

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
Monday, November 15, 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 November 15, 2021.

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

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, David Ptak, Clint Schukei, Adam Story, Troy Vorderstrasse, Erik Nielsen, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Amy Hafer, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson.

Others Present: Camella Jacobe, Hastings YRTC Facility Administrator, Howard Warford, Hastings YRTC Facility Program Manager.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to adopt the current agenda for the November 15, 2021 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, November 12, 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 for public review. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

***Presentation of Heartland Pet Connection Annual Report.***

Dave Ptak, City Administrator, explained to Council that Jennie Theesen, Shelter Manager at Heartland Pet Connection, was unable to attend due to illness. Heartland Pet Connection's annual report was distributed to Councilmembers. (Attached and made part of original minutes.) Mr. Ptak indicated Ms. Theesen could be available for a future worksession or council meeting if Council has questions on anything in the report.

Councilmember Fong asked the term of the contract with Heartland Pet Connection. Mr. Ptak indicated 2023 was when it would automatically renew for ten years. He stated it was an original ten year contract and has been renewed for ten years and this is the last option they have for ten years.

Councilmember Rosenberg stated that Start Over Rover might be interested in Heartland Pet Connection's animals to be euthanized. Mr. Ptak stated that the majority of animals euthanized are not adoptable because of their nature. Mr. Ptak indicated they have a meeting with Heartland Pet Connection to finalize the addendum to their contract and they can certainly bring that question up to them for an answer.

***Presentation on Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) - Hastings Campus.  
(Requested by Councilmember Schroeder.)***

Camella Jacobe, Hastings YRTC Facility Administrator, and Howard Warford, Hastings YRTC Facility Program Manager, were at the meeting. Ms. Jacobe thanked Council for the opportunity to be a part of the Hastings community and she stated that in their eyes it has been a success and that they transitioned very well. She indicated they retained a lot of the staff from the Hastings Regional Center program. She said that they work with adjudicated youth that come from the court system and they work with them to become productive citizens. Ms. Jacobe told Council they offer a diverse program for the youth, they have a fully accredited school on campus, group and individual therapy and teach life skills. She told Council they were excited to be in Hastings and have this opportunity.

Councilmember Fong asked the current level of occupancy. Ms. Jacobe indicated they have 24 beds but currently have 13 youth.

Councilmember Schroeder stated there was concern when the facility started up and an advisory board of eight members was put in place. He said that he wanted the facility to be the right fit for the community and he is pleased with what is going on out there.

***Discussion of City meeting locations.***

Mr. Ptak stated he was approached by the City Clerk and the IT Director regarding the moving of the council meetings for several reasons. He explained that it is difficult to move back and forth, difficult for IT to get things set up and taken down and streaming is also an issue. He told Council the Library can certainly utilize the rooms for their programming. He indicated these are good reasons to look at going back to City Hall with meetings and that most of the environmental issues have been mitigated and it would make sense and be easier on staff to go back to City Hall. Council President Skutnik asked if it would begin in 2022. Mr. Ptak said it would start with the January 2022 meetings. It was the consensus of the Council to move City Council, Worksessions and Planning Commission meetings back to City Hall beginning 2022.

***Discussion of emergency snow routes.***

Lee Vrooman, Director of Engineering, reviewed with Council possible changes to emergency snow routes and stated that the last time these were updated was in 2015. (Attached and made part of original minutes.) He indicated there were ten proposed changes to the emergency snow routes and that they were in areas of new development or because of the level of police and fire calls.

Councilmember Schroeder asked about snow emergencies. Mayor Stutte indicated that staff usually have a meeting if they know there is a snow event coming up to determine when they might want to call a snow emergency and staff stays in communication with the national weather service.

Mr. Ptak advised that snow routes are on a rotating basis.

Councilmember Rosenberg asked about new snow equipment and salt supplies. Mr. Vrooman stated that one new plow was added this year and he wasn't sure of the current salt level.

Moved by Ted Schroeder seconded by Shawn Hartmann to go into closed session at 5:50 p.m. for the discussion of contract negotiations. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to resume open session at 6:11 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

Moved by Chuck Rosenberg seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.