

**HASTINGS CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION AGENDA**

**Hastings Municipal Airport
3300 W. 12th Street
April 15, 2024
5:30 PM**

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA for April 15, 2024 Worksession.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, April 12, 2024. 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 for public review and a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and accessible to members of the public.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: (Only for agenda items.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion on support of the Fire Department's request to seek Delegated Authority from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal as a pilot program. *(Postponed from March 25, 2024 City Council Meeting.)*
2. Discussion of Resolution No. 1344 regarding additional payment in lieu of taxes from Utilities to City from gas, water, and wastewater utility systems.
3. Discussion of Downtown Rethink Our Streets Project.

ADJOURN:

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to enter into an executive session at any time during the meeting, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, even though the closed session may not be indicated on the agenda.

It is the intention of the Mayor and City Council to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Mayor and City Council reserve the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedules of the city council members, person having items on the agenda, and the public.

Worksession meetings are intended to allow for communication and discussion amongst the elected officials. At the prerogative of the presiding officer of the worksession, city staff, consultants or citizens may be requested or allowed to address specific items on the worksession agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 1344

WHEREAS, the City of Hastings owns and operates its electric, water, natural gas, and sewer utility systems, providing Hastings residents with reliable, high quality utility services, and

WHEREAS, it is generally accepted that it is appropriate to transfer a portion of utility revenues to the municipal general fund in recognition that special benefit should accrue to the citizens of the municipality by virtue of municipal ownership of the utility systems, and

WHEREAS, the owners of Hastings Utilities are the citizens of Hastings, and a transfer of utility revenues to the City general fund represents a return of investment to the citizens of Hastings which enables the City to provide services, programs, and activities without additional taxation, and

WHEREAS, the owners of a utility system are entitled to a fair and reasonable return on investment, and

WHEREAS, cities comparable in size to the City are paid more from the operations of the utility systems which serve those cities than is paid by the Hastings Utilities to the City, and

WHEREAS, the covenants contained in the Ordinance authorizing the issuance of electric system revenue bonds by Hastings Utilities prohibit the revenues from said electric system to be used for the transfer authorized herein, and

WHEREAS, a thorough review of the available financial resources and the financial condition of the utility systems of the City has demonstrated that excess funds are available from the combined systems sufficient to allow the Board of Public Works of the City of Hastings to pay additional moneys to the City without compromising the fiscal integrity of the utility systems or without affecting rates charged for the combined systems' services, and that said additional payments can be made by reducing the undesignated reserves of the combined systems or by deferring expenditures for capital improvements to the combined systems, or by a combination of the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska as follows:

1. That the Board of the Public Works of the City of Hastings be and they hereby are authorized and directed to initiate the transfer to the General Fund of the City each fiscal year payable not later

than January 10 of each year commencing January 10, 1992, an amount equal to 2.5% of the Total Revenues of the combined systems of the Hastings Utilities. Total Revenues is defined to mean all income, earnings, fees, charges, receipts, profits and other moneys derived by the City from its ownership or operation of the combined (gas, water and pollution control and any administration revenues allocated thereto) systems of the Hastings Utilities, including investment income from all moneys allocated on the books of the Hastings Utilities to the combined systems, and including therein all revenues of the combined systems similar in nature to those "Revenues" of the electric system as defined in Ordinance No. 2622 of the City of Hastings authorizing the issuance of electric system revenue bonds.

2. That said amount shall be in addition to the current monthly transfer of 4% of the operating revenues of the utility systems, said transfer being hereby ratified and confirmed.
3. That each year during the annual joint meeting of the City Council and Board of Public Works, a thorough examination of the utility systems' financial condition will be conducted for the purpose of evaluating the impact of the transfer prescribed in paragraph 1, above, and authorizing adjustments deemed necessary for the financial protection of the City and utility systems.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this the 22nd day of July, 1991.

Phyllis H. Garrison
Mayor

ATTEST:

Carrie J. Antman
City Clerk



General fund budget

	1990-91	1991-92 Proposed
City Administrator's Office	\$ 100,028	\$ 105,138
Personnel/Civil Service	31,356	26,598
Legal	72,550	62,620
Other government accounts	667,664	1,467,205
Police	1,400,257	1,440,120
Fire	766,481	861,236
Civil Defense	108,789	100,007
Emergency Communications	280,082	272,025
Parks	503,753	601,434
Auditorium	84,049	93,033
Cemetery	145,650	162,653
Pools	94,516	113,351
Library	448,328	495,408
Finance	343,860	347,417
Mayor and Council	31,283	33,336
Engineering	110,058	106,740
Inspection	242,606	308,439
Planning	80,672	96,399
Total	\$5,511,982	\$6,693,159

Other budgets

	1990-91 Budget	1991-92 Proposed
Street	\$2,137,852	\$1,970,538
Museum	447,249	415,738
Community development	\$89,836	\$83,263
Self-insured health	441,078	589,500
Capital projects	500,000	1,520,000
1991 BAN construction	0	1,468,604
Various purpose	940,991	1,064,700
Special assessment	175,000	216,000
Off-street parking	5,000	35,000
Landfill	473,585	631,780
Cemetery perpetual care	57,300	56,800
Business Improvement District	55,000	58,100
Fire pension	225,600	209,959
Police pension	83,287	84,448
MIRP	93,353	104,500
1990 BAN construction	1,577,562	79,643
LCRA	980,000	888,107
Drug control grant	100,153	101,600
1989 BAN construction	256,287	0
Total	\$14,947,115	\$16,991,439

City proposes budget hike — but taxes same

By THAD LIVINGSTON
Tribune Staff Writer

The city of Hastings' proposed budget for 1991-92 calls for a \$2 million-dollar increase in spending over last year, but still holds the line on property taxes.

The proposed \$16.9 million spending package, presented by City Administrator Barbara Bramblett Wednesday, was cause for some head scratching among council members during the first of three scheduled budget debates.

The proposal reflects a 12 percent increase over last year's \$14.9 million plan, leaving the council wondering how increased spending, which includes funding for eight new city employees and a southside fire station, would be supported without a hike in property taxes.

The proposed general fund is \$6.7 million — about \$1.2 million higher than last year.

Bramblett said the increase is partly due to \$947,450 in budgetary transfers — which are appropriated twice, once by the fund contributing the money and once by the receiving fund, but are spent only once.

Also, she said, the general fund has been bolstered by \$1.5 million more

Proposal omits drainage project

One item not addressed in Hastings' proposed \$16.9 million budget proposal for 1991-92, much to some council members' surprise, is an east-side storm water drainage project.

Eastside residents have addressed the City Council four times in the last two years about storm water that routinely reaches house foundations during heavy rains in the Third Avenue and University Street neighborhood.

"Those folks came up here in good faith, they talked to us and I had it in my head that we were going to address this seriously," Mayor Phyllis Lainson said at the first of three council budget meetings Wednesday.

The council showed backing for the project July 10 when it unanimously directed City Engineer Dave Wacker to submit recommendations for corrective actions for the flooding.

Wacker, who submitted his budget proposal to the city administrator before July 10, told the council that work is under way on a department recommendation.

Councilman Phil Odom said the drainage project should be addressed

budget hike — but taxes same

By THAD LIVINGSTON
Tribune Staff Writer

7-5-91

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Bramblett said the increase is partly due to \$947,450 in budgetary transfers — which are appropriated twice, once by the fund contributing the money and once by the receiving fund, but are spent only once.

Also, she said, the general fund has been bolstered by \$1.5 million more than expected in excess revenues left from 1990-91. Added revenue also will be on hand via a slight reduction in expenses of \$161,372 and a reduction in reserves of \$100,000.

Bramblett called the proposed budget "capital intensive" because of the diverse nature of its capital projects, including:

- Construction of a southside fire station for \$250,000.

- Maintenance of existing park facilities including the resurfacing of tennis courts near Hastings Utilities for \$25,000, rebuilding the Carter Park basketball courts for \$2,500 and repairing the restroom roof at Carter Park for \$5,000.

- Bank stabilization of the stream on the east half of Heartwell Park for \$250,000, installing an irrigation system in the east portion of the park for \$15,000 and purchasing a fountain aerator to improve the water quality of

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"Those folks came up here in good faith, they talked to us and I had it in my head that we were going to address this seriously," Mayor Phyllis Lainson said at the first of three council budget meetings Wednesday.

The council showed backing for the project July 10 when it unanimously directed City Engineer Dave Wacker to submit recommendations for corrective actions for the flooding.

Wacker, who submitted his budget proposal to the city administrator before July 10, told the council that work is under way on a department recommendation.

Councilman Phil Odom said the drainage project should be addressed in the budget, "to show people we have some work in progress."

After the meeting, Lainson said she didn't want to speak for the council, but said there was a consensus, "maybe a complete consensus," to back the drainage project.

"I think staff knows the council wants to do something with it," said Councilman John Brooks after the meeting. "Personally, I want to see something in the budget that addressed the problem. I've said that dozens of times."

City Administrator Barbara Bramblett said that the drainage project would be one of many items addressed by the council during budget hearings Monday and Tuesday.

"The priorities funded in the budget will be the council's priorities. That's the whole purpose of the budget review," she said.

City proposes budget hike; taxes same

• From page 1

the park's lake for \$4,500.

—Construction of a picnic shelter at Lake Hastings for \$10,000.

—Installation of modern traffic signals on First Street at Lincoln, Hastings and Denver avenues to allow two-way traffic for \$80,000.

—Purchase of a landfill compactor for \$40,000.

—Installing an additional civil defense siren for \$16,000.

—Providing funds for re-roofing and renovation of the City Auditorium.

Other budget highlights include

funds to hire six additional firefighters, a fire training officer and an additional building inspector and to provide a 4 percent salary increase for all city employees other than temporary employees.

Approximately \$81,000 has been earmarked for salary and benefits for the six firefighters.

Mayor Phyllis Lainsen said she wasn't sold on the budget. "I have some reservations," she said. She also voiced concern about the difficulty of tracing the use of sales tax dollars in the budget.

"We have to find a way to show the public how those sales tax dollars are

utilized," Lainsen said.

Showing a vast contrast with pre-sales tax budgets, sales taxes in the 1991-92 spending plan make up 60 percent of the general fund's tax burden and property tax makes up 27 percent. In 1989-90, before the sales tax, property tax comprised 87 percent of general fund revenue provided by taxes.

The city expects to collect \$1.8 million in sales taxes during 1991-92 and proposes to collect \$2.2 million in property taxes — the same as last year.

The final budget must be filed with the state Aug. 25.

The two remaining council budget sessions are scheduled for Monday after the 7 p.m. council meeting and Wednesday at 4 p.m. The budget sessions will be at the City Building.

Man dies after rodeo accident

GORDON (AP) — A Sheridan County man was killed when he was thrown off a bronco he was riding in a rodeo and the horse landed on him.

Dean Fleishman of rural Sheridan County was dead when he arrived at Gordon Memorial Hospital Wednesday night.

City asks for more HU funds

By THAD LIVINGSTON
Tribune Staff Writer

7-12-91

The city may look to Hastings Utilities to foot the bill for additional items in its 1991-92 budget.

The City Council and the Board of Public Works, which oversees operations of the city-owned utility, discussed an increase in the transfer of utility revenues to bolster the city's proposed \$16.9 spending package Thursday evening.

"We're looking at this as taking from (the utility's) excess of what they have left over after their bills are paid," said Mayor Phyllis Lainson. "We want to share in the excess ... so we can fund some of the projects that we may have to cut."

The council will consider a resolution July 22 that would direct the utility to transfer \$340,000 each fiscal year to the city's general fund.

That amount would be in addition to the utility's current monthly payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, based on 4 percent of the utility's operating revenue.

In 1990, the utility's PILOT totaled \$893,172. The city's proposed budget for 1991-92 calls for \$870,000 in PILOT revenue.

Lainson said the city could put the additional revenue to good use on projects such as an east side storm water drainage project, a new chiller for the City Building's cooling system, a remodeling project to better use space at the City Building or hiring a personnel director to coordinate the city's 300 employees.

"There are a lot of projects where we're going to have to make a choice," she said. "We should have more special benefit through owning our own system. We've got needs that we have to address."

Based on a survey of nine other Nebraska cities of comparable size to Hastings, an increase in revenue transfers is justified, Lainson said.

"Other cities are realizing significantly more," she said.

According to utility Manager Marvin Schultes, the utility has seen its PILOT payments to the city increase from approximately \$158,000 in 1971 to nearly \$900,000 in 1991.

Schultes said the utility would view the additional transfer as another cost of doing business.

"Any time the costs change, the rates have to cover that eventually, and it's another cost of doing business," he said. "Any cost that changes is impacted eventually in our costs. The only source to cover costs is from the rate payer."

Lainson said the additional revenue transfer wouldn't have to affect utility rates.

"In my view it should not," she said.

Lainson sees the revenue coming from the utility's net income which she said is currently plowed back into capital projects and investment funds.

"I think that it would mean they would slow down a bit on their capital improvement schedules and they possibly wouldn't have quite as much in reserve."

City may cut taxes by nearly \$180,000

By THAD LIVINGSTON

Tribune Staff Writer

In an effort to better demonstrate dollar for dollar property tax relief through the 1-cent city sales tax, the city may cut its general fund property tax asking from last year by \$179,915.

The tax cut was one of nine proposed budget revisions presented to the City Council by City Administrator Barbara Bramblett at Tuesday's five-hour budget work session.

Bramblett said the proposed tax cut would allow for dollar for dollar property tax relief "in a financially responsible manner."

Last year's total general fund property tax requirement was \$814,911. Under the proposal, the 1991-92 general fund property tax requirement would be \$634,996. The city expects to collect \$1.8 million in sales taxes during 1991-92.

Bramblett said the possible addition of revenue transfers from Hast-

ings Utilities to the city budget is closely tied to the proposed property tax cut.

She called the utility revenue transfer a "backup revenue source" which will allow the reduction in property taxes.

"If something were to occur in the economy that would cause a reduction in sales tax receipts, we may fail to meet our sales tax budget," Bramblett said. "We'd never be able to crawl out of that hole."

"You don't want to take that cut unless you know you have some reliable backup revenue. The utility transfer would backup the property tax."

The council will consider a resolution Monday that would direct the utility to transfer \$340,000 each fiscal year to the city's general fund.

Hastings City Council

Hastings Utilities currently pays the city, in lieu of taxes, 4 percent of its monthly operating revenue — a payment that bolstered city coffers last year by \$893,172.

At Tuesday's meeting, Mayor Phyllis Lainson reiterated her stance that the additional transfer would not force the utility to increase rates.

In an attempted budget move, the council discussed a \$15,000 emergency appropriation to the Child Development Council which would keep the endangered Emergency Protective Service Shelter in business through January.

However, Bramblett advised the council that the city is not authorized by state statutes to fund the Child Development Council.

The shelter, which receives state,

county and private funds, may be forced to close July 31 if it doesn't receive guarantees of more funding.

"The work they do is very important," Bramblett said. "It's preferable that we deal with it pro actively. Unfortunately the law doesn't authorize us to do so."

"I hope their situation will be acknowledged and maybe some private donations will be increased."

In other business, during discussion of the proposed 1991-92 capital projects fund, it became apparent the council will face some major capital project decisions before the budget is finalized.

Discussions centered on the south side fire station, the east side drainage project, City Auditorium renovations and a city campground at Lake Hastings.

The council is scheduled to make preliminary capital project decisions Monday.

• P making tracks
with land purchases

Page 5

Woman has fair history

Page 6



Warrior end year
with extra-inning win
over North Platte

Sports, pages 13-15

Inside today

Abby.....	26	Food.....	25
Astro-graph.....	26	Markets.....	20
Bridge.....	27	Polly.....	30
Comics.....	28	Sports.....	13
Crossword.....	26	Tribland.....	2
Editorial.....	4	Want Ads.....	16
Entertainment.....	27	Weather.....	24

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The Hastings **TRIBUNE**

Tuesday, July 23, 1991

Hastings, Nebraska

Vol. 88; No. 248

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32 pag

Council taps utility for more money

By THAD LIVINGSTON
Tribune Staff Writer

The city's proposed \$16.9 million spending package for 1991-92 will be bolstered by added revenue transfers from Hastings Utilities.

An amended version of Resolution 1344 calls for an additional payment of \$230,000 to \$235,000 by the utility. It was approved 5-3 at Monday's combined City Council meeting and budget work shop. Councilmen Paul Sommerfeld, Ray Scheidies and John Brooks opposed the amendment.

Resolution 1344 directs the city-owned utility to transfer 2.5 percent of its system revenues to the city, in addition to the current in-lieu-of-tax monthly transfer of 4 percent of the

utility's operating revenues.

In 1990, the utility's payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, to the city totaled \$893,172. The city's proposed budget for 1991-92 calls for \$870,000 in PILOT revenue.

Councilman Terry Hunter moved to amend the original resolution which called for an additional transfer of 3.3 percent of the utility's total combined system revenue. His amendment lowering the figure to 2.5 percent was backed by a 6-2 vote with Sommerfeld and Scheidies opposed.

City Administrator Barbara Bramlett termed the additional transfer a "dependable backup" source to the planned reduction in property taxes.

Scheidies, who serves with Hunter

as a council liaison to the utility's Board of Public Works, said the move appeared to him as "taking money out of your left pocket and putting it into your right pocket."

Utility Manager Marvin Schultes Tuesday morning reiterated earlier comments that the utility must view the additional transfer as another cost of doing business.

Schultes said that when costs change, utility rates eventually have to cover them.

"The only source to cover costs is from the rate payer," he said in an interview with the Tribune July 11.

The resolution was originally an item on the council meeting agenda, but received no motion for approval

from a council member during the regular meeting. The resolution later was reconsidered during the budget workshop, which was an addendum to the meeting.

In other action related to the 1990-91 budget, council members broke out their red pens during the budget discussions, which stretched into the early morning hours Tuesday. After four hours of debate, the council emerged with a spending plan with noteworthy deletions and some major additional projects.

The major budget deletions include:

—\$400,000 for City Auditorium renovations by a 6-2 vote. Sommerfeld and Scheidies dissented.

—\$4,500 for an aerator at the Heartwell Park Lake by a 6-2 vote. Scheidies and Councilwoman Dee Anna Ridge cast the dissenting votes.

—\$25,000 for resurfacing the tennis courts at Hastings Utilities originally was removed by a 5-4 vote with Mayor Phyllis Lainson casting the decisive vote in favor of its deletion. A later vote to restore the item failed by a 5-3 tally, with Sommerfeld, Hunter and Phil Odom dissenting.

—\$18,000 for a public safety computer due to a lack of a second.

Projects which remain funded include:

—\$303,000 for a south side fire station by a 6-2 vote. Scheidies and Councilwoman Marilyn Will

dissented.

—\$19,108 for a fire training officer and \$53,064 for six additional firefighters by a 5-3 vote. Scheidies, Brooks and Will dissented.

—\$80,000 for Seventh Street widening plans by a 5-3 vote. Scheidies, Sommerfeld and Ridge dissented. The city already has spent \$100,000 in gathering data for the plans prior to the Union Pacific Railroad's decision to reroute its tracks around Hastings.

—\$15,000 for an irrigation on the east portion of Heartwell by a 7-1 vote. Councilman Coffman dissented.

—\$10,000 for a picnic area at Lake Hastings by a 5-3 vote.

• Turn to page 2

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Bank for a

handicapped parking stall on Third Street.

—Awarded a contract for the Heartwell Park downstream flood control project to Midland Contracting Co. of Kearney for \$219,059.

—Killed an amendment to the R-1M zoning district code because of the lack of a motion to approve it.

Crawford Livestock Market returning

OMAHA (AP) — Public support prompted Doug Strotheide to rebuild the Crawford Livestock Market after a devastating flood wiped it out.

After the May 10 flood, cards and letters came from people he didn't even know, Strotheide said.

Strotheide hopes to have the sale barn open by Aug. 9, in time for the fall run of cattle.

Council taps HU for funds

• From page 1

Lainson casting the deciding vote in favor of the project. Sommerfeld, Hunter, Coffman and Brooks approved. Odom, Scheidies, Ridge and Will dissented.

—\$21,912 for an additional building inspector by a 5-4 vote with Lainson casting the deciding vote in favor of the position. Sommerfeld, Odom, Hunter and Ridge approved. Scheidies, Coffman, Brooks and Will dissented.

Major budget additions include:

—\$66,000 for a campground by a 5-3 vote. Sommerfeld, Odom and Scheidies dissented. A site for the campground has not been determined.

—\$250,000 for cosmetic improvements to Second Street by a 5-3 vote with Sommerfeld, Scheidies and Ridge dissenting.

—\$450,000 for an east side storm water drainage project. The vote was unanimous.

—\$15,000 for an emergency appropriation to the Child Development Council's Emergency Protective Service Shelter received unanimous approval. Although the city has no legal authority to appropriate funds to the Child Development Council, council members included the funding in case a way can be found to appropriate the money.

The council is now in position to approve the proposed 1991-92 budget after a public hearing tentatively set for Aug. 1. Final budget decisions will be made at that time.

Births

Mary Lanning

Angele Mills of 1318 N. St. Joseph Ave., a boy, July 4.

Area hospitals

Ellen and Gary Davis of Wilcox, a boy, July 19.

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Vehicles reportedly driven by Jeremy Miller of 1606 Apache Ave. and Jonathon Fergus of 225 N. Cedar Ave. collided Friday at Sixth Street and Burlington Avenue.

If we're not filling your prescriptions, you may be paying too much. Allen's Pharmacy.—Adv.

Vehicles reportedly driven by Jeanine Yenni of 1330 Briggs Ave. and Bryan Epp of 907 E. South St. collided Saturday at 13th Street and Briggs Avenue. Epp's wife, Brenda, 28, a passenger in his vehicle, was taken by Eastern Ambulance to Mary

Hastings firefighters Saturday issued a violation for a trash fire at 135 E. Third St. Firefighters Saturday also investigated a report of smoke at Great Plains Packaging, 2000 Summit Ave. The smoke was caused from a malfunctioning light ballist. Firefighters investigated another report of smoke Saturday at 1741 W. Fifth St., and found burned baby bottle nipples.

Taking applications for full-time deli manager through Wednesday. Full benefits package. Experience preferred. Econofoods, 920 South Burlington. Adv.

Kelli Albin of Guide Rock recently received a William and Hazel Loeffler scholarship from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Animal Science Department.

Golden Corral's Monday ad should have read Senior Citizen Night every Tuesday.—Adv.

A marriage license application was filed in Adams County Monday by Robert Dwain Seaman of Prosser and Tammy Ann Jensen of Hastings.

George L. Welch, M.D. will be closing his medical practice in Hart