

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 10, 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 June 10, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Regular Session by Chairman, Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Shayne Raitt, Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske. Absent: None.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Johnson, Manager of Utilities; Lee Vrooman, City Engineer; Clint Schukei, City Attorney; Karen Rennick, Administrative Asst.; Kimberly Jacobitz, City Clerk; Roger Nash, Robin Ginn, Brandon Lubken, Lori Hartman, Keith Leonhardt, Marty Stange, Erik Nielson Council Members: Butch Ehly, Shawn Hartmann and Mayor Corey Stutte.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Chairman led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR 6/10/2021 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Jeanette Dewalt seconded by Shayne Raitt to adopt current agenda for June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Shayne Raitt, Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, June 08, 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 in the Utility Board Room. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Utility Board Room which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Future utility board meetings are tentatively scheduled for the Hastings Public Library. Introduced Karen Rennick, Administrative Assistant for Utility Board.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Hitesman welcomes Karen Rennick.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Non

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Mark Hemje seconded by Susan Meeske to approve all consent items as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Shayne Raitt, Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske. Nays: None.

Absent: None. The motion carried.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of May 13, 2021.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- i. Budget Timeline

Robin Ginn-wage study is completed. As soon as we get those numbers, we will get those out to departments to put together.

Combined meeting for utility board and city council. There will be an additional meeting that will need to take place. Same process as prior years for budget. The Utility Board members are welcome to ask staff questions.

Utility Board meeting in August will discuss budget. Council and UB will have a combined Worksession in August.

Clint: January 22, 2021 LB 644 goes into effect.

Dewalt-wage study? Kevin-external study completed.

- (b) Production

i. IRP Status

Keith-reported the IRP committee needed further study. Hired consultant Stanley Engineering and will provide----- Their work will be done tomorrow. Plan to have a recommendation prepared for budget.

Kevin-has entailed a future market view. Internal-assessment of current assets and future assets. Includes further market analysis. If you are a producer, the challenge is to keep cost low to keep competitive in the market. We are a buyer from the pool. We could buy 100%. We are analyzing what the best mix is. We are using all solar power, but have not sold it all. We cannot keep assets just in case there is a 50-100 year event, such as what happened in February 2021.

Bill-battery technology and storage is changing rapidly. Kevin-that is being considered. Shawn-methane gas? Keith-that has not been considered.

(c) Operations

i. Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan

Keith and Brandon Lubken worked on a water infrastructure replacement plan. Brandon gave a presentation.

Committee recommends replacement of lead...

List prioritizations, goals and schedules. (general slide)

Bill-recommendations are budget impacts. Are these built into the budget? Kevin-this is operational and there is a sense of urgency. It is likely to utilize contracting and internal means for the project. It impacts rates, budgets, so UB will be kept current. Shawn-if we tie to water usage, will that produce a large enough revenue? Or do we need to charge a fix fee? Kevin-some communities use both. This is an overall consistent program over the next 10 years. As a utility, we are very good at reacting. We are trying to get better at being proactive. That is what this study is saying, is better to be proactive.

Keith mentioned members of the committee: Mark H, Marty Stange, Lee Vrooman,

(d) Administration

(e) Other

i. City Hall to NDS-Status

Lee reported Tony Tribune did a great job.

Network switches are 60 days out, so September. Contractor material for

Development Services. We expect by July to have availability for HR and Public Information position.

IT-switches are routing protocol device. Eley-can we take those from city hall? IT-upgrading that needs to be done on switches. Kevin-project being excel. Eley-do we have other areas available, such as Museum, Library, etc. from the previous areas.

Butch-can we move people earlier? IT-no. Mayor-supplies are not available.

Shawn-council chamber for storage, not because of safety. Marty-publicize those as soon as they are received.

ii. Comparability Study Process Overview

Kevin-not prepared to show results, as they still need to be evaluated prior to publishing.

Lori Hartman reported on the study. Public employees can't strike, so they are guaranteed comparability. State Statutes give requirements. We are compared to municipalities who are either half or twice the size of population. The consultant gets wages from other communities then gives us the comparable wages. It is position by position. There are 207 job descriptions that are given to the consultant. Match-must have 3 matches and 70% of the essential functions. If only 2 matches, it must be aligned. If aligned it means it is similar in scope. We try to get as many matches as possible. Some positions do not get increases, and other do receive increases. We have an eight step pay plan. We look at min an max. The employees will be shown their particular job comparison information. We are suppose to do this process every 3 years. Some positions had to compare to power agencies. Not every municipality has electric or gas services.

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

HITESMAN, RAIT, DEWALT, HEMJE, MEESKE

REASON:

TIME:

ADJOURN:

10:22a.m.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary