

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, July 17, 2017

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

Others Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Joe Patterson, Dave Wacker, Dave Ptak, Kent Gilbert, Jeff Hassenstab, Al Meyer, Adam Story, Roger Nash.

Council President John Harrington read the Public Notice - Notice posted on Friday July 14, 2017. 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.

Discussion of traffic signals at 5th and Marian Road and 7th and Marian Road (Requested by Councilmember Eley)

Councilmember Eley stated that a resident brought this issue to his attention and he indicated in talking with the City Engineer, Dave Wacker, that plans were already in the works for a traffic signal at 5th Street and Marian Road.

Mr. Wacker told Council that in 2009 and 2010, with the Hastings Middle School being located at 7th Street and Marian Road, a study of the intersections at 2nd Street, 5th Street, 7th Street and 9th Street was compiled. He stated traffic signals can not be installed unless it warrants a signal being placed at the intersection. He advised Council that warrants are based on the number of accidents at the intersection, pedestrian traffic and volume of traffic. He indicated that the school's original funding source for the signal went away and the City after applying for 90/10 funding, had been turned down by the state. Mr. Wacker stated that in January they started meeting with the school and started looking at cost saving concepts for the project, took more traffic counts and re-looked at the situation and came to an agreement with the school to share the cost of the project 50/50. He indicated the plans for the project should go out for bids in two weeks. He stated that the project is estimated at \$150,000.00, a split of \$75,000.00. Mr. Wacker stated he felt they may even be able to better that price by looking at additional cost saving concepts such as the Street Department doing some of the pavement preparation. He indicated that the project will not be completed by this school year.

Councilmember Skutnik asked about the signage when going down to one lane and whether the yellow area would be raised.

Mr. Wacker stated there would be an advanced warning lighted signage and the yellow area would just be painted.

Councilmember Eley asked if 7th street met criteria for a signal.

Mr. Wacker indicated it did not.

Councilmember Eley questioned if a signal at 5th Street will help with the congestion at 7th Street.

Mr. Wacker indicated that he felt it would.

Mayor Stutte questioned the timing of the lights.

Mr. Wacker stated signals at 2nd, 5th and 9th would be coordinated.

Discussion was had by Council on times of dismissal of the two schools located on Marian Road and the sequencing of the lights taking pressure off the 7th Street intersection.

Adam Story, Police Department Captain, stated that during the first few weeks of school there is a learning curve as parents figure out where to drop kids off.

Councilmember Harrington asked if they were still using this project at a model for Complete Streets.

Mr. Wacker stated he hasn't met with the Complete Streets group for a while but they will be meeting in the next week or two.

Councilmember Odom stated he felt this was a good compromise and gets something done. He stated they modified it to the price they could afford and yet made it safe.

Mayor Stutte stated it was a welcome compromise with the school and a great way to share costs.

Discussion of fireworks ordinance (Requested by Councilmember Beahm)

Councilmember Beahm as well as Councilmember Skutnik had received complaints regarding fireworks and the late and constant use of them.

Councilmember Skutnik felt that because many people celebrated on the weekend it seemed much worse than other years.

Councilmember Beahn asked the fire chief if they had gotten a lot of calls.

Kent Gilbert, Fire Chief, indicated he felt they had received a normal amount of calls.

Captain Story indicated fireworks are different now, in that larger fireworks are now allowed. He indicated that they focused on the parks in Hastings because that is where people go to shoot off fireworks and then leave the mess behind.

Discussion by the Council was had on fireworks being shot off in the streets, debris in the streets, small children in the streets, other cities' number of days to sell fireworks, time of discharge allowed and informational pamphlets to be handed out to fireworks purchasers.

Councilmember Eley stated he felt that discharging until 11:00 P.M. may be too late and maybe they should adjust to 10:00 P.M. like many of the others and maybe start selling and discharging on June 28th instead of June 27th.

Councilmember Hoops indicated she would be in favor of the 10:00 P.M. time.

Dave Ptak, City Attorney, stated this is not a unique issue and that Section 13-508 of the Hastings City Code regarding time of discharge has changed many times due to spikes in fireworks sales and discharge.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, suggested dropping a day off the sale and discharge time starting on June 28th instead of June 27th and stopping sale and discharge at 10:00 P.M. instead of 11:00 P.M. on days prior to July 3rd and 4th. He indicated they would put the ordinance together and put it on an agenda for Council to vote on in the near future.

Councilmember Hoops stated that she appreciated all the selling and discharge information from other communities that staff put together.

Moved by Ginny Skutnik seconded by Sarah Hoops that the Mayor and City Council go into closed session for the discussion of litigation at 6:22 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Ginny Skutnik that the Mayor and City Council resume open session at 6:34 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Sarah Hoops seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 6:34 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: John Harrington, Paul Hamelink, Phil Odom, Scott Snell, Butch Eley, Sarah Hoops, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.