

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, November 7, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted Airport Conference Room - Hastings Municipal Airport - 3300 W. 12th Street, on November 7, 2024.

**ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Kvols, Derek Zeisler, Eirk Nielsen, Jaci Higgins, Shawn Hartmann, Micah McCaffery, Jason Redding, Noel Nienhueser, Larry Fox, Lee Vrooman, Brandan Lubken, Karl Block, Kyle Patten, Lori Hartman, Tony Herrman, Mark Funkey, Jesse Oswald.  
Absent: Corey Stutte, Butch Eley

**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 November 7, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**

Moved by Dewalt and seconded by Meeske to adopt the current agenda for November 7, 2024. Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, November 5, 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 located at the back of the Conference Room. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Airport Conference Room, which is accessible to members of the public.

**MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Short agenda today, but ones with some significance. Welcom Scott Kvols. Thank you Shawn Hartmann for your time with Utility board and City Council.

**BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Also thanked Shawn for his time and welcomed Scott.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

## CONSENT AGENDA:

### 1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of October 10, 2024.

Moved by Hemje and seconded by Meeske to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 10, 2024. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Approved.

## REGULAR AGENDA:

### 2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

### 3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- (b) Production

- (c) Operations

#### i. LCR(I) Final Rule Update and Lead Replacement Progress

Brandon discusses the updates of the lead replacement progress.

- Dec 2021, Lead and Copper Rule updates proposed by EPA with compliance deadline of Oct 16, 2024:

- Damaged lead lines can't be repaired, replaced in full.
- 6 months of water filtration for lead required post replacement.
- Post replacement sampling 3-6 months after replacement.
- Action level from 15 ppb to 10ppb lead.
- April 2024, Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) became only required compliance mandate due Oct 16, 2024:

- Full water service line material inventory to NDEE (October 15, 2024).
- New: letters to all customers with lead, unknown, or GRR within 30 days of inventory submittal. 1094 lead, 671 known, 3 GRR.
- New customers at these locations will receive letters upon sign up.
- Service material inventory and notification letters are annualized.

Letters Include:

- Health effects of lead: Decreased IQ, behavior problems in infants/children. Adults, increased heart disease risk, high blood pressure, kidney and nervous system problems.
- Ways to reduce lead in drinking water: Filtration, clean aerators, use cold water, run tap longer.
- What we're doing: Lead service removal, unknown material verification.

**Letters being mailed tomorrow.**

It was suggested to do a Facebook live video to discuss this so customers and residents are more clear about this program/process.

October 8, 2024, Biden administration finalizes LCRI rule with additions:

- Action level from 15ppb to 10ppb lead.
- Additional funding of \$2.7 Billion.
- All municipalities/utilities no lead water services in 10 years.
- HU 2 person lead water service replacement crew ~ \$4,000 per service.
- Local contractors pothole to verify service material ~ \$230 per pothole.
- M.U.D. budgeted last year for \$12,000 per service line replacement.
- Detroit Mayor: Internal crews ~ \$9,300 per service, contractors ~ \$23,000
- City of Cleveland Ohio is paying ~ \$1800 per pothole.

(d) Administration

i. Mission Statement and Core Values Review

This has been reviewed with staff and employee committees. Even though this is over 20 years old, this still holds relevance.

Does anyone feel like there is anything missing from our statement or if something should be taken out?

Providing customers with reliability.

Nobody has any major concerns, so this will be left alone for now.

(e) Other

i. HEDC request for Economic Development Funds

Utilities have set aside money for economic development funds. This will be similar to the request that was made in the past.

Shannon will talk about this request. Asking for \$1.5 million, \$200,000 from this group.

Concern is how we replenish the funds so we can continue to do this.

Maybe we need to put on our agenda in the future how the city can also put money into the funds and how it can get replenished.

Dewalt motions to approve the \$200,000 for this application request to move on to City Council, Hemje Seconds.

Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Approved to go to City Council.

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

Motion to go into closed session at 10:14 am. Motioned by Hemje, seconded by Dewalt. Ayes: Hitesman, Dwalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Approved.

Motioned by Dewalt and seconded by Hemje to come out of the closed session at 10:30 am. Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Approved.

**ADJOURN:**

Motioned to adjourn by Hemje, seconded by Dewalt. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Adjourned at 10:30 am.

APPROVED:

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Board Secretary