

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, August 21, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Public Library, 314 N. Denver Avenue, on August 21, 2023.

The Worksession Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council President Matt Fong with the following members present: Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley, Jeniffer Beahm. Absent: None.

City Officials Present: Mayor Corey Stutte, Shawn Metcalf, Jesse Oswald, Lori Vorderstrasse, Adam Story, Brad Starling, Erik Nielsen, Kevin Johnson, Roger Nash, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson, Amy Hafer, Marty Stange, Tony Hermann, Joslynn Roth, Chad Bunker, Kevin Kubo, Trent Clark, Brandan Lubken, Noel Nienhueser, Derek Zeisler, RaeLee Van Winkle, Jason Hasse, Larry Fox, Matt Kuhr.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, August 18, 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 of proposed 2023-2024 City Budget and Utility Budget.

Shawn Metcalf, City Administrator, began with a recap of the budget preparation and the following items to come: CRA levy request, HEDC request, Chamber of Commerce request, public hearing on budget (Sept. 11th), budget to state (Sept. 30th), county joint meeting (between Sept. 11th and 30th).

Roger Nash, Finance Director, reviewed the following regarding the City's proposed budget:

City Consolidated Summary-All Funds, shows opening balances, where funds start and end
Budget Vs. Actual Fiscal Year-End Cash Balances

General Fund Revenue

 SRO local contribution, school resource officer in schools

 FAA federal grant, airport reimbursement

 Municipal Equalization Fund, used for levy determination and decreasing over the last few years

 Utility reimbursement

 CRA reimbursement

 interest income, mostly invested locally

General Fund Expense

City Administrator, Clerk, Finance, Administration were all together, are now split
Attorney, no assistant attorney
IT, expenses allocated to departments and the building maintenance would also be the same
and allocated to departments
Auditorium, full-time employee would be going to the proposed building maintenance
department
Cemetery, equipment paid for in fiscal 2023, ordered in 2022 but did not arrive, timing issue

Councilmember Huntley questioned the wearing apparel line items in each department. Mr. Nash indicated each department is allowed \$50 per employee to purchase wearing apparel with the City logo on it.

Recreation

Councilmember Huntley questioned restarting the Brickyard Park concerts. Jeff Hassenstab, Parks and Recreation Director, indicated that the concerts were paid for by Keno Funds in the past and they did a concert series a couple years ago with a poor turn out, but they could certainly try it again.

OGA (Other Government Accounts), line items are city wide expenses, capital improvement line item that is in relation to the FAA grant, \$765,000, will increase to around \$1 million

Councilmember Fong asked Mr. Nash to speak on the health insurance. Mr. Nash stated the City is self-insured and that through comparability it is decided what the City as well as the employees pay and they are only proposing a 1% increase this year.

All Other Funds

Special Revenue Funds are generally out and in funds
Duncan/Parks Sales Tax, transfer \$15,000 a year for a reserve for when the Duncan Field turf needs to be replaced

Councilmember Huntley asked how long before replacement needs to be made. Mr. Hassenstab said ten years and they are on year five.

Parks/Recreation Sales Tax, trails expansion
Aquatics Center, reserve for water park
ARPA Funds, three or four projects are being carried over, this will be the last budget to allocate funds
Natural Disaster, previously it was used for civil defense siren repair and maintenance, used now for hail storm damage claim funds and tracking repairs
Museum, \$50,000 transfer to General Fund each year to pay off Imax debt, \$415,000 left
Street Fund

Councilmember Huntley asked about doing away with the wheel tax. Mr. Nash indicated you would then be allocating property tax dollars to pay for street repair as opposed to the wheel tax which is a user fee allocated to people who use the streets.

Keno Funds, used for community betterment but are declining
Landfill, enterprise fund fully supported by user fees, operates like a private business
Self-Insured Health Fund, City carries stop loss and aggregate stop loss insurance to protect the City from a catastrophic loss

Councilmember Huntley asked how often it is put out for bid on the management portion of the insurance. Mr. Nash stated he didn't know and they would get Council the answer to that question.

IT, has no revenue source, all hardware and software goes through the IT Fund

Capital Outlay Requests, ARPA list allocates the funds but can change out project if needed, dollar amount stays the same but items can change

Kevin Johnson, Utility Manager, reviewed the following regarding the Utility's proposed budget:

Electric Department, 4% rate increase, no increase in head count

Gas Department, 6.3% rate increase

Water Department, cost of service study completed last year, proposing a 5% increase, the ASR is producing well, 10-15 years to complete lead service replacement

Waste Water, no rate increase this year, digester lid project near completion, basin project to begin

Mayor Stutte thanked staff for the well put together and well organized presentation and stated he appreciated everyone's work.

Mr. Nash spoke regarding the proposed Building Maintenance Department, it will be allocated across the departments, three current staff will be moved to the proposed Building Maintenance Department, two new employees have been budgeted for, but they will start with hiring one new employee.

Councilmember Huntley asked if there was anyone in the Engineering Department that they could just tack the maintenance role on to. Lee Vrooman, Director of Engineering, stated there was not but he stated he felt this new department could be very beneficial to the Engineering Department by keeping tabs on contractors as projects moved along.

Personnel Authorization Schedules

Councilmember Huntley questioned the proposed Assistant City Administrator position and if they were going to make it an Assistant City Administrator/Assistant City Attorney position. Mr. Metcalf indicated that was one of several options.

Salary Schedule, in year three of comparability study, new comparability study will be done next year

Councilmember Huntley asked how many new positions were proposed. Mr. Nash responded 1.5 in General Fund and three for the proposed Building Maintenance Department.

Mr. Nash spoke regarding the certified valuation from the county with an 8.3 % increase in valuation, increasing the tax asking by around \$600,000.

Fee Resolution

Councilmember Huntley mentioned building permit fees being out of wack with others in the area and asked Mr. Metcalf if he had done any research on that. Chad Bunger, Director of Development Services, indicated he was not aware of that and asked if they were higher or lower. Mr. Metcalf indicated higher. Mr. Bunger indicated they base their fees off a regional table set out by the International Building Code but he would look into it and get an answer for

Council.

Mr. Nash mentioned that if any changes were needed to be made to the budget, they would get those updates to Council before approval of the budget.

Mr. Johnson advised Council that the Hastings Utility Advisory Board would meet on September 6th to formalize their recommendation on the Utility Budget prior to September 11th. Mr. Johnson will bring their recommendation forward to Council.

Mr. Metcalf mentioned that there was a link to the proposed budget located on the City of Hastings website. He complemented department heads on how well they were prepared and on all the work they have done.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Butch Eley there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Matt Fong, Shawn Hartmann, Marc Rowan, Joy Huffaker, Butch Eley, Brad Consbruck, Steve Huntley, Jeniffer Beahm. Nays: None. The motion carried.