CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 12, 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 August 12, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Regular Session by Jeanette DeWalt with the following members present: Shayne Raitt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske. Absent: Bill Hitesman. Others present: Manager of Utilities, Kevin Johnson; City Administrator, Dave Ptak; Director of Finance, Roger Nash; Accounting Manager, Robin Ginn; Business Operations Analyst, Brian Strom; Director of Capital Management, Keith Leonhardt; Director of Administration, Derek Zeisler; Director of Electric Production, Rich Kleinhample; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Mayor, Corey Stutte; Lee Vrooman; Noel Nienhueser; Jai Higgins; Brandon Lubken; Doug Baumgart; Shane Stone, Ed Flaherty; and City Attorney, Clint Schukei.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Jeanette DeWalt led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR August 12, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Shayne Raitt seconded by Susan Meekse to adopt current agenda for the July 8, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Jeanette Dealt, Shayne Raitt, Susan Meeks, Mark Hemje. Nays: None.
Absent: Bill Hitesman. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, August 10, 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 Hastings Public Library. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Library, which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

There will be a combined workshop on Monday August 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Hastings Public Library. We will be concentrating on the budget today.

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 July 8, 2021.

   Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

   None.

3. General Business.

   (a) Finance

   Kevin wants Roger or Robin to clarify the schedule for Monday August 16, 2021. Roger: Monday will be the Utility Board/City Council combined work session for the budget. Will go more in depth if there are any questions. Will start at 5:30 p.m at the Hastings Public Library.

   i. 21/22 Budget and Approval Schedule

   Kevin discussed the slide that was presented and passed out hard copies for everyone to look at as well.

   New Budget Overview

   Part of the slideshow that was presented. Engineering and Environmental is highlighted because they are actually part of the city-wide budget, not the utilities. Staffing headcount at the Utilities building is not budgeting for any increase. Utility rating projections are a 1% increase for electric and a 3% increase for natural gas. Not projecting any needs for water or sewer rates. IT related expenses are now being budgeted very specifically in an IT budget.
   The primary reason we are only showing the new budget year plus two years out is because the IRP study is still underway. We believe it is premature to go out any further.

There will be a book handed out to the board members as soon as all the updates have been completed.

Utility Fees Update

A slide show presented by Brian and Derek.
There is an increase on all fees. This is compared to other cities. We have contacted six other utility departments to compare with. This is the first time prices have been reviewed in many years.
On service calls, if it is our problem or our issue, the customer will not be charged.

Tree Trimming Plans

Included in the budget slideshow.
Blue is what was completed, yellow is the focus area as of now, then move on to areas 2, 3, and 4.
This is mainly the city limits, there are still places outside the city limits that need worked on as well.
Considering extending the contract with the company that was hired to do this, as we are happy with the work they are doing.

(b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Moved by Shayne Raitt seconded by Susan Meeske, there being no further business to adjourn at 10:11 A.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Shayne Raitt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Jeanette DeWalt. Nays: None. Absent: Bill Hitesman. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary