

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, June 9, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers - City Hall Building, 220 North Hastings Avenue, on June 9, 2022.

**ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Jeanette Dewalt with the following members present: Mark Hemje, Shayne Raitt, Susan Meeske, Kevin Johnson, Erik Neilson, Butch Eley, Jeff Campbell, Derek Zeisler, Shawn Hartmann, Robin Ginn, Lee Vrooman, Clint Schukei, Lori Hartman, Roger Nash, Brian Strom, and Karen Rennick  
Absent: Corey Stutte and Bill Hitesman

**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 June 9, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.**

Moved by Raitt and seconded by Hemje to adopt the current agenda for the June 9, 2022 regular meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman. The motion carried

**PUBLIC NOTICE** - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, June 7, 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 located at the back of the Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

**MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Storm was bad enough, could have been worse.  
Slight agenda adjustment, The Cost of service will be moved to next month. It will be done in time for the budget. Would really like for John to be here. Moved to July 14, 2022.

**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 May 12, 2022.

Meeske moved, Hemje seconded. Roll call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hamje, Meeske, raitt. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### 2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

### 3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- i. Cost of Service, Water/Wastewater

Moved to July 14, 2022 meeting.

- ii. Capital Budget, Large Projects Heads-up

Lee Vrooman spoke on behalf of him and Keith Leonhardt. He discussed the presented slide for the Capital Budget Large Projects.

#### Electrical

- WEC, 7th St & B St Substation improvements
- Feeder 242 to support Heartwell project
- 4.16 to 13.8KV conversion, been working on for many years
- NDS Unit 4 & 5 upgrades
- WEC Coal transfer tower electrical upgrade

Jeff Campbell was introduced as the interim superintendent for Doug Baumgart as he retired. He has been here for 37 years and he will continue his crew chief job.

#### Water

- Main replacement program

#### Sewer

- Activated sludge basin

## -Primary Anaerobic Digester

### Questions?

Dewalt: Will the budget go up because of the cost of materials? I haven't gotten to that point yet, but would say it's somewhere in the same neighborhood.

Kevin: Capital meetings within the departments are starting next week.

Consultants are helping with water and wastewater cost of service. Cost of service studies have not been done very often here.

In addition to the review, you have been handed

Robin and Derek to discuss the report that is in every monthly budget

Derek: Everything we get we sell to the market, whatever we need, we buy back.

Generation through sales, Agreement through CCC, community solar farm. Doesn't show. Appreciate accounting is willing to change.

Robin: beginning of fiscal year, changed on financials. It didn't show the break out, need to correct it. Statements were put together a long time ago and have never been updated.

Hemje: Just to clarify, the kwh are not accurate? Correct.

Robin: more about kwh.

Kevin: New report will put things in transparency, shooting for the new fiscal year for this to be changed.

Butch: Is it normal to see that half way through the year we are losing money? Derek explained our strong months. Utility as a whole is seasonally based.

Mark: I appreciate you touching base, wanted to make sure was reading right.

Kevin: try to hit the market right when generating.

Jeanette: We are not here to make money, we are here to break even and serve our customers.

### iii. Staff Additions for Budget

Reorganizing our electric group, breaking up 5 man crews into 3 man crews. Identify more closely 1 man work, 2 man work, small man crew work and large crew work. Adding two new line men. Engineering groups need more people as well.

(b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

(e) Other

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

**ADJOURN:**

Moved by Hemje and seconded by Meeske, there was no further business to adjourn at 9:30 am. Roll Call: Ayes: Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Shayne Raitt. Nays: None. Absent: Bill Hitesman. Meeting Adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Board Secretary