CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 8, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Hastings Public Library, 314 N. Denver Avenue., on July 8, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Regular Session by Bill Hitesman, with the following members present: Jeanette DeWalt, Susan Meeske, Mark Hemje, Butch Ehly, Corey Stutte (Mayor), Clint Shukei (City Attorney), Eric Nielsen, Marty Stange, Rich Klienhample, Robin Ginn, Lori Hartmann, Kevin Johnson, Keith Lionhardt, Derek Zeisler, Lee Vrooman, Brandon Lubken, Ed Fleharty, Dave Ptak, Doug Buogart, Noel Nienhueser,
Absent: Shane Raitt

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 July 8, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Jeanette DeWalt. seconded by Mark Hemje to adopt current agenda for July 8, 2021 regular meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Jeanette DeWalt. Nays: None.
Absent: Shane Raitt . The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Wednesday, July 7, 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 Hastings Library. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Wednesday July 7, 2021.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Kevin: Water was in Fisher fountain for the fourth, but was drained because there was a leak. The leaks have been fixed.
Lee: Seeding will be done for the grass with a few more coats of paint. The other issues to be fixed, Should be running for good in a few weeks. Will have the same lights and programming as it did in the past. Later there will be programming so you can turn your radio on to link with the lights of the show.
Bill: Will there be an open celebration when everything is fixed?
Dave: We can, but there have been delays. We can wait until music is ready or do it before the music. Fence has been moved back so it is not so close to the fountain.
Bill: Would like to do a celebration since this has been such a big part of Hastings.

Corey: Thanks to all the YWCA workers for getting the parade together and all of the hard work. Thank you to the staff for their work on getting the fountain ready.

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 June 10, 2021.

    Defer to next months meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

    (a) Finance

        i. '21/'22 Capital Budget Proposals

Kevin: Still working on the budgets, but take a minute to get the big ticket items. Targeting August time frame for the full budget. Supervisors will go through their presentations.
Brandon discussed the budget for water.
Dave: The American recovery plan that is coming out, we have applied for the first half. We will receive half this year and half next year. This will help be used for the water main replacement. A good funding source to get the project running.
Jeanette asked if the 4 million has been approved? Is this a grant or a loan?

Dave, yes it has. It is a grant. We have to use it or return it. Large portion of this will got to the water replacement mains.
Corey: The rules are still be worked out. This is the first time money has directly allocated from the federal government to local governments.
Bill: Who over sees the grant?
Dave: Waiting to find that out what the final rules are.
Corey: Rules are continuing to be revised.
Ed discussed the budget for the gas department.
Susan: how are you determining the smart meter? What areas of town they go into first?
Ed: 10 year rotation
Kevin: averages are actual not budget
Mark: Question on vehicles. Is there shared use?
Ed: Yes, all vehicles are back and forth between departments.
Bill: Are there so many hours that you run before looking at replacing the truck.
Ed: Yes and other things are tracked.
Kevin: We do not have a former life cycle program, This needs to be implicated.
Brandon: The hours differ form the type of work that is done. Some hours are harder than others.
Ed: Our equipment has documentation on oil changes, filter, etc.
Rich discussed the budget for WEC(Whelan Energy Center)
Joint is HU and PPGA
Keith will have more information when the contractors get back with them on time and cost.
Business interruption could be 2 weeks to 2 months if it is not replaced.
South Fence is in relation to the Hartwell renewables.
Susan: what is the Hartwell renewable?
Kevin: It is the flint project, the new plant that is coming out.
Hartwell renewable is the top electric and top 5
Noel discussed the budget for the sub station
Kevin: We will have more discussion about the IRP and the solar farm. We are still in development and analysis options.
Jeanette: Will PPGA share the cost of the WEC substation:
Noel: No, it is not tied to the generation.
Kevin: This is primarily part of the renewables is solely on us.
Brandan discussed the sewer and PCF budget.
Doug discussed the electric budget.
Kevin: We have an admin capital budget. This year the IT will have a capital budget. No slides were made for these.
Keith: There is one additional large item which is the security gate and the North Denver facility.
Eric: It is consolidating all IT. Software budget will pass through department.2 major projects.
Susan: What about all of the upgrades? When the people will be moved.
Eric: Those are still going. those are shared projects with the city.
Kevin: That is what we have for now. We will have more information in August.

(b) Production

(c) Operations

i. ASR Status Update

Kevin: I was asked last month if I could get an ASRs status.
Marty to discuss the ASR status. (Aquifer Storage and Restoration)
Bill: When you hit the acceptable levels, how long do you have to wait to run it again"?
Marty: Depending on reporting and testing. A lot of testing and flushing before a well is shut down.

(d) Administration

(e) Other

i. Comp. Study-Wages and Benefits

Dave: every 3 years there is a comparability study. We don't compare people, we compare positions. Great number of matches this year and a limited amount of adjustments. Some have a 5% increase, 5-15% increase and some are froze. Maximum increase of 5%. over that is half this year and half next year. Over 15% is divided into the next 3 years. Maximum is 8%. Benefits side was really good. The only thing that would need to be adjusted is the vacation accrual. Minor adjustments done through the handbook.
Lori: All the information has been communicated to the supervisors and the employees. This was a draft.
When it is approved it will be communicated.

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

Moved by Susan Meeske seconded by Jeanette DeWalt to go into Closed Session, which Closed Session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest in that said Closed Session will consist of a strategy session relative to negotiations. Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Jeanette DeWalt. Nays: None. Absent: Shane Raitt. The motion carried.
The meeting closed to the public at 10:24 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Jeanette DeWalt seconded by Susan Meeske that there being no further business, the meeting adjourn at 10:53 a.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Mark Hemje, Susan Meesek, Jeanette DeWalt. Nays; None. Absent: Shane Raitt. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary