CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 9, 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 North Denver Avenue, on September 9, 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: Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Kevin Johnson, Shawn Hartmann, Derek Ziesler, Lee Vroomman, Keith Leonhardt, Richard Klienhample, Eric Nelson, Karen Rennick, Robin Ginn, Corey Stutte, Dave Ptak, Lori Hartman, Clint Shukei, Roger Nash, Absent: Bill Hitesman, Shayne Raitt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR September 9, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Hemje to adopt the current agenda for the September 8, 2021 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Meeske, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: Bill Hitesman, Shayne Raitt. The motion carried.

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

Official notice of the regular meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 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 Library. Also, a current copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Hastings Library, which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

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 and August 12, 2021

    Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

    None.

3. General Business.

    (a) Finance

        i. Budget Recommendation from Board

    The board gives the recommendation to the council for the budget. (Two members are not present.) Recommendation will be given to the council for their meeting on Monday September 13th for budget approval.

    1% electric rate increase (continues from 2020 Cost of Service Study)

    The 1% is not across the board, it is an average throughout the groups.

    3% natural gas rate increase (continues from 2020 Cost of Service Study)

    This increase will be across the board.

    Includes Customer Service Fee Changes

Customer service charges are steadily increasing across the utilities. We are trying to get rates to better reflect the actual cost of energy and the customer service to better reflect the actual cost of the infrastructure.
Dewalt asks: Do you anticipate more people are interested in their own solar type of generation?
The short answer is yes. There are incentives for people to invest in battery storage for their homes and electric vehicles. The way energy is marketed in the future may look very different. Trying to give everyone a fair comparison.
Meeske thanked Derek and his team for all of their work. She feels this is a steep increase for customers to pay. She is not in favor, she thinks we are penalizing people that are already having issues with paying.
Hemje makes a motion to move the budget on to city council. Dewalt second.
Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: Meeske. Absent: Hitesman. Raitt.

ii. 3rd Quarter Financials Summary Report

Robin has been working closely with Derek and his team to start identifying variances. You are going to start seeing footnotes on the financials in the monthly reports.
Kevin presents a slide show for the 3rd quarter financials.

(b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

(e) Other

i. Use of Economic Development Funds for Workforce Recruitment

Motion to table this until next month. Motioned by Meeske, seconded by Hemje. Roll call: Ayes: Meeske, Dewalt, Hemje. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman, Raitt.

4. <u>Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).</u>

ADJOURN:

Moved by Hemje, seconded by Meeske. There was no further business to adjourn at 9:45 am. Roll Call: Ayes: Hemje, Meeske, Dewalt. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman, Raitt. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

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Board Secretary