

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 14, 2021

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 January 14, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: HITESMAN, RAITT, DEWALT, HEMJE.

ABSENT: NONE.

OTHERS PRESENT: DAVE PTAK, LEE VROOMAN, KEITH LEONHARDT, LORI HARTMAN, KEVIN JOHNSON.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR JANUARY 14, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Raitt to adopt current agenda for January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

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:

Kevin Johnson spoke on if there is any items of interest the board would like to talk about in upcoming meetings to reach out and that we will put on the agenda.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

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

Moved by Hemje seconded by Raitt to approve the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting on December 10, 2020, as corrected. Roll Call: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

None.

- (b) Production

- i. IRP Status

Keith Leonhardt spoke on our internal study of how we use our energy. He mentioned the external company that conducted the study was GDS. They developed 10 resource portfolios. Combination of existing units and new resources. Conducted sensitivity analysis with 3 scenarios. Completed an economic analysis and established a rating criteria. Mentioned GDS's study is primarily economic. Internally we recognized we needed to review their study as well as complete our own review that included more detail of the reliability issue and condition assessment of existing generating units. He went to talk about the IRP committee that meets weekly. On their way of completing the review. More than half way complete.

Jeanette Dewalt had a question on an anticipated date for a presentation for the board on the committee's recommendations. Keith answered with no date set. Kevin Johnson mentioned their initial thought to complete internal discussions within before the end of March. Information he currently has appears be able to meet at that time.

Doesn't want to put pressure on committee. Real critical decision and will make a big impact for Hastings Utilities in the near and long term.

(c) Operations

None.

(d) Administration

i. FLINT Update

Lee Vrooman spoke on the FLINT Project, which is the forest property just west of the powerplant. Lee mentioned with the holidays there hasn't been a lot of contact with the group. No commitment yet and no concrete timeline of when commitment will take place. Just still helping facilitate utility stuff that they have.

Dave Ptak brought up about his understanding of the group increasing their need for utilities. Lee mentioned water usage has doubled, sanitary sewer discharge has quadrupled and electric usage gone up 10%. From utility revenue standpoint it's good. For our systems it is becoming more challenging (especially sewer). Bill Hitesman asked if the sewer will be a whole different system or expand into what we currently have. Lee stated that currently the entire area ties into the Maxon System. The system is not large enough to handle the type of flow we are looking at for this project.

ii. COVID Update

Lori Hartman gave a COVID update. She mentioned that emergency FMLA provisions went into effect April 1st 2020. It allows employees who tested, showed, or quarantined to have paid hours. Very limited exposure until Nov 1, 2020. Since Nov 1, 27 employees tested positive, 18 quarantined due to exposures and currently 3 out. November and December was by far the worst. All city departments 93 total employees effected.

Kevin Johnson mentioned the survey we took on who would be interested in the vaccine. 46% had said yes.

Jeanette Dewalt talked about her family members working for utility departments elsewhere and how they mentioned getting the vaccine quickly due to the service they are in. She asked if Hastings Utilities falls under the same thing. Dave Ptak spoke on that would be correct for HU as we fall under 1B. 1A: is first responders, healthcare workers and nursing homes. 1B: is considered essential services and utilities fall under that. 1C: 65 & older. He went on to say they are currently trying to distribute all vaccine they currently have. Problem right now is getting vaccine.

Bill Hitesman asked on where one would call to get vaccinated. Dave Ptak stated that if you go to the South Heartland website and click on the red ribbon to sign up. They don't give exact day and time of distribution but will take your phone number and call you when they have it.

(e) Other

None.

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

ADJOURN:

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Raitt there being no further business to adjourn at 9:25 A.M.
Roll Call: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Ayes: Hitesman, Raitt, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None.
Absent: None. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary