

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, November 21, 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 November 21, 2022.

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

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Clint Schukei, Jesse Oswald, Lori Vorderstrasse, Brad Starling, Erik Nielsen, Kevin Johnson, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson, Marty Stange.

Others Present: Mick Syslo, Nebraska Department of Transportation and Nebraska Department of Transportation staff.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Chuck Rosenberg seconded by Jeniffer Beahm to adopt the current agenda for the November 21, 2022 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, November 18, 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 from Nebraska Department of Transportation on Hastings Southeast Project, 3-lane with the possibility of a roundabout at Elm Avenue and South Street.

Lee Vrooman, City Engineer, introduced Mick Syslo from the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). Mr. Syslo was there to provide an update to City Council on the Hastings Southeast Project. He introduced his NDOT team attending the meeting. He handed out an aerial view map and fact sheet to the Council and a draft resolution of support that he hoped the Council would move forward with. He indicated they would be having a high level conversation regarding the Hastings Southeast Project. He told the Council the project had been updated from a 5-lane to a 3-lane urban section, allowing for a turn lane and with a roundabout at South Street and Elm Avenue. Mr. Syslo reviewed the project map and indicated the project is scheduled for an August of 2024 bid letting with a construction start in the spring of 2025 with completion by the spring of 2027. He stated that reducing the 5-lane to 3-lane lessened the right-of-way takings. He indicated a cost estimate at \$35 million with the City no longer paying for any of the professional engineering work associated with the project.

Councilmember Rosenberg questioned the City's share of the cost. Mr. Syslo stated the City's share was 20%.

Mayor Stutte reminded the Council that this project was approved in 2015-16.

Mr. Syslo viewed with Council, videos regarding the roundabout vehicle movement and the time of the trains on the rail line north of the roundabout.

Discussion was had on the roundabout and train traffic and how traffic flows through the roundabout. The Council talked about the pedestrian crossings located in the roundabout and asked if there would be directional signing. There were concerns regarding the pedestrian crossings being so close to the roundabout and the safety of the pedestrians. Options were discussed, such as adding flashing lights to help with safety.

Councilmember Rosenberg questioned why a roundabout was not considered at the intersection of Showboat Boulevard and Highway 6. Mr. Syslo told the Council they wouldn't need to slow things down out there, that the signal is working well at that location right now and that they want to make choices wisely and it could be costly to make changes at that intersection. He did, however, indicate that the intersection would be better with minor improvements they are making at the intersection.

Mayor Stutte asked what the next step would be. Mr. Syslo indicated they would like to get support from the Council with approval of a resolution similar to the draft resolution before them tonight and the next step for NDOT would be to have public meetings, but they wanted to get the support of the Council first. He told Council the NDOT wants commitment and buy in from Council and then at that point they will schedule a public meeting to present the project and address any public comments and then finish the right-of-way process and finalize the project.

Mr. Vrooman indicated he supported what the NDOT has designed and agreed that the next step was getting the resolution approved by Council and as the design continues to firm up, the City needs to start looking at utilities that can be put in place prior to the start of project construction. He indicated he was in full support of the project.

Mayor Stutte questioned if the public would be able to ask questions at the public meeting. Mr. Syslo indicated there would be a presentation with time for questions and concerns.

Mayor Stutte said the City is committed to the project and moving forward with it. Mr. Syslo indicated there was not going to be a vote as to whether they should move forward. He indicated they will move forward with the design they feel is right and the public meetings are about sharing what they feel is the right way to go. The Council, by approving the resolution, is saying they are in support of the concept that has been presented to them tonight. Mayor Stutte indicated that this is the state's road. Mr. Syslo told the Council it is a public road and he hoped everyone believed they were doing the right thing.

Mr. Vrooman asked when the resolution needed to be completed. Mr. Syslo indicated they would need the resolution approved prior to the public meeting being set up. Councilmember Skutnik felt the new council should approve the resolution in January. Mayor Stutte indicated that they would discuss it internally and make sure everyone is comfortable and tentatively talk about approval at the first meeting in January.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Jeniffer Beahm there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Chuck Rosenberg, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Ted Schroeder, Ginny Skutnik, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. Absent: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann. The motion carried.