

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 27, 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 27, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Stutte with the following members present: Joy Huffaker, Chuck Rosenberg, Shawn Hartmann, Jeniffer Beahm, Ginny Skutnik, Ted Schroeder, Matt Fong, Butch Eley. Absent: None.

The following City Officials were present: Interim City Administrator/Utility Manager, Kevin Johnson; City Attorney, Clint Schukei; City Clerk, Kimberly Jacobitz; Police Chief, Adam Story; Fire Chief, Brad Starling; 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; Library Director, Amy Dissmeyer.

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

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Matt Fong to approve current agenda for September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 23, 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 Rosenberg attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Randy Chick presented Tax Increment Finance (TIF) information. The home-based business ordinance that has been modified, will be brought to the council next month.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked the Planning Commission for their work with the home-based businesses ordinance.

Councilmember Skutnik thanked the Hastings Museum for hosting the city's 150th birthday celebration. The museum has new movies in October and the outdoor classroom is now open to the public. Check the schedule for the outdoor classroom.

Councilmember Fong thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting events and debates.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stutte thanked the museum for helping the City of Hastings celebrate their 150th. Thanks again to staff for their hard work on the budget.

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, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of September 12, 2022

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

(c) Approve receiving and placing on file department monthly reports

(d) Approval of Work Order EL-225, installation of a new one phase padmount transformer to serve residences located north of 42nd Street

(e) Approval of the request of Church Women United Hastings/Juniata to utilize city streets for the Hastings Area CROP Walk for Hunger on October 9, 2022

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Project 20-PW-004, Public Works Sidewalk Improvement Project. Lori Ferguson, South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), spoke at the second required hearing on this project. This is for sidewalk improvement within a four block radius of Lot 4 in downtown. It is a two-year contract with the Department of Economic Development. They are requesting an extension of the contract later on the agenda. Ben Engel construction is doing the project. As of the end of August, they were 50% done with the project, based on pay estimates. A public hearing is required because of being in the implementation phase of the grant. No public spoke. No objections were received.

4. General Business.

(a) Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ted Schroeder to approve claim of Eldon's Automotive Repair in the amount of \$1,162.37 (City). Councilmember Huffaker recused herself because of conflict of interest. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Abstain: Joy Huffaker. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(b) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the extension of the Keno Agreement with Hastings' Keno, Inc. Clint Schukei said this is an agreement that is the better part of five years. It expired in July, so we made a two month extension to clean up the agreement. This agreement will take us through July of 2027. Councilmember Skutnik thanked Mike Nevrvy for running Keno. The city benefits in a variety of ways from this revenue.

MikeNevrvy stated that the annual revenue averages between \$200,000-\$250,000.

Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(c) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to award the City's insurance coverage for FY2022-23 to Travelers' Insurance Company for Property, Casualty, and Workers' Compensation; Starr Companies for Airport; and AXIS for Cyber coverage.

Jeff Scanlan and Mark Frantz (FNIC) presented insurance coverage information to the council.

They provided an executive overview in the agenda packet. The most notable change is to the property insurance. The deductible structure changed with wind and hail to a 2% deductible, subject to a \$250,000 minimum. One thing we will evaluate with city staff is a buy-down option for the deductible. There was an uptick in the workers' compensation premium, because of the experience modifier. The other premium increase is cyber. Last year carriers mandated multi-factor authentication to prevent ransomware claims. There is stabilization in the market, but many companies left the market. Councilmember Rosenberg asked what the city could do to reduce the workers' compensation experience modifier. Jeff Scanlan stated that is not a trend for the city. They expect a drop in the work compensation modifier next year. The city emphasizes Return to Work management. The city is below the average modifier of one, but we know the city wants to be well below that number. Councilmember Skutnik mentioned that is why we need a city safety person. Jeff Scanlan explained the hail and wind deductible. Mark Frantz stated that the change in the deductible structure was not a penalty for the large claim from the June 2022 hail storms. This trend is across industries. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(d) Moved by Chuck Rosenberg seconded by Ted Schroeder to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Hastings, Upper Big Blue NRD and the Little Blue NRD to develop the Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Hastings Watershed. Lee Vrooman commented that this agreement was discussed at last week's council worksession. This is one of the first steps we need to take to get this water quality plan together for the lake. This needs to be in place to pursue funding in the future. The city's share is \$9,000 for the study. There will be public participation meetings on what we want the lake to be. Councilmember Schroeder explained that if we need to drain Lake Hastings, several years down the road it could be back to a tremendous lake long term. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(e) Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the City's request for a contract amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project 20-PW-004, Hastings Public Works Sidewalks Improvement Project. Lee Vrooman stated there needs to be a time extension that Lori Ferguson mentioned earlier tonight in the public hearing. The contractor has experienced shortages of cement. This is a regional issue right now. We have worked with the State of Nebraska on what we can use as a substitute, so that we can move forward with the project. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(f) Moved by Jeniffer Beahm seconded by Matt Fong to approve the City of Hastings Mission Statement and Goals. Councilmember Fong stated that a small team of the council met to go over the mission statement and goals to modify what was in place. They focused on modifying what we have to update and focus on the future. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(g) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Joy Huffaker to approve accepting a deed from the Hastings Library Foundation for property addressed as 302 N. Denver, that it has acquired adjacent to the library. Clint stated this is a checkpoint for some of the improvements contemplated. The Library Foundation has acquired the service station property to the south of the library. All the environmental boxes have been checked. This is the next step in the process,

so we can move forward. Councilmember Fong served on the library board for seven years. This was the overall intent when they started renovating the library. The design of the building was done in planning to acquire that property. Marty Stange stated that they did an assessment on the in-ground fuel tanks. They don't seem to be leaking, so any small spills will be addressed at the time of removal. This property acquisition was paid for by the Library Foundation, including the environmental phase. The next part of the project is the demolition. The demolition cost will be the city's to pay. Amy Dissmeyer, Library Director, stated the purchase was made with money from the foundation. This will be an extension of the library, and they will be looking for a community input process. This will be a city and foundation development project moving forward. A special thanks to the Library Foundation for their continued support of the Hastings Public Library. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(h) Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Ginny Skutnik to approve accepting a deed from the Hastings Economic Development Corporation for four tracts of land currently utilized for storm water drainage. Clint Schukei stated that if you look at the deed, there are four different parcels. They are all similar and are present to enhance the stormwater drainage. This will cement the fact that those are properties of the city and the city will maintain that land to serve its drainage function. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve Resolution No. 2022-32 Resolution of Intent to Develop a Water Quality Management Plan for Lake Hastings Watershed. Lee Vrooman stated this is the second part of what was discussed last week. It provides the support for the entire process. The city's share of the project is \$9,000. The shares are (1/3) Lower Blue, (1/3) Upper Blue, (1/3) Lake Hastings Watershed. The Upper Blue will take the lead. There will be cooperation with those entities and the state. Lee explained that the watershed is the entire area that drains into Lake Hastings. This study will look at how to keep sediment out of the lake. It is possibly a five to ten year process. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

(a) Appointment of City Administrator

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Ginny Skutnik to appoint Shawn Metcalf as the City Administrator. Mayor Stutte went through the process of hiring a City Administrator. We had Baker Tilly as a consultant to help us through the process and do a national search. We had over forty applicants, then narrowed it down to thirteen semi-finalists, and then narrowed to four finalists. We had quality people apply for the position. We put together a twelve person panel, including members of the City Council, Planning Commission, Hastings Utility Board, Hastings Chamber, Mary Lanning Hospital, people from industry and development. This applicant was at the top of all council member's list. There was a unanimous choice for Shawn Metcalf, from Rawlins, Wyoming. He exceeded all expectations. He is a strong communicator, showing good leadership skills and very forward thinking. He wants to create trust within the community and

employees, to create better transparency. He has a strong background in finance and human resources. We are in negotiations right now, so there is no start date at this time. Mayor Stutte thanked Kevin Johnson for his leadership over the past few months. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Ted Schroeder there being no further business to come before the council to adjourn at 7:10 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Corey Stutte, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly S. Jacobitz, City Clerk

(S E A L)