

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 23, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Municipal Airport, 3300 West 12th Street, on June 23, 2025.

Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, June 20, 2025. 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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Beckby with the following members present: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong, Maggie Esch, Larry Consbruck. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; City Clerk, Tyler Ficken; Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; City Planner, Ember Batelaan; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash; Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr; Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; Public Information Manager; Tony Herrman; Information Technology, Kirk Layton; Safety Director, Trent Clark.

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

Moved by Maggie Esch seconded by Larry Consbruck to adopt the current agenda except items c and d. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Huntley requested a report from Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler on the recent Utility Board meeting and reported that there are concerns regarding electric boards and scooters being used and inquired regarding law and enforcement. City Attorney, Jesse Oswald stated that the issue had been brought to him by members of the Council and public, and there should be discussion on the topic. Councilmember L. Consbruck added

that it is a huge safety issue. Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler thanked the Council for their input during the prior worksession. The Utility Board discussed the line extension policy and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PIOLT), and he encouraged the Council to log in and view the discussion that occurred at the Utility Board meeting; department budgets were discussed. On July 17, 2025, the Nebraska Public Power District will lead a discussion on the future of nuclear power in Nebraska. The utility is working through the final stages of the billing software.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Edward Krantz and Jacque Cranson spoke in favor of term limits.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Beckby thanked the Hastings Tribune for the article depicting his position on the Utility Board and emphasized the importance of how information is provided from the Utility Board to the Council in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Michael Anderson seconded by Steve Huntley to approve the consent agenda minus items c and d. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of June 9, 2025

(b) Approval of claims and payroll except the claim of Vaughan's Printing

(e) Approval of Work Order WA-342, Nebraska Department of Roads 3 Lane Widening Project 6-4 (1022) C.N. 41086

(c) Approval of Work Order EL-309, installation of single-phase and three-phase underground electric lines, padmount transformers and switch to serve the new Trailside Village single-family residential development south of 31st Street, east of West Laux Drive.

Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Work Order No. EL-309

Installation of single-phase and three-phase underground electric lines, padmount transformers and switch to serve the new Trailside Village single-family residential development south of 31st Street, east of West Laux Drive. Councilmember Anderson stated that given the recent discussion on developer costs, he would like to know how many units are included in this project. Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler stated that the \$7,500 was used as an example; in this instance, the utility would take the total cost divided over the lots, and the developer would pay a percentage. Councilmember Anderson asked if the cost would include the line down the street in addition to the private

connections. Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler answered that the transmission lines would be assessed to the development; streetlights operate independently. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

(d) Approval of Work Order EL-311, installation of underground street light lines and pole-top street light fixtures in the new Trailside Subdivision single-family residential development south of 31st Street, east of West Laux Drive. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve Work Order No. EL-311 Installation of underground street light lines and pole-top street light fixtures in the new Trailside Subdivision single-family residential development south of 31st Street, east of West Laux Drive. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

(a) Ordinance No. 4802 amending Section 34-309 - Signs, Article VI - Nonconformities, and Section 34-314 - Small Wind Energy Systems of the Official Hastings City Code (Tabled at June 9, 2025, City Council Meeting). Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Motion to take from the table Ordinance 4802 revising Section 34-309. Signs, Article VI. Nonconformities, and 34-314. Small Wind Energy Systems of the City's Code of Ordinances. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Matt Fong to approve the amended Ordinance 4802 revising Section 34-309. Signs, Article VI. Nonconformities, and 34-314. Small Wind Energy Systems of the City's Code of Ordinances. City Planner, Ember Baletaan reported that she didn't have any information to add other than the amendment of the ordinance for corrections. Councilmember Anderson asked what some of the known issues are. City Planner, Ember Baletaan provided that some areas of the current code are unclear and seeks equality for those applying for a permit as well as addressing regulations to consider only time, manner and place. Councilmember Rowan asked why the sign issue is being combined with small wind energy systems. City Planner, Ember Baletaan stated that in working through the code, these were the first two sections completed at around the same time. Councilmember Fong stated that it would be worthwhile to release information regarding the regulation of political signs prior to the next election. Public Information Manager; Tony Herrman stated that the City will provide the information to the public nearing election time. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Motion carried. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve

Huntley to suspend the rules on Ordinance 4802 and take to second and final reading. Upon roll call vote the following Councilmembers voted Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinance. The ordinance is declared to be lawfully adopted upon publication as required by law.

(b) Reconsideration of Ordinance No. 4798 amending Section 2-1501 of the Official Hastings City Code establishing term limits and restrictions on multiple appointments to the City Boards and Committees (Failed at May 12, 2025 City Council Meeting). Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Motion to reconsider the vote on Ordinance 4798 amending Section 2-1501 of the Official Hastings City Code establishing term limits and restrictions on multiple appointments to the City Boards and Committees. Councilmember Consbruck stated that he previously voted against approval of said ordinance. Councilmember L. Consbruck shared his concern that a future Mayor might not be willing to make replacements and would like to see it in the City Code. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Jay Beckby. Nays: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried. Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Ordinance 4798 amending Section 2-1501 of the Official Hastings City Code establishing term limits and restrictions on multiple appointments to the City Boards and Committees. Councilmember Fong stated that he appreciates the value of having new people participate on boards and commissions, there are many opportunities to serve, and it is good to have people with history and knowledge of past decisions; the governing body can approve or not approve appointments, and the action is unnecessary. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that he has served on boards where long-term experience is great but has also seen the opposite where new ideas are needed. Councilmember Hoffman stated that the materials should have been reviewed previously; the Mayor and Council can make the appointments. Councilmember Rowan stated that he is not big on the good old folk's club; he would like to see other people speak and have opportunities. Councilmember Esch stated that she would like to have seen some items updated from when this was before the Council previously. The Council should set a precedent by adopting term limits for the Council before putting terms on volunteer positions. The Mayor makes these decisions; Mayor Beckby and mayors in general can exercise the appointment authority. Councilmember Esch stated that she would like to hear new perspectives and appreciates knowledge and expertise; she does not like the act of reconsidering items by the Council. Councilmember Anderson stated that he likes the idea of term limits; there is a lot of

pressure on the Mayor unless there is a blatant reason to remove them; he supports term limits for council members. Councilmember Huntley stated that the term limit will make it easier for people to not regret accepting to serve following a call from the Mayor, or they may want to serve on a different board. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Jay Beckby. Nays: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

3. Public Hearings.

None.

4. General Business.

(a) Approval of the claim of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$420.00. Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Steve Huntley to approve the claim of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$420.00. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Abstain: Maggie Esch Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

(b) Approval of authorizing the Mayor and City Attorney to sign documents relating to acceptance of the FY25 Federal Aviation Administration grant offers. Moved by Steve Huntley and seconded by Maggie Esch authorize Mayor Beckby and Jesse Oswald, city attorney, to execute all required documents related to Project No. 3-31-0040-022-2025 and 3-31-0040-023-2025, on behalf of the City of Hastings, including the Grant Agreement, upon receipt. Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr reported that there is a short window to accept our Federal Funds this year, and the proposed action authorizes acceptance if needed in between council meetings. Councilmember Hoffman asked about matching grants and Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr provided that the City is responsible for ten percent, and the City received twenty-four thousand dollars from the state to help with the match. Councilmember Huntley confirmed with Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr that the grant funds would be used for the apron project. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4803 extending the boundaries and including within the corporate limits of and annexing to the City of Hastings property generally located southeast of the intersection of Fisherman Lane and Outrigger Avenue in Cimarron Meadows 13th Addition (Second Reading). Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Ordinance No. 4803 to annex property generally located southeast of the intersection of Fisherman

Lane and Outrigger Avenue, in the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska on second reading. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

(a) Appointments to Boards and Commissions. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve appointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

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

None.

Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson there being no further business before the Council to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: Brad Consbruck. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(S E A L)