

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, May 17, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Airport, 3300 West 12th Street, on May 17, 2021.

The Worksession Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council President Ginny Skutnik with the following members present: Ginny Skutnik, Shawn Hartmann, Corey Stutte, Ted Schroeder, Matt Fong, Joy Huffaker, Jeniffer Beahm. Absent: Butch Eley, Chuck Rosenberg.

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, David Ptak, Clint Schukei, Mike Doremus, Erik Nielsen, Kevin Johnson, Roger Nash, Lori Hartman, Deb Bergmann.

Others Present: Airport Advisory Board Members - Matt Kuhr, Aaron Schardt, Brent Hoops.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Ted Schroeder to remove Item 3. Discussion of purchasing ordinance. off the City Council Worksession Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Chuck Rosenberg. The motion carried.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Ted Schroeder to adopt the current agenda for the May 17, 2021 City Council Worksession as amended. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Chuck Rosenberg. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 14, 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 available. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

Discussion of final draft of City of Hastings Employee Handbook.

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, stated the copy of the updated employee handbook that Council had in front of them has changes in red. Lori Hartman, Director of Human Resources, stated the City of Hastings Employee Handbook was originally adopted in 2019 and had been put together by a committee made up of a cross section of employees from City and Utility Departments. She indicated they had talked to each department and received feedback and suggestions of updates that needed to be made to the handbook. She told Council that Covid had slowed them down but everyone got back together and met over a seven week time period to make the needed changes. She indicated that department heads have reviewed the changes. Councilmember Beahm questioned the 1060 hours of vacation that department heads can accrue. Mr. Ptak indicated that it had been unlimited and stressed the need for notice if a department head is leaving so it can be budgeted for. Councilmember Beahm indicated that she liked that they changed it so that sick leave can be used for daycare and school closure. Mr. Ptak indicated this will be on the agenda for formal approval Monday night.

Discussion of cell phone policy.

Mr. Ptak indicated that the Utility Department has had a cell phone policy for several years and the IT Department questioned if it was something we should take a look at for all employees. He stated that the policy really speaks to who should be entitled to carry a cell phone and what positions qualify to have a cell phone. He stated that there needs to be a business purpose associated with cell phone reimbursement and not just for convenience. Kevin Johnson, Utility Manager, stated that a business need has to be there to warrant a phone and then they have the option of a city cell phone or reimbursement for use of their own phone. He indicated there really has to be a day to day and after hours need. Councilmember Hartmann indicated it really is more of a hassle to carry two phones than it is to use their own as long as it is clear they know they have to answer the phone.

Discussion of purchasing ordinance. (Removed from agenda.)

Presentation and tour of Hastings Airport Facility.

Deb Bergmann, Airport Manager, thanked all for coming and meeting out at the Airport. She told Council that they have accomplished a lot at the Airport from small projects to hosting the fly-in in June and felt they are pretty much on the map now. She indicated it has taken a lot of team work and if they keep working together there is really no limit to what can be done.

Aaron Schardt, Airport Advisory Board Member, gave a presentation on the Hastings Airport. He indicated that the Hastings Airport was built for commercial aviation but is now a general aviation airport. He stated that 90% of takeoff and landings at the Hastings Airport is considered general aviation and they want to be the best general aviation airport in the country. He talked about some of the assets the Hastings Airport has such as lighted runways, Fixed Base Operator (FBO) which is essential to have a quality airport, remote communication outlet, six approaches, having really good infrastructure and he stated they attract a variety of customers and can handle just about any aircraft out there. He indicated they are an important economic development asset and see 19,000 operations annually and generate revenue in fuel sales, hangar rentals and federal grant apportionment. He told Council as far as services, they didn't have a lot to offer in 2016 but since have added two courtesy cars, flight instruction, aircraft rental and a fuel truck. He stated of the top ten improvements they listed in 2016, most are done. Mr. Schardt indicated that one place they were lacking was in fuel sales but that increased 93.3% from 2016 to \$90,493.00. He said they also have a growing pilot population. He talked about the airport future and new hangars and a maintenance facility and the fly-in on June 20, 2021.

Matt Kuhr, Airport Advisory Board Member, talked about partnering with service groups like the Kiwanis Club to serve pancakes and the Eagles Club to serve hamburgers at the fly-in, having a car show and having kids events to make it a family event.

Councilmember Skutnik asked about the Hastings Airport Association mission. Mr. Schardt indicated when he got on the board there wasn't much good communication with the City or comradery with pilots and there was no one to advocate for the airport and they are changing that.

Mayor Corey Stutte thanked everyone and stated it had been fun to watch this mission move forward and great to see the success out at the Airport.

Councilmember Fong asked what the Council can do to support the Airport. Mr. Kuhr talked about the help they have received with the air show from the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Tribune and how supportive they have been of all they are doing.

Councilmember Schroeder indicated he felt the air show will be great exposure for the Airport and the City of Hastings.

Brent Hoops, Advisory Board Member, stated that he felt their next step was a larger airport maintenance facility and thinks that would be good for the City and would incentivize a new business to come to the Airport.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:12 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley, Chuck Rosenberg. The motion carried.

Councilmembers went on tour of Hastings Airport Facility.