

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 12, 2023

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 June 12, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Stutte with the following members present: Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Butch Eley, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm.

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; Director of Development Services, Chad Bunger.

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

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to adopt current agenda for June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

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

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stutte introduced Chad Bunger, the newly hired Director of Development Services.

Mayor Stutte recognized service anniversaries for Damian Carda, Utility, 35; Dana Still, Library, 15; Joyce Mangers, Parks, 40.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the consent agenda, removing item 1(j) Approval of expenditure bonuses to encourage the retention and hiring of certified law enforcement officers and dispatchers at the Hastings Police Department. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of May 22, 2023
- (b) Approval of the minutes of the Council Retreat of May 21, 2023
- (c) Approval of claims and payroll
- (d) Behind the Scenes monthly Department Head report for May, 2023
- (e) Approval of the request of the Listening Room, Inc. dba "The Lark" located at 809 W. 2nd Street for an addition to their liquor license area to include the second floor of the building
- (f) Approval of Work Order EL-244, conversion from 4.16KV to 13.8KV in the alley between Burlington Avenue and Lexington Avenue, 2nd Street to 3rd Street
- (g) Approval of Pay Estimate #8 from Ben Engel Construction for work completed on the Community Development Block Grant Project 20-PW-004, Sidewalk Improvement
- (h) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #11, in the amount of \$8,825.05 for Community Development Block Grant Project 20-PW-004, Public Works
- (i) Approval of the request of Hastings Unique Bicyclists to utilize city property for the Kool-Aid Classic Bicycle Tour on August 12, 2023

1.(j) Approval of expenditure bonuses to encourage the retention and hiring of certified law enforcement officers and dispatchers at the Hastings Police Department. (Moved from the Consent Agenda)

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Matt Fong to approve hiring bonus to each newly hired dispatcher and police officer hired after November 1, 2022, in the amount of \$2,000 to \$7,500, depending on experience, and to approve a retention bonus to each currently employed dispatcher and sworn police officer to be paid in the amount of \$3,000 to \$6,000, depending on years of service.

Councilmember Eley explained that the way the hiring bonus was on the consent agenda, it would not have covered two police officers that were hired two months prior to the hiring bonus. This motion only changes the eligibility date.

Lori Hartman explained that we compete with other cities for employees. We checked with other cities in the array and all pay a hiring bonus of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for hiring sworn officers. The city has a significant cost impact to hiring officers who are not certified. We send officers who are not certified to 16 weeks at the academy, which is approximately \$35,000. After academy, there is 16 weeks training with our police force. It is a very large investment for the city. The hiring and retention bonus is a really good investment to retain and attract. Jesse Oswald stated the motion is approving the overall policy, and this is the range. Mayor Stutte explained that last year was a pilot program for the retention program, and we are looking to extend it this year.

Police Chief Story explained that we are also offering hiring bonuses for non-sworn staff. The majority is certified staff who see the bonuses. When we get more staff, we might need to make changes to hiring bonuses. Most applications are not certified officers. This is a step in the right direction for hiring processes.

Shawn Metcalf stated we are looking at the array later on the agenda, trying to make Hastings a competitive hourly pay. Lori Hartman stated that Hastings implemented a referral bonus as well for employees.

Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck. Nays: Steve Huntley. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the application of Barrel Bar II, LLC dba "Barrel Bar" for a Class "C" Liquor License (Beer, Wine, Spirits, On and Off Sale) at 1200 E. South Street. Police Chief Story stated that police reviewed and has recommended approval of this license. No public spoke. No objections were received.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution No. 2023-16 approving the application of Barrel Bar II, LLC dba "Barrel Bar" for a Class "C" Liquor License at 1200 E. South Street. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(b) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the manager application of Mark Hammond in connection with the Class "C" Liquor License of Barrel Bar II, LLC dba "Barrel Bar" located at 1200 E. South Street. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

4. General Business.

(a) Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve Telecommunications Line Right-of Way License Agreement with Viaero Fiber Networks, LLC along 12th Street from Nalan Drive to Highland Road and on Highland Road from 1/2 mile north of 12th Street south to U.S. Highway 6. Lee Vrooman reported that this is our standard agreement for a telecommunications company's (that does not have a franchise agreement with the City) use of City ROW. The Engineering Department has reviewed Viaero's plans and is okay with the locations proposed. The payment of \$925.62 will be an annual payment for this use. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(b) Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Matt Fong to approve the Professional Services/Consultant Agreement with South Central Economic Development District, Inc. for Community Development Block Grant 20-ED-003 grant administration. Lori Ferguson, South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), spoke on this item. This is to provide administrative services on a recently awarded Community Development Block Grant. Funding of \$217,000 will assist with the Pacha Soap expansion project. The amount of \$210,000 will be provided to the company (\$105,000 of that being conditionally granted upon their meeting the requirements of the project). The \$7,000 remaining is for general administration by SCEDD. The project is expected to be thirty (30) months in length. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(c) Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the Addendum to remove Scottsbluff from the array of Nebraska cities from the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9 Union Contract. Lori Hartman reported that this addendum removes the city of Scottsbluff from the array used as a factor in determining pay schedules and to adjust the specific provisions of the agreement, as authorized by Article 4 of the agreement. Shawn Metcalf stated that we need competitive wages, especially for police officers' starting pay, which is critical to successfully recruiting vacant positions. We are continually losing applicants for this reason and this change

will help Hastings be more competitive. Lori stated this is more of a market study, not CIR (Commission of Industrial Relations) based study. When unions negotiate, that is who we compete against. Chief Story stated that we are looking at starting wages, and trying to be competitive. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Steve Huntley. Nays: Brad Consbruck. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution No. 2023-17 authorizing Roger Nash, Finance Director and Larry Fox Jr., Assistant Finance Director as signatories on City of Hastings bank accounts and other transactions of City business. Roger Nash spoke on this item. This resolution removes the Accounting Manager and adds the Assistant Finance Director as signatory for city business. This is for all other banking business, outside of payments, which are signed by the Mayor and City Clerk. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

(b) ORDINANCE NO. 4737 CONVEYING OWNERSHIP OF "C" STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY TO ROCKFORD PROPERTIES, LP

Lee Vrooman spoke on this item. The C Street ROW from Emerson Avenue to the railroad tracks was vacated per Ordinance 2739 in 1980. That Ordinance had the City retaining ownership of the ROW. The adjacent property owner, Rockford Properties, LP, on both the north and south sides of the ROW requested ownership from the City. The Engineering Department has reviewed this piece of ROW and determined that there is not a benefit for the City to retain this area. A better use of the ROW is to be part of a larger parcel that could someday be developed. In situations like this, ROW has typically been conveyed to the adjacent property owners. With this conveyance, Rockford Properties, LP will pay the actual costs of publication and filing of documents.

Said Ordinance was read by title and thereafter Councilmember Matt Fong moved for passage of the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Shawn Hartmann. Upon roll call vote the following Councilmembers voted Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

Councilmember Matt Fong 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, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: 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 ordinance is declared to be lawfully adopted upon publication as required by law.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

None.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Steve Huntley there being no further business to come before the council to adjourn at 6:18P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley. Nays: None. Absent: Jeniffer Beahm. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

Corey Stutte, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly S. Jacobitz, City Clerk

(S E A L)