

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 24, 2025

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 July 24, 2025.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Jeanette Dewalt with the following members present: Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Kvols.
Derek Zeisler, Erik Nielsen, Kirk Layton, Tony Herrman, Jaci Higgins, Jason Redding, Micah McCaffery, Shane Stone, Larry Fox, Steve Huntley, Lee Vrooman, Larry Consbruck, Kyle Patten, Noel Nienhueser, Lori Hartman, Roger Nash
Absent: Bill Hitesman, Jesse Oswald, Mark Funkey, Jay Beckby

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Jeanette Dewalt led the group in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR July 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Hemje and seconded by Kvols to adopt the current agenda for the July 24, 2025 regular meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, July 22, 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 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:

We have a couple of presentations today. Thank you to the Utility Board members and council liaisons for letting us present the budget presentation in small groups to be better prepared for today's meeting.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Wanted to thank the board and the staff for present the budget in small groups and answering all questions.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Willis Hunt speaks about his views on the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of June 19, 2025.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Kvals to approve the minutes for the June 19, 2025, meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvals. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman. Minutes approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

i. JK Consulting Line Extension Study Presentation

John Krajewski from JK Consulting gave a presentation on the Contribution in Aid of Construction.

Shannon from HEDC was invited to come speak about how this affects housing development.

ii. FY 25-26 Utility Budget Presentation

Derek and the Utilities staff present and explain the budget for fiscal year 2025/2026.

Budget Highlights

- The utilities include electric, gas, water, and sewer services.
- Projecting FY 2025 to end (cash change): Electric-increase, gas-increase, water-increase, sewer-decrease.
- No additional rate increases are requested for FY 2026 beyond the cost-of-service study results.

Budget Assumptions

- Cost of service study result utilized - Electric (5%), Gas (6.3%), Water (5%)
- Material Inflation - 3%
- Economic Impacts Budgeted - Payroll ~ 2.5%
- Forecasted revenue growth (non-rate) - 1%
- Forecasted expense inflation (forecast) - 3%
- Target for unencumbered cash & rate stabilization (% of operating expense) >50%

- Capital execution rate (target % of budget) - 75% electric, 80% gas, 65% water, 70% sewer

Utilities dept staffing - no change in total headcount

Payment in Lieu of Taxes is being moved to a dividend fee. This is not an additional charge to the customers, it is just being taken out of the utility revenue and expense.

(b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Moved by Susan Meeske, seconded by Mark Hemje, there being no further business to adjourn at 10:39 am. Roll Call: Ayes: Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: Hitesman. Meeting Adjourned.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary