

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 12, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular 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 September 12, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Stutte with the following members present: Ginny Skutnik, Ted Schroeder, Butch Eley, Joy Huffaker, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm.

The following City Officials were present: City Attorney, Clint Schukei; City Clerk, Kimberly Jacobitz; Police Chief, Adam Story; Asst. Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Finance Director, Roger Nash; Information Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Planner, Brian Hurskainen.

The Mayor led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ginny Skutnik to adopt current agenda for September 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 9, 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.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Schroeder reported on the construction progress in the old mall area on the west side of town. Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr, is in attendance at the meeting tonight.

Councilmember Skutnik announced that next Sunday the 150th celebration for Hastings will be held at the Hastings Museum from 1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. There will be many events throughout the day. It is also a free day at the museum.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stutte recognized service anniversaries for Jean Gorecki, Finance, 15; Sheila Thompson, Human Resources, 15; Jonathan Johnston, Utilities, 15; Amy Schropp, Library, 5; Wanda Lurz, Library, 5; Michael Nissen, Utilities, 20; Kenneth Kyle, Utilities, 20; Kyle Williamson, Police, 10.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve all consent items, as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik.

Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of August 22, 2022.

(b) Approval of the minutes of the Worksession of August 15, 2022

(c) Approval of claims and payroll except the claim of Eldon's Automotive Repair

(d) Approve receiving and placing on file department reports

- (e) Approval of Work Order EL-224, installation of a new one phase padmount transformer to serve residents at 6014 W. 16th Street, Juniata,
- (f) Approval of Work Order EL-223, installation of two new decorative street light poles on the corner of Hastings Avenue and West 2nd Street
- (g) Approval of Work Order GA-367, install camera circuits at the West Avenue Peak Shaving Plant
- (h) Approval of Work Order SW-366, reline 8" sanitation sewer main on South Kansas Avenue from "F" Street to "E" Street
- (i) Approval of the request of Our Little Angels to utilize city streets for the Little Angels Remembrance Run on October 8, 2022
- (j) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #6, in the amount of \$121,123.19 for Community Development Block Grant Project 20-PW-004, Public Works
- (k) Approval of Pay Estimate #4 in the amount of \$134,239.55 from Ben Engel Construction for work completed from July 24, 2022 through August 26, 2022 on Community Development Block Grant Project 20-PW-004, Sidewalk Improvement

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting. None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the request of the Community Redevelopment Authority regarding Plan Modification No. 2022-2 to Redevelopment Area No. 1 for property commonly addressed as 701 W. 1st Street and 709 W. 1st Street, Hastings, Nebraska, Corner Building Project. Brian Hurskainen explained that developers are doing some retail and office space. Recommended for approval by Planning Commission last month. Randy Chick, Community Redevelopment Authority, spoke in support of the item. We come forward when projects will be utilizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This is expected to be a million dollar project downtown. These are the last two buildings on the south side of the block to be renovated, from Lincoln Avenue to Hastings Avenue. Dave Rippe is in attendance to answer any questions about the project. No public spoke. No objections were received.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution 2022-26, Plan Modification No. 2022-2 to Redevelopment Plan No. 1, for property commonly addressed as 701 W. 1st Street and 709 W. 1st Street, Hastings, Nebraska, Corner Building Project. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

4. General Business.

(a) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Ted Schroeder to approve claim of Eldon's Automotive Repair in the amount of \$865.99 (City). Joy Huffaker recused herself because of Conflict of Interest. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Abstain: Joy Huffaker. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(b) Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Ginny Skutnik to approve moving the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2022, to Tuesday, September 27, 2022, and changing the starting time from 5:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Roger Nash explained that the new LB644 requires the county to hold a combined budget hearing. The combined budget hearing will be held on September 26th, so we need to change our scheduled meeting date. We must approve the budget after that combined hearing and it must be submitted to the state by September 30th. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(c) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Ted Schroeder to approve calling of a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 220 North Hastings Avenue. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(d) Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve that the Mayor be authorized to execute those documents necessary to obtain and maintain a letter of credit from Five Points Bank of Hastings in the amount of \$1,690,304.25 to satisfy the Performance Guarantee obligations related to the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site. Clint Schukei stated that we have been doing this every year, per consent decree. This replaces the one authorized last year. Roger Nash stated that past letters of credit have been approximately \$2.7 million, but it is now a substantially reduced amount. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(e) Moved by Ted Schroeder seconded by Butch Eley to approve Hangar Lease and Airport Services Agreement with J&S Aviation Services, LLC at the Hastings Airport. Matt Kuhr, Airport Manager, stated this lease is bringing an airport aviation mechanic shop to Hastings. They will operate solely off our airport. We worked with the previous tenants and will keep them onsite as well. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(f) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to approve request of Linda Jarvis for a fence height increase to be located at 515 East 2nd Street. Brian Hurskainen reported the applicant wants to go from a four foot fence height, allowed by code, up to five feet. It is a chain-link style fence. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(g) Update on City Administrator search and selection of finalists

Patty Heminover with Baker Tilly (225 South Sixth Street, Minnesota) explained the process to the group. Baker Tilly gathered information from the city about the position. This included the job description and what we are looking for in a city administrator. They identified opportunities the person will work with when they first start. Then they went out on a national search for at least a month. They did a local, national and social media search. They called people who are qualified for the position. Applicants then applied online, with a resume and cover letter. Baker Tilly designed questionnaires regarding what the city is looking for in the position. They asked applicants about the published salary, any terminations, separation agreements, and if there is anything out there on social media or otherwise that would embarrass the city. They gathered information and vetted all candidates for qualifications. Patty pointed out that these are candidates, not finalists. They also did one-way interviews on the computer. Candidates sat at a computer and were given up to three minutes to answer questions. They did not know the questions in advance. The council was given this information to review.

It is time for council to narrow down the candidate list. After those are identified tonight, Patty will call them and see if they are still interested in moving forward. Interviews could start as early as next week. Today is centralized on picking the top candidates. Council will identify their top candidates tonight, by number. Lori Hartman helped Patty gather the choices and recorded the results.

Mayor Stutte put together an interview team which includes two Council members, two Utility Advisory Board members, two Planning Commission members, two community members, Lori Hartman and staff.

Councilmember Fong commented that this was a thorough process and a good variety of ways to look at the candidates.

Patty explained that the next step in the process is a criminal background check, reference check, and Nexus (web search).

City Council candidate ranking results recorded by Patty Heminover and Lori Hartman:
Candidate 8 - 8 votes, Candidate 11 - 8 votes, Candidate 12 - 9 votes, Candidate 13 - 8 votes.
The three alternates: Candidate 2 - 1 vote, Candidate 4 - 1 vote, Candidate 7-1 vote.

Patty will call candidates and then will be in touch with Lori Hartman.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution No. 2022-30 authorizing allowable 1% increase in restricted funds. Roger Nash reported that each year at budget time, the state allows us to automatically increase our restricted fund authority by 2 1/2%, and with a vote of the council, we can add an additional 1%. The misconception is that this authorizes an increase in taxes. It only allows that we can get more restricted funds. It adds to our authority and if not needed, it can be carried over to next year. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(b) ORDINANCE NO. 4713 AMENDING SECTION 15-426 OF THE CITY CODE (PENALTIES AND FEES) TO ADDRESS PENALTIES FOR PARKING TICKETS NOT PAID WITHIN 10 DAYS OF ISSUANCE

Clint Schukei reported this is house cleaning on that code section. The code provides a three step process in regard to parking tickets. The fee resolution has the numbers in it for the various penalties. The numbers have been taken out of the code, and will be consistent with whatever is passed in the Fee Resolution at budget time.

Said Ordinance was read by title and thereafter Councilmember Ginny Skutnik moved for passage of the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Hartmann.

The Mayor then stated the question "Shall Ordinance No. 4713 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote the following Councilmembers voted Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

Councilmember Ginny Skutnik moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended; Councilmember Shawn Hartmann seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote the following Councilmembers voted Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinance.

The passage and adoption of said ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted upon second and final reading and the Mayor signed and approved the ordinance. City Clerk attested the passage approval of the same and affixed her signature thereto. Published in the Hastings Tribune on September 16, 2022. Effective date of the ordinance is 15 days from and after the date this ordinance is passed and approved.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

(a) Appointments to Board and Commissions

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve Mayor Stutte's appointments to the Museum Board as follows: Nichole Felber, 8/18/2022 to 8/18/2026, Replacement; Kristen Sclechta, 8/18/2022 to 8/18/2026, Replacement. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ted Schroeder there being no further business to come before the Council to adjourn at 6:08 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik. Nays: None. Absent: Chuck Rosenberg, Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Corey Stutte, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly S. Jacobitz, City Clerk

(S E A L)