioned and voted upon.

Jay stated options 1 and 2 need to get resolved immediately. You could put off options 3 or 4 for a little while. It will take approximately six months to design and bid out. It would take another nine months to a year to repair. The last rehabilitation was done in 1985. Dave Wacker stated it will take 3-6 months to coordinate with the railroad.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong there being no further business to adjourn at 6:40 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.