CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, March 16, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the City Council Chambers, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on March 16, 2020.

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

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, David Ptak, Clint Schukei, Kimberly Jacobitz, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Jeff Hassenstab, Roger Nash, David Wacker, Kevin Johnson, Brent Brooks.

Others Present: Troy Stickels, YMCA CEO, Kyle Overturf, AMGL CPAs & Advisors.

Council Vice President Skutnik stated in light of the public health emergency, she would like a motion to modify the agenda to add an Agenda Item #6 entitled: Discuss issues related to the declared public health emergency. Moved by Jeniffer Beahm seconded by Matt Fong to add Agenda Item #6 entitled: Discuss issues related to the declared public health emergency. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Paul Hamelink. The motion carried.

Council Vice President Skutnik asked for a motion to approve the agenda for March 16, 2020, as amended. Moved by Scott Snell seconded by Chuck Rosenberg to approve the agenda for March 16, 2020, as amended. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Chuck Rosenberg, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Paul Hamelink. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, March 13, 2020. 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 available. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and

Presentation of Financial Audit for the City of Hastings and Utility Department ending September 30, 2019 - Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C.

Kyle Overturf, AMGL CPAs & Advisors, presented to Council the Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the 2019-20 fiscal year. He reviewed the unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance you can receive from an outside accounting firm. He wanted Council to know that the Museum and Library foundations are not included in the audit and have their own independent audits. He reviewed with Council the financial highlights, sources of revenue which he stated were well balanced, capital assets and debt which decreased. Mr. Overturf then reviewed the actual financial statements starting with government wide financial statements and the fund financials. He went over the statement of activities and reconciliation of the balance sheet and spoke about the IT fund which is new this year (ERP). Footnotes were reviewed starting with the CRA, Long-term Debt, TIF, Commitments and Contingencies of $2.5 million and EPA.

Council Vice President Skutnik asked about the acceptable amount of TIF. Mr. Overturf stated he felt the City's TIF isn't too high but there does have to be a balance.

Mr. Overturf reviewed control deficiencies and stated there is not as much segregation of duties as the auditors would like to see. He told Council that they need to scrutinize transactions and that they are the last layer of defense to prevent fraud.

Councilmember Rosenberg questioned the difference in the special assessments line. Roger Nash, Finance DIrector, indicated there were several new developments that paid the entire assessment up front instead of spreading it out over several years.

Mr. Overturf reviewed the recommendation regarding the landfill and having more flexibility in closure and post closure site costs. He reviewed with Council the recommendation on the Utility side regarding the liability of the fly ash and making sure the quantity stays down.

Mr. Overturf went over some bench marking on a per capita basis with Council. *(Attached and made part of original minutes.)*

Councilmember Rosenberg left the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

Discussion of Brickyard Park special event insurance.

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, informed Council about an event the YMCA was sponsoring at Brickyard Park in connection with the City's opening of the refurbished Brickyard Park. He indicated that our insurance company recommends a $5 million insurance policy to cover an event such as this with the activities that are being proposed. Clint Schukei, City Attorney, stated the policy that has been approved by the elected officials provides for insurance at the upper limits due to the nature of the activities. Our insurance company confirmed that is the proper amount of insurance needed. RockIt, the company providing the activities, can provide insurance only up to $1 million and doesn't meet the insurance amount that is reflected in the event application. He stated the YMCA policy that they bought specifically for this event excludes may of the activities that RockIt is going to have. Mr. Schukei indicated that the high cost of an insurance policy to cover these type of events shows there is risk there.

Troy Stickels, YMCA CEO, indicated this is a partnership with the YMCA and the City Parks and Recreation Department. He explained they want this to be a huge community festival with a ribbon cutting for the Brickyard Park remodel and a concert on June 13th. He stated that RockIt does this type of event all over the country and this is the same insurance they use everywhere else in the country. He said that special event insurance would be costly and they didn't want to cut activities out.

Council Vice President Skutnik remembered the road race on the City streets that cost the City when there was an accident and the company said they had insurance but the City ended up paying out. She stated we make the requirements on insurance for a purpose.

Mr. Ptak suggested the Council think about this City wide event and that it has to do with the reopening of Brickyard Park and consider contributing a portion of the cost of the special insurance needed so the event wouldn't be diminished, but the insurance coverage could be met. The benefit we would see is getting the community to see the improvements at Brickyard Park as well as providing a fun day for the community.

Councilmember Eley stated he was against changing the insurance procedure but said he was for the event and giving money to it.

Mr. Schukei mentioned the option to have additional insured language with waiver of subrigation put on the insurance certificate which would be a benefit to both the City and the YMCA. He told Council he anticipated the event application would be on the March 23rd Council meeting agenda.

Councilmember Schroeder stated he supported the event with Councilmember Snell agreeing. It was a consensus to have staff figure out the best way to make it work. Mr. Ptak said they would work something out before the March 23rd Council meeting.

Update on Parkview Cemetery road project.

Brent Brooks, Engineering Department, indicated there are 2.85 miles of asphalt roads at Parkview Cemetery in need of paving, the topographic survey is complete, and much of the asphalt is broken and heaving and has reached the end of its life span. He told Council in order to get equipment in they will need to tear out a significant number of trees. He indicated the problem with the trees are many are within two feet of the curb and have destroyed the curb and gutter and are blocking drainage. He told Council tree roots are a problem and are pushing up the road as well as pushing up head stones. He indicated they are proposing to do the construction of the cemetery roads in phases. *(Map attached and made part of original minutes.)* Phase 1 being the northern most road running east to west and its adjoining side roads. This will help with getting heavy equipment around the project without destroying other roads around the cemetery. He indicated that trees would be replanted by the Parks Department and they would only cut down trees in the phase they are working on. Mr. Brooks said they would only be doing one phase each year. They are proposing an inverted grade on the new roads that will drain to the middle and should help with drainage and they will widen roads where they can but most will stay the same. He explained that it will take six to eight years to complete all phases but that bid price will be a factor. $250,000 has been budgeted for Phase 1.

Councilmember Fong stated he hoped they would try to save as many trees as possible.

Discussion of changes to Chapter 18, Offenses-Miscellaneous, regarding tobacco and vaping.

Moved by Jeniffer Beahm seconded by Matt Fong to approve postponing the discussion on Item #4 - Discussion of changes to Chapter 18 Offenses-Miscellaneous, regarding tobacco and vaping. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg. The motion carried.

Viaduct discussion.

Mr. Ptak handed out to Council a draft resolution regarding ballot language for the proposal to repair the viaduct and issue bonds. He indicated they have until September but they are trying to address determining the language in a timely manner. He indicated that more forensics studies are being done to get a more exact cost number and they are still gathering information to know better what it is going to take to repair the viaduct. He also stated that a bond resolution would need to be prepared.

Mayor Stutte stated this project has the potential to raise taxes and is not a free project.

Discussion of issues related to the declared public health emergency.

Discussion began on first responders and implementing some health related policies, stating department needs and handling staffing shortfalls.

Adam Story, Police Chief, handed out to Council a list of supply needs and concerns from the Police Department. *(Attached and made part of original minutes.)* He stated that four officers would be the minimum of what is needed on the street and that it isn't an option to reduced services and only answer emergency calls.

Brad Starling, Fire Chief, handed out to Council information regarding use of volunteers to use in backfilling various rolls. *(Attached and made part of original minutes.)* He indicated that the use of volunteers creates some issues of insurance and payment and they wanted to get Council support before proceeding.

Council Vice President Skutnik asked what was needed of Council. Mr. Ptak indicated that they wanted Council to be aware before staff proceeded. He also indicated that a waiver would be signed by all volunteers.

Couniclmember Eley asked if employees from closed departments can help out in other departments.

Mayor Stutte indicated the Museum and Library are only closed to the public and staff in both locations are still working.

Councilmember Fong liked the creative thinking and expressed that they are going to have to do things differently regarding how services are provided and that they should support staff however they can.

Mayor Stutte indicated they would be doing a morning video conference with stakeholders in the community regarding closings and the health situation.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Matt Fong there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 7:23 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Paul Hamelink, Chuck Rosenberg. The motion carried.