

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

The Worksession was called to order by Council President Harrington with the following members present: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm.

Others Present: Corey Stutte, Joe Patterson, Dave Ptak, Al Meyer, Dave Wacker, Tiffany Crouse, Pete Kortum, Jeanette DeWalt, Jeff Kully, Chuck Shoemaker, Becky Matticks, Jeff Hassenstab, Kayla Nelson.

Moved by Sarah Hoops seconded by Ginny Skutnik to adopt the January 17, 2017 Worksession Agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Council President Harrington read the Public Notice - Notice posted on Friday, January 13, 2017. Pursuant to the 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 alcohol license for Brickyard Park concert event.

Kayla Nelson, Adams County Conventions and Visitors Bureau, began by telling Council about the solar eclipse that was to take place on August 21, 2017. She explained that it is a rare cosmic event and indicated that only 14 states and a handful of communities will actually see the solar eclipse. Ms. Nelson said it will be a drastic change environmentally in the middle of the day and a tourist event for many to want to come and view. She stated they are planning a festival that weekend that will run from August 18th through August 21st which will include speakers, music and art. She indicated that it has the potential to become a massive tourist weekend for Hastings.

Tiffany Crouse, Hastings Downtown Center Association, asked Council for a change in the current City ordinance to allow alcohol at Brickyard Park for events other than Cottonwood Festival. She indicated they would like to have a beer garden area at Brickyard Park during the SolFest event. She indicated they would provide security guards, double fencing, and insurance and stated that sober rides will be offered as they want a safe and successful event.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, indicated they would put the change in the ordinance on an upcoming meeting.

Discussion of Public Hearing Procedural Ordinance No. 4501 (Testimony Under Oath for Public Hearings).

Mayor Stutte began discussion by stating this was a procedure he had used in the past and was familiar with and indicated the Planning Commission has already put it in place. He said they would use it on every public hearing moving forward and felt it would add some transparency to the process. He indicated the biggest change to the current procedure would be that all staff and witnesses at a public hearing would be placed under oath by the Mayor.

Discussion was had on whether a specific oath had to be used, if there had been problems in

the past leading to this change in procedure and how enforcement would be handled. Council felt more discussion was needed before moving forward with this change.

Councilmember Odom suggested watching for a few months and seeing how it is working for the Planning Commission and then discuss it again at the April Worksession.

Councilmember Hoops suggested updating guidelines for public request to speak at council meetings as well.

Discussion of City IT Strategy Committee.

Mayor Stutte stated he had help from Kevin Schawang from Hastings Utilities in setting up the basic guidelines for this committee. He noted this is one of the areas of concern discussed in the Novak Study. He stated he wanted to look at how they can work together to gain efficiency.

Mayor Stutte listed the members as follows: himself, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm, Kevin Schawang, Lindsey Stone, Justin Wahl, Mat Jones, Al Selby, Shayne Raitt. He indicated he would like to get some guidance from the committee prior to budget discussions beginning and he told Council that customer service is an issue and how that ties into permits and accounting software and hopefully saving money in the long run.

Discussion was had on Hastings Utilities and the City working together and meeting the needs of each group.

Discussion on appointment of 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Committee.

Mayor Stutte stated that the 1/2 cent sales tax would sunset in March, 2018. He discussed a mail-in election at the end of November and asked for the Council's support in putting together a citizen committee to look at what projects should be supported by the 1/2 cent sales tax continuance. He asked Council to send individuals his way that they felt would be good on this committee. Mayor Stutte stated he would be moving forward in putting this committee together.

Update on Board of Public Works Working Group Meetings.

Mayor Stutte indicated he would like to schedule meetings with the Board of Public Works and the City in January and February and that he looks forward to getting discussion going. He stated that the new councilmembers and mayor haven't been involved and he is hoping they can come to some conclusions and start implementing and move on. He stated he felt it was important to bring the Board of Public Works into the conversation to understand their scope of work and make an informed decision. He felt they needed to break things down and make it more manageable for everyone.

Discussion was had on whether Council should meet as a group first or wait until after some initial meetings had taken place and it was asked that ample notice be given to councilmembers regarding meeting times.

Councilmember Hoops left the meeting at 6:20 P.M.

Discussion of Hastings 2021.

Mayor Stutte indicated the Hastings 2021 website has been developed over the past six months as a central hub. He indicated it had the following four main focus areas: Human Capital, Small

Business Development & Entrepreneurship, Business Growth, Community Development. He talked with Council about the City setting tangible goals, submitting them online and taking the lead on reaching those goals. He stated it was about working together to make things better.

It was the consensus of the Council to hold their annual retreat on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. with the location to be determined.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Jeniffer Beahm that the Mayor and City Council go into executive session for the discussion of litigation at 6:45 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik, seconded by Butch Eley that the Mayor and City Council resume open session at 6:55 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Sarah Hoops. The motion carried.