

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 12, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Hastings Public Library, 314 North Denver Avenue, on October 12, 2023.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Snell.

With the following in attendance: Kevin Johnson, Erik Nielsen, Lorry Fox, Jesse Oswald, Tony Herrman, Micah McCaffery, Brandan Lubken, Noel Nienhueser, Butch Eley, Jason Redding, Karl Block, Lori Hartman, Shawn Hartmann, and Lee Vrooman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Bill Hitesman led the group in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR October 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske, Second by Hemje to adopt the current agenda for the October 12, 2023 regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Snell. Nays: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, October 10, 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 Hastings Library. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Hastings Library, which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

On the agenda under operations is says Critical Initiative it is actually Critical Initiatives. Asked the employees to provide an overview of the big projects that they are focussing on. No decisions will need to be made.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

People asked if we were going to get a charging station in the downtown area. There are at least 2 or 3 options that we are working on right now. There are a few other people who are considering putting it on their property for public use. Is this the responsibility of the utilities or store owners? It can be either or.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of September 6, 2023.

Moved by Dewalt and seconded by Meeske to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 6, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- i. 3rd Quarter Financial Summary

Larry Fox to present the 3rd quarter financials.

Financial and Operating Report for fiscal year 2023, Quarter 3 (April 1-June 30)

Electric Summary - The SPP market has varied from quarter to quarter. The market was very strong in Q1, dropped a bit in Q2, but has partially come back in Q3.

Gas Summary - Purchased gas: December was a particularly high gas purchase month. While the majority of gas is purchased in winter months, there will be gas purchases in Q4 higher than normally due to the NDS units running.

Water Summary - Majority of water revenue comes in Q4 with summer watering.

Heating Degree Days: April and June trended normally, while May showed a decreased need for heat, indicating May was warmer than normal.

- (b) Production

- (c) Operations

- i. Critical Initiative

Noel discusses the Electric Distribution and Substation Critical Initiatives.

- Electric Distribution
 - Tree trimming area 3, which is the south side of the tracks
 - 3rd part pole inspection, roughly 800 distribution poles
 - line upgrade Highland Road North of 12th to support solar expansion
- Substation
 - Continuing AMI Implementation
 - WEC, 7th, and B st. Substation construction
 - New fiber ring implementation
 - Solar Expansion

Brandan discusses the Underground Operations Critical Initiatives

- Water
 - New ASR extraction well per water modeling results.
 - Continued water main and lead service replacement.
 - Lead water service loan compliance, next hurdle 100% BABA compliance by September 2024.
- Sewer/PCF
 - Significant progress on Aeration Basin Project
 - Return to normal operations with anaerobic digestion.
 - Sewer TV project year one.
- Gas
 - Town leak survey
 - Task quantification and crew size optimization (underground construction).
 - Complete cathodic zone discovery completion (est. 6 months).

Micah discusses the Electric Production Critical Initiatives

-Continued staffing preparation for future production challenges.

- WEC 1 & 2 fall Outage
 - Transfer tower recontrol
 - WEC 2 generator overhaul
 - Coal Pulverizer repairs
 - Boiler tube replacement
- NDS 4 & 5 Fall Outage
 - Winterization and winter testing preparation - testing in December
 - Unit 4 turbine alignment - being done in November.
 - DCS updates
 - Service water lines replacement

Jason discusses Energy Supply Critical Initiatives

- SPP performance Based Accreditation for Capacity
- Long term excess capacity sales - 5 years
- TIGT rate case - impacts no notice service
- Central plains energy project - CPEP 4 prepay gas refinance

- Solar Farm Phase 2

Karl discusses Customer Service and Warehouse Critical Initiatives

- Improves Access to alternative payment methods
 - Scan to pay
 - Paypal
 - Secure SMS pay-link
- Possible Improvements to Customer Portal

Warehouse

- Improve efficiencies with IT infrastructure
 - employee not tethered to desk for phone calls
 - Camera Upgrades
 - Improved loss prevention
 - Better visibility

(d) Administration

i. New Utility Bill

Karl reintroduces the new bill as it is starting to go out to the customers.

- Key Features
 - Summary of Current Service Charges
 - 12 Month History
 - Reading/Usage Info for each meter
 - Summary of total amount due, including current and balance forward
 - Payment remittance coupon
 - Details of billing components
 - adjustment factors
 - account summary with payment/charge history
 - frequently asked questions and links to resources
 - QR Code to Links and resources
- Informing the Public of the Update
 - News release sent to all local outlets
 - News story in the tribune
 - Created "How to read your new utility bill"
 - In-Studio PARTYLINE Interview at KHAS Radio
 - Notice Published in Hastings Tribune throughout the month
 - KHAS Radiogram Ad
 - At your service newsletter
 - Behind the scenes newsletter
 - Facebook/Twitter/Website Newsfeeds
- Timeline
 - 1st week of October - started sending out all the billing info to Infosend for printing
 - 2nd week of October - Customers will start receiving updated invoices

- End of October - Will start mailing delinquent notices through Infosend

(e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

ADJOURN:

Motioned to adjourn by Hemje, seconded by Snell. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Adjourned at 10:19 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary