

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL RETREAT WORKSESSION
Sunday, May 21, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Retreat Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Museum, 1330 N Burlington Ave, Hastings, NE, on May 21, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Council President Matt Fong with the following members present: Jeniffer Beahm, Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Butch Eley, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Corey Stutte. Absent: None.

The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Shawn Metcalf; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; Utility Manager, Kevin Johnson; 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; Public Information, Tony Herrman; Safety Director, Trent Clark; Director of Environmental Engineering, Marty Stange.

Council President Matt Fong led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Jeniffer Beahm to adopt current agenda for Council Retreat on May 21, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Jeniffer Beahm, Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Butch Eley, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Mayor and City Council Retreat was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 19, 2023. 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 ITEMS

DEPARTMENT HEAD GOALS/BUDGET PRIORITIES, FY 24 GENERAL INCREASE AND STAFFING NEEDS.

Council had received the Department Head goals previously, Shawn Metcalf opened to the Council for any questions that they had on the goals and achievements. Council went through each department and asked any questions that they had. Lori Hartman explained comparability and the reasoning for requesting a 4% general increase.

Shawn Metcalf discussed the need for an Assistant City Administrator, Building Maintenance/Fleet Manager, two Building Maintenance Technicians, Fleet Mechanic and Fleet Mechanic Technician, Solid Waste Operator, and a small re-org in Development Services at 50% of a full-time position.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE.

Lee Vrooman gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan. The public engagement portion was completed in March. There will be monthly meetings to get the draft sections of the plan completed through August, a final copy for review in September and to the Council is December

for approval. City Code Chapters 34 and 38, zoning and subdivision regulations will be modified to coincide with the new plan to facilitate implementation of the plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW.

Shawn Metcalf gave an overview of what a Strategic Plan is and why it is important. Shawn also went over the timeline of the Strategic Plan beginning in June 2023 and ending in October 2024.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATION.

Shawn Metcalf recommended that we allow Fire to fill in the vacant position of Fire Inspector that was approved last year and revisit looking into delegated authority later. Chief Starling and Mayor Stutte said this would help provide good customer service now to get caught up on turn around time on planning, complaints, inspections and help build the trust of the community.

WARD TOWN HALL MEETING DISCUSSION.

Shawn Metcalf asked to discuss how the Town hall meetings were going and any suggestions for those that were about to do theirs. Jeniffer Beahm said that their town hall went very well, most folks that attended were from ward 1 and were asked that they hold them quarterly. Jeniffer Beahm also recommended asking for any questions or comments to get more feedback in place of asking for questions.

LB840 (LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX DISCUSSION.

Jesse Oswald stated the one issue the City of Hastings is facing is being able to provide certain economic development opportunities for businesses to come to Hastings or getting proper housing for the employees those business would attract. LB840 is an act authorizing cities in Nebraska to appropriate and spend local sources of revenue – if approved by its voters – as part of an economic or industrial development program for certain economic development purposes as set forth in the act. Jesse gave the steps for creating a program. Roger Nash stated that a lot of developers look to see if communities have an LB840 plan and if there is not one they don't even check to see if we can work together. Roger gave an overview of the revenue and budgeting of the program.

"F" STREET CONSTRUCTION, FRANKLIN AVENUE TO BALTIMORE AVENUE AND "F" STREET CONSTRUCTION BALTIMORE AVENUE TO MARIAN ROAD WITH AN OPTIONAL OVERPASS/UNDERPASS AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING.

Steve Huntley and Jeniffer Beahm discussed the issues they are hearing from those in ward 1 feeling disconnected from the rest of the community due to connectivity. Lee Vrooman stated that some of this project is part of the 1 and 6-year plan and the streets are place holders, a specific street has not been chosen until evaluated. An overpass/underpass would have to be approved by the vote of the people per state statute. A determination on who would pay for the streets would need to be determined.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann there being no further business, to adjourn at 4:15 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Jeniffer Beahm, Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Butch Eley, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.