

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, May 16, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on May 16, 2022.

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

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Erik Nielsen, Kevin Johnson, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson, Lisa Parnell-Rowe, Brian Hurskainen, Tara Ogren, Kevin Kubo, Jack Newlun.

Others Present: Bob Verkuilen, President/CEO of Keep Nebraska Beautiful, Jason Smith (virtual), Regional Director - West of Keep America Beautiful, Reuel Anderson, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy NPDES Compliance Section Supervisor.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ted Schroeder to adopt the current agenda for the May 16, 2022 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 13, 2022. 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. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

Presentation on Keep America Beautiful and potential City of Hastings affiliation – Bob Verkuilen, President/CEO of Keep Nebraska Beautiful and Jason Smith, Regional Director – West of Keep America Beautiful.

Lisa Parnell-Rowe, Development Services Director, told Council the Citizens for Positive Community Improvement have been talking about community beautification and cleanup and having an outlet for community individuals that wish to be involved in cleanup and betterment. Keep Nebraska Beautiful provides an outlet for individuals who have like interests in cleaning up the community. She indicated she would like to put this into her budget, be a liaison for this group and have at least one city-wide cleanup per year.

Bob Verkuilen, President/CEO of Keep Nebraska Beautiful, told the Council they have 20 affiliates across the state of Nebraska currently and you can build your affiliate on whatever your community really embraces.

Jason Smith (virtual), Regional Director - West of Keep America Beautiful, gave a brief introduction to Keep America Beautiful (KAB). He indicated KAB began in 1953 and has built a framework for hands-on stewardship and addressing the needs to beautify communities. He told the Council they can provide a network of peers, training and professional development and community grants. He spoke about KAB's vision and mission with more than 700 certified KAB

affiliates. Mr. Smith spoke about the benefits to communities of being a KAB affiliate as well as the positive impact on communities. He went on to review their model for change and touched on the benefits of affiliation, such as networking, training, tools, resources and programs. Mr. Smith explained the process of becoming an affiliate and reaching out to find out what is needed in your community.

Ms. Parnell-Rowe stated that Grand Island is an affiliate and that the affiliate could be a non-profit or city structure. She spoke about the benefit of the City of Hastings being the affiliate, in that we have equipment to use and she felt it was a great outlet for individuals who want to see beautification and are looking for that outlet.

Councilmember Schroeder questioned if it should be non-profit or the City that takes the lead with becoming an affiliate and what are the financial needs. Ms. Parnell-Rowe indicated the start-up cost was \$3500 and then \$170 annually with \$1200 budgeted for equipment needs for individuals cleaning up. She indicated they would check out equipment and then return it when they were finished. She indicated that in the past she has worked with this affiliation through the development services office and stated it is not a lot of extra time and money and felt it was worth it in the end.

Jack Newlun, Solid Waste Supervisor, spoke about his interaction with KAB through the years and how he felt the need is out there for cleanup but that it is getting more difficult to find volunteers.

Councilmember Fong stated it would be nice to have a centralized organization and provide more opportunities for the community to give back in a positive way.

Presentation on Stormwater Management Requirements - Reuel Anderson, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy NPDES Compliance Section Supervisor.

Ms. Parnell-Rowe indicated this was just a refresher for Council regarding the changes to City Code Chapters 38 and 42. (Handout made a part of original minutes.) She touched on prequalification meetings, determination of plat type, the definition of subdivision, fast tracking of plats, clarifying a drainage plan, adding preliminary plat revisions and when needed, revised drainage plans and drainage plans in final plat.

Tara Ogren, Civil Engineer, spoke regarding changes to Chapter 42, Storm Water, that was passed in 2010. She stated it is currently contradictory and creates some confusion. She reviewed the proposed language and stated they tried to be more clear and that there really are no exemptions. Ms. Ogren expressed that the drainage control is for the community and to make sure you aren't draining onto someone else's lot. She reviewed City Code Section 42-111 starting with the existing language and explained the proposed language with the quantity component. She indicated it has been a challenge with local developers to implement the post-construction BMPs (Best Management Practices) and they haven't had the opportunity to really sit down with them and brainstorm. She talked about detention cells and stated she saw erosion around Hastings.

Councilmember Skutnik questioned if staff had set up meetings with developers. Ms. Ogren indicated they have, but they have been more on a reactive basis. Ms. Parnell-Rowe indicated that the code is not in place to approach developers with storm water issues and because of the code, contractors feel they are grandfathered.

Reuel Anderson, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy NPDES Compliance Section Supervisor, stated these are important issues regarding pollution as well as quantity. He

stated that urban runoff contains a lot of pollutants such as sediments and metals. He explained that Heartwell Lake and Lake Hastings are both impaired for aquatic life because of nitrogen and phosphorous. He told the Council that post-construction standards can help improve the water quality of the community. Mr. Anderson stated that developers don't have an obligation once construction is done and said that regulations apply to redevelopment as well. He indicated that cities will be submitting storm water management plans that will describe the city's efforts to meet the control measures and that the plan serves as the required public notice.

Councilmember Schroeder stated that we only have a handful of developers in town and they are the City's customers and when we change things, we need to make sure we stay in touch with the developers.

Ms. Ogren stated that urban sprawl needs controls and that it is putting the City in a legal situation.

Councilmember Fong asked about the timeline for the new regulations. Ms. Parnell-Rowe stated that the code is the foundation and she would like it to go to the Planning Commission next month. Mayor Stutte stated he would like another run at the developers before it comes to City Council and wanted the stakeholders involved. He said he would appreciate staff moving forward with that before taking it to the Planning Commission and then on to City Council. He indicated he would like developers included in the process.

Discussion of proposed Water Department City Code changes.

Kevin Johnson, Utility Manager, spoke regarding proposed code changes and stated that, with some feedback from some stakeholders, they decided against some of the proposed changes. He indicated there was an apprehension about cost. He stated that the City is replacing lead services and he told Council that curb stops will stay at the property line with shared liability with the property owner. However, damage to curb stops on the property line will be the liability of the City. Mr. Johnson indicated that the property line to the house is the customer's responsibility and if it is on the property line, the City will retain that responsibility.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Council that when we talk about the City paying the expenses, we need to remember it is really a subsidization of all the customers, subsidizing the individual customer. He indicated none of the communities surveyed shared the liability for customer service lines, so we are different from most other communities. He told the Council what is in the code won't change at this time.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Matt Fong there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:46 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.