

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Monday, November 18, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Municipal Airport, 3300 W. 12th Street, on November 18, 2024.

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

The following City Officials were present: Interim City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; City Clerk, Kimberly Jacobitz; Interim Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Finance Director, Roger Nash; Information Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; Director of Development Services, Chad Bunger; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Public Information Manager, Tony Herrman; Information Technology, Kirk Layton; Environmental Engineer, Marty Stange.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Brad Consbruck to adopt current agenda for the November 18, 2024, Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Jeniffer Beahm, Brad Consbruck, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, November 15, 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:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Hastings Public Access Channel (HPAC) recognition of City of Hastings IT Department.

Lorie Schiefelbein, Hastings Public Access Channel (HPAC), formally thanked Erik Nielsen (IT Director) and his team for assisting with the move from City Hall to the City Auditorium. Erik was able to expedite the process of moving them and testing their system, resulting in the least amount of disruption for their staff and viewers. Mayor Stutte and members of the City Council voiced their gratitude for the IT Department and their expertise. Councilmember Beahm reminded citizens that they can watch council meetings on HPAC (Charter & Allo).

2. Discussion of communications - Tony Herrman, Public Information Manager.

Tony Herrman, Public Information Manager, presented this item. His philosophy is the "Swiss Cheese Model". When multiple systems are used, the risk of a threat becoming reality is mitigated by the differing layers and types of defenses which are "layered" behind each other. Layers of public information include: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Semiannual Activity Guide and Newsletter, Utility Newsletter, Engage Hastings, KHAS Radiograms, and Flyers. Tony started a YouTube channel shortly after he began employment with the City in 2023. He is responsible for

Press Releases, which are distributed to 40 email addresses on the media contact list representing nine media organizations. He explained that citizens can sign up for eNotifications on the City's website. The eNotifications include calendar updates, job openings, news updates, Parks & Recreation Newsletter, and Police Press Reports. He discussed social media statistics. Derek Zeisler explained that the Utility Department has an area on their webpage to report utility outages.

He described the Engage Hastings (Granicus) website and the analytics from the "launch" date of November 30, 2023. One of the projects is "Ask Hastings". Tony responds to those or forwards to appropriate staff to get an answer within two business days, if possible. He stressed that you do not need to register to look at projects. It is a great resource for different things happening around the City of Hastings.

He spoke of the Semi-annual activity guide and newsletter for Fall and Winter 2024. He gave the cost breakdown of printing and distribution of the newsletter.

We are currently going through a Communications Survey which was sent out in the October 2024 Utility Department's "At Your Service". He distributed extra copies at city locations.

Mayor Stutte commented that he is very thankful that we have had great communicators in the position of Public Information Manager.

Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Shawn Hartmann there being no further business to come before the City Council to adjourn at 6:08 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Jeniffer Beahm, Brad Consbruck, Joy Huffaker, Marc Rowan, Shawn Hartmann, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Butch Eley. The motion carried.