

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
Monday, July 19, 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 Public Library, 314 North Denver Avenue, on July 19, 2021.

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

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, David Ptak, Clint Schukei, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Erik Nielsen, Roger Nash, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Jake Frerichs, Dustyn John.

Others Present: Ron Pughes - Adams County Emergency Management, Michele Bever - Executive Director of South Heartland District Health Department, Charles Neumann-Adams County Commissioner.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to adopt the current agenda for the July 19, 2021 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Joy Huffaker. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, July 16, 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 Continuity of Operations Plan - Ron Pughes, Adams County Emergency Management Director.**

Ron Pughes, Adams County Emergency Management Director, began discussion of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the City of Hastings. He brought up first the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) and stated that isn't what the City would use but stated that a LEOP would be used for emergency management issues between City and County in time of a natural disaster. He indicated the City would need to use a COOP Plan and explained that the plan is very layered and can get very deep. He stated that the purpose of a COOP Plan is to ensure that services we offer our community stay intact under any circumstance. He told Council some experience was gained in dealing with the pandemic. He stated he felt having a written COOP Plan is important. Mr. Pughes explained to Council that an Emergency Response Plan is an immediate plan of action. He went on to explain that a Continuity of Operations Plan was planning for after the response to keep operations continuing, protecting vital records, ensuring leadership and continuing to provide services to citizens. He reviewed with Council details of how a COOP Plan is developed and enacted. He stated that to begin developing a COOP Plan would start with a survey to each department. Mr. Pughes indicated that it would probably be 2022 before an actual COOP Plan could be put in place for the City but that he felt it is a very important aspect of continuity of government.

Councilmember Eley asked how the City gets started. Mr. Pughes suggested putting a committee together, establish immediate needs, survey departments, review surveys, determine alternate locations, draft COOP Plan, get Council approval, and implement plan by June, 2022.

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, indicated that some departments have their own COOP Plans but the City doesn't have an overall citywide plan. He indicated that the real need is in relation to technology and to cyber risk. He stated he would have a special department head meeting on Monday with Ron Pughes to get started. Mayor Stutte thanked Mr. Pughes and stated that it has become evident that the City needs some sort of plan in place.

**Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding - Michele Bever, Executive Director of South Heartland District Health Department.**

Michele Bever, Executive Director of South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD), began discussion on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She began her overview by stating that \$350 billion will be provided in emergency funding to state, local, territorial and tribal governments. In the SHDHD that is a total of \$8.7 million to the four counties of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster and almost \$6.2 million to the cities located in those counties. She talked about the uses of the funds stating that their goal is to reduce the impact of the pandemic as well as planning forward. She listed some of the uses of funding such as support of public health expenditures, addressing negative economic impacts, lost public sector revenue, premium pay for essential workers and investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. She went on to talk about how public health is included in the ARPA and how that funding would be used for services and programs and for the addressing of behavioral healthcare needs. Ms. Bever then discussed the next steps and stated that the SHDHD is developing a formal request for each county, city and village for an amount of up to 9% of the local ARPA funds coming in to support public health activities. She shared with Council the priority uses for the funds: ongoing COVID-19 response, mobile health clinic, capital improvement of updating the facility and improving/expanding screening and treatment to address behavioral health needs. She indicated the formal proposal will be brought to Council at a later date.

Council President Skutnick asked if the County and City would be working together on this at the Combined Services meetings. Charles Neumann, Adams County Commissioner, stated that they could and that the Adams County Board has a committee of three that are working on it. Mayor Stutte indicated that unfortunately there is a lot to be figured out. Mr. Ptak indicated the City will receive their allotment in two different payments and have received the first payment of a little over \$2 million and it is in the bank. He stated that utility water main replacement has been brought up as a real need but it is hard at this time to commit to how the funds will be used until they see the final regulations.

**Discussion of restricting trucks on portions of city streets.**

Mr. Ptak stated he involved both the Police Chief and Fire Chief for input and felt there are three or four items that need to be clarified before moving on with the first one being the definition of truck. He told Council they cannot interfere with commerce and that there are construction projects causing trucks to be rerouted to areas that they normally wouldn't be traveling. He stated they have the authority to define truck by classification not length.

Adam Story, Police Chief, spoke about defining the parking of trucks a little better and that truck is not defined very well and that currently it is described in city code by length. He stated some of the things to consider are there is a lot of commerce in the community, it would be helpful to define the appropriate roadways that trucks can use, define trucks by weight and not by what they carry as that would not be enforceable and better signage for the bypass. Mr. Ptak indicated we have arterial and collector streets and it would be very difficult in the case of arterial streets, except in the case of construction, to say you couldn't have a truck travel on them. Brad Starling, Fire Chief, discussed emergency response and with trucks being wider

and emergency vehicles being wider, having adequate space to maneuver would be important for emergency vehicles.

Council President Skutnik indicated she would like to see something drafted to address the truck travel that takes into consideration trucks used for commerce and other issues.

Councilmember Hartmann stated he felt it was pretty easy to identify commerce trucks and if they should be there or not. Councilmember Rosenberg stated he would like to see surveys and that he felt they can't restrict trucks from collector and arterial streets. Mr. Ptak stated the truck traffic may be a temporary situation that has come about with the Highway 6 construction project so short term and long term solutions may need to be looked at. Mr. Ptak stated it was good to deal with the registered weight of the vehicle as far as enforceability and establish temporary truck routes but he would be hesitant to make permanent truck routes at this time.

Councilmember Eley stated he wasn't in favor of making a permanent fix to a temporary problem if it is eventually going to go away.

Councilmember Schroeder reviewed Hastings' ordinance regarding truck travel and that truck travel is allowed for delivery, commerce and construction and stated he felt what we have currently is really pretty good. He indicated he didn't feel they needed a bunch of ordinances changed. He stated he didn't feel they could restrict trucks doing business and he is not in favor of putting in any more restrictions and suggested handling truck situations on an individual basis.

Chief Story indicated there would be a lot of exemptions that you would have to have for specific trucks and really they deal more with parking complaints than driving. Councilmember Schroeder didn't agree with expanding code. Councilmember Eley indicated he felt they need to identify what is illegal to park. Councilmember Skutnik indicated her concern on the wear and tear on streets. Councilmember Eley stated he would like to see something in writing and sees it as a back and forth before coming to a final document. Councilmember Rosenberg stated he didn't want to make ordinances to make ordinances and does not see it as that big of a problem. Councilmember Skutnik asked if anyone is in favor of a draft. Councilmember Hartmann indicated he felt they need to look at the ordinance on parking and update it and maybe not really change but just update. Chief Story said that the parking ordinance and definitions are a priority. Mayor Stutte suggested prioritizing updating the code to meet what we have discussed and bullet point out some potential areas we can look to improve the code and that way we have something to talk about because right now it is very abstract.

Clint Schukei, City Attorney, stated they are really looking at two issues, truck driving and truck parking. Councilmember Fong asked if surveys would be of benefit. Mayor Stutte stated the GIS Coordinator would be able to set up a survey and the Public Information Manager could push it out and maybe they could find out where hot spots are. Mr. Ptak indicated that Nebraska State Statue 60-681 gives the authority for local authorities by either ordinance or resolution to impose restrictions on trucks by weigh with appropriate signage. He stated he felt a resolution would be better than an ordinance as they can be more reactive with a resolution than by ordinance.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to go into closed session at 6:34 p.m. for the discussion of contract negotiations and personnel. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Joy Huffaker. The motion carried.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to resume open session at 8:00 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny

Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Joy Huffaker. The motion carried.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm, Joy Huffaker. The motion carried.