HASTINGS UTILITY BOARD
AGENDA

Council Chambers – City Hall
220 North Hastings Avenue
January 14, 2021
9:00 AM

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR date REGULAR MEETING.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Wednesday, JANUARY 13, 2021. 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 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:

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. <u>All Consent Items.</u>

    (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of December 10, 2020

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. <u>Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.</u>

3. <u>General Business.</u>

    (a) Finance

    (b) Production

        i. IRP Status

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

i. FLINT Update

ii. COVID Update

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

The Hastings Utility Board reserves the right to enter into an executive session at any time during the meeting, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, even though the closed session may not be indicated on the agenda. It is the intention of the Hastings Utility Board to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Hastings Utilities Board reserves the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedule of the Utility Board Members, persons having items on the agenda, and the public.

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2020

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 December 10, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: HITESMAN, HARTMANN, RAITT, DEWALT, HEMJE.

ABSENT: NONE.

OTHERS PRESENT: MAYOR STUTTE, DAVE PTAK, DEREK ZEISLER, LEE VROOMAN, CLINT SCHUKEI, RICH KLEINHAMPLE, NOEL NIENHUESER, KEVIN JOHNSON.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Due to being a teleconference meeting the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was skipped.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR date REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Raitt seconded by Dewalt to adopt current agenda for December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Virtual Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, DECEMBER 8, 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 can be found on the City of Hastings' website, cityofhastings.org.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Kevin Johnson spoke on safety, security and customer service enhancements have been completed. South driveway and drive-up window completed and in full utilization with our customers. He mentioned still being closed to the public, but has allowed us to modify our processes and work with our customers in a different way. Seems to be working well with very limited (just one complaint). Kevin went on to talk about being very fortunate with the pandemic from March to November very few exposures. Kevin mentioned November did hit us harder. He said although having several exposures and illnesses that they have been spread-out in departments, not one congregation of illnesses. He mentioned feeling good how they have handled internally, within the utility department. We now wear masks all the time (sitting at our desks or getting up to go somewhere) throughout the building. Trying to do our part internally.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Hitesman mentioned he appreciated canceling last month's meeting due to the pandemic. He went on to wish everyone a safe holiday and safe travels.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. <u>All Consent Items.</u>

   (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of October 8, 2020.

   Moved by Hemje seconded by Raitt to approve the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting on October 8, 2020, as corrected. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. <u>Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.</u>

   None.

3. <u>General Business.</u>

   (a) Finance

      i. Fiscal Year-End Financials Review

   Kevin Johnson gave a presentation on the FY 2020 4th Quarter Financials. Included in the presentation was Balance Sheet Highlights, Summaries of the Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer and General and Administrative Departments. A comparison of headcounts was shown, along with Street Lighting Department update. a Unit Sales and Cost Analysis and Comparative Statements of Electric, Gas and Water Production.

   Derek Zeisler gave a little background in the presentation about the rates in the market (electric). He spoke on the penetration of renewable generation. A lot of changes happening and more to come.

   (b) Production

i. WEC Re-Organization

Rich Kleinhample gave an overview of the re-organization at Whelan Energy Center (WEC). He spoke on significant changes the way WEC was structured before November 8th. He went on stating they moved Bruce Perry from Maintenance Supervisor to Major Maintenance Coordinator to really focus on upcoming outages that would be scheduled along with other changes. Ryan Hofmann was in the interim role in the EIC department, he moved to the Instrument Supervisor role and reporting directly to Shane Stone, who has moved from Operations Supervisor to Maintenance and Fuel Superintendent. He spoke on that move allowed them to look at the maintenance and fuel handling and combine them to standardize work order processes. In November Tom Russell (Fuel Handler Supervisor) retired and that role no longer exists. The lead fuel handlers are reporting directly to Shane. He spoke on two other major moves was the Senior Chemist, Brandon Savage is now reporting to the Dir. of Electrical Production as well as Mike Peters, Senior Storekeeper. Kleinhample went on to report on the reasoning behind the structure changes (per the presentation slide).

Hitesman made a comment on this restructuring means nobody is losing their job, haven't added a ton of people, it's just a reorganization. Kevin Johnson reiterated Hitesman's statement of nobody is losing their job. Johnson went on to explain that this is part of their efficiency focus/productivity focus. They re-evaluate and reassess every position.

(c) Operations

None

(d) Administration

i. AMI Phase I

Noel spoke on the AMI Pilot. He spoke on the overview of Phase I. In the write up provided to the board he referenced the current system being used to why they went with the Tantalus system. The system has the ability to read our existing ERTs (radio signal) and to be picked up. This system wouldn't be a massive switch in one day. He went on to explain all the meters can do, including the ability to remote disconnect/connect. This new system ties into our current HU system so a lot of time and money wasn't tied into getting the new system set up. Noel mentioned there has been a few meetings and everyone is satisfied on how it works.

In Phase 1 it would be a full implementation, which has been budgeted for this year. It would include infrastructure to communicate with the entire service area, enough meters to collect the existing ERT signals, meters with remote disconnect capability for rental and problem services, licensing of all products and training of employees who will work directly with the system. Also, in the write-up it mentioned the goal is to complete the entire conversion in a 3 year time frame.

Raitt questioned what is considered a problem service. Noel answered it could mean two different issues, one has issues with our service or problem service an owned primary residence that has issues with payments. Raitt went on to asked if we have to change/update any software now. Noel answered all software is up to date, but the only thing left to introduce is "the portal," where they go to access the data.

Hitesman went on to ask about about future costs if they are built in for replacement up to 10 plus years or changed out and if licensing cost is built into future budgets. Noel mentioned that the "meter life" is 15-20 year range. HU is on a 15 year rolling replacement. With the licensing there is an expense with the Tantalus system, but is a one time fee. Doesn't know present cost. Kevin Johnson mentioned this is long over due and a great opportunity. Hitesman had one more question about if this would be on the irrigation side of things. Noel stated the Tantalus system could do it, but it is an add on module.

ii. Recommendation to the City Council to submit Letters of Intent for 2020 Rural Workforce Housing Funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for Phase II of Trail Ridge Subdivision and for Pioneer Trail Flats Subdivision.

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Hartmann to recommend to the City Council to submit Letters of Intent for 2020 Rural Workforce Housing Funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for Phase II of Trail Ridge Subdivision and for Pioneer Trail Flats Subdivision. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(e) Other

i. Board Officer Selections

Board members were nominated and selected.

For Chairman Bill Hitesman was nominated and selected. Moved by Raitt seconded by Dewalt. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None.

For Vice Chairman Jeanette Dewalt was nominated and selected. Moved by Raitt seconded by Hartmann. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None.

For Secretary Mark Hemje was nominated and selected. Moved by Raitt seconded by Hartmann. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None.

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

Moved by Dewalt, seconded by Hemje to go into closed session for recommendation to the City Council to submit letters of Intent for 2020 Rural Workforce Housing Funds at 10:12 A.M. Roll call: Hitesman, Hartmann, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hitesman, Hartmann, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Raitt to come out of closed session at 10:53 A.M. and be reopened to the public. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Hartmann, seconded by Dewalt there being no further business to adjourn at 10:56 A.M. Roll Call: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hartmann, Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

____
Board Secretary

Department: Utilities
Staff Contact:
Utility Board Meeting Date: 1/14/2021

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

Description of Item:

Names of People/Business affected by this action:

Why Council action is required:

Type of action requested:

Suggested motion:

Deadlines associated with action:

Department head comments:

City Administrator comments:

Department: Utilities
Staff Contact:
Utility Board Meeting Date: 1/14/2021

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