

COUNCIL WORKSESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016
CITY HALL 2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Council President Duval with the following members present: Odom, Niemeyer, Goebel, Krings, Harrington, Skutnik, Hoops, Mayor Powers. Absent: None

Other Staff Present: Joe Patterson (City Administrator), Dave Ptak (City Attorney), Peter Kortum (Police Chief), Amy Hafer (Library Director), Rebecca Matticks (Museum Director), Kent Gilbert (Fire Chief), Kimberly Jacobitz (City Clerk), Dave Wacker (City Engineer), Jeff Hassenstab (Park & Recreation Director), Barbara Adler (City Treasurer), Allen Meyer (Interim Director HU), Roger Nash (Sr. Finance Clerk)

Moved by Harrington, seconded by Skutnik that the Worksession Agenda be adopted. The motion carried.

Council President Duval stated that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the 2nd Floor Conference room and that prior to this meeting a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Building, that each Councilmember and Mayor received a copy of the proposed agenda and that an agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection and that said meeting is held in open session. The motion carried.

Discussion of Proposed 2016-17 Annual City Budget

Joe Patterson presented the 2016-17 Annual City Budget to the group. Some of the highlights are below:

- Pay plan increase of 2.5%, which is the same as Hastings Utilities.
- Sarah Hoops met with Kevin Schawang (Hastings Utilities IT) regarding new data base software. The committee and staff will work together to review software.
- The Mayor's Youth Council account was discussed. Joe stated if a budgeted amount was not used, the next year's amount can be increased.
- Director/City Planner fulltime position is in the budget and was discussed as a priority item. The current Planner is working only three days a week.
- Convenience fees for credit card usage was discussed.
- The IT group was discussed. Joe Patterson stated that the IT Interlocal with Hastings Utilities and County seems to be working well.
- Jeff Hassenstab, City Parks & Recreation Director, stated that Duncan Field's brick wall is in good shape. It was recently inspected by an architect and he commented the cracks will need to be filled in a future project, but it should not need to have mortar ground out.
- Parks and Recreation has been extracting diseased trees and replanting.
- A new feature for the AquaCourt and approximate cost was discussed.
- The Police Sinking Fund will be used to pay for necessary work to the Police Station.
- Police Chief Kortum reported on training and body camera implementation.
- An electric vehicle will be purchased using Keno funds
- The lack of new hike/bike trails in the budget was discussed. Joe Patterson said we will skip this budget year, but will look at grants for next year.
- Landfill's future expansion and recycling was discussed.
- Self-Insured Health Fund is continuing to struggle, with specialty prescriptions and procedures taking a large amount of funds. Discussion was held regarding possibilities of obtaining information on Hastings Utilities and City employees as one group for health care cost.
- Mayor Powers asked that benches for the cemetery be discussed for funding

Councilmember Krings left the meeting.

The City's budget will be placed on the September 12th Council Agenda.

Moved by Skutnik, seconded by Goebel there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 P.M. The motion carried.