CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 8, 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 September 8, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Regular Session by Mayor Beckby with the following members present: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Maggie Esch, Larry Consbruck, Brad Consbruck, Matt Fong. Absent: None. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; City Clerk, Tyler Ficken; Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Police Chief, Adam Story; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; Development Services Director, Kevin Kubo; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash; 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 Brian Hoffman seconded by Maggie Esch to adopt the current agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 5, 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.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:
Councilmember Rowan commended City Administrator Funkey for a good job during the recent open house. Councilmember Huntley thanked those who attended the open house and Mike Anderson felt it was important to hear from the community about the budget.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Pat Mertens and Scott Kvols spoke in favor of funding for the HEDC.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Service Anniversaries: Andrew Mangenot, Fire 5; Tanner Cline, Fire 5; Keith Miller, Engineering 10; Jessica Tate, Business Office 5; Jacob Dean, Electric 10.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

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

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of August 25, 2025

(b) Approval of the minutes of the Worksession of August 18, 2025

(c) Approval of claims and payroll

(d) Approval of the request of Ensign Beverage and First Street Brewing Company to utilize city property for the Hastings Firefighters Association Local Union 675, IAFF, AFL-CIO Annual Stash Bash event on October 4, 2025

(e) Approval of the request of No Coast Brewing, LLC dba First Street Brewing Company for a Special Designated Liquor License for the Annual Stash Bash fundraising event on St. Joseph Avenue, 1st Street north to the alley on October 4, 2025

(f) Approval of the request of the Hastings Public Library to utilize city property for the Downtown Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2025

(g) Approval of BAD Sports Inc. permit to occupy or use a portion of the City street right-of-way

(h) Approval of Work Order GA-389, replacing the existing WR Reserve meter with a new higher-capacity ultrasonic meter

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

None.

4. General Business.

(a) Approval of the 2025-2026 Salary Schedule for the City of Hastings, Nebraska. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to approve the City of Hastings, Nebraska 2025-2026 fiscal year salary schedule. Human Resources Director, Lori Hartman reported that there is a 2.5% increase based upon cities in the array. Councilmember Anderson asked if positions not funded in the budget are included on the schedule. City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that the positions are not included in the department head counts in the budget. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(b) Approval of Wage Addendum to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9 Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve the wage addendum to Faternal Order of Police Lodge 9 collective bargaining agreement for fiscal year October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Human Resources Director, Lori Hartman reported that the addendum is the result of an annual comparability study per the contract. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(c) Approval of Wage Addendum to Hastings Firefighters Association Local Union 675, IAFF, AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Move to Approve Wage Addendum to Hastings Firefighters Association Local Union 675, IAFF, AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement for Fiscal Year October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Human Resources Director, Lori Hartman reported that the addendum is the result of an annual comparability study per the contract. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(d) Approval of Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce Funding Agreement. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch approve of Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce Funding Agreement. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(e) Approval of Hastings Economic Development Corporation Funding Agreement. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to Approve Hastings Economic Development Corporation Funding Agreement. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Maggie

Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(f) Authorizing the Mayor to execute documents necessary to obtain and maintain a letter of credit from Five Points Bank of Hastings in the amount of $1,690,304.25 to satisfy the Performance Guarantee obligations related to Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Matt Fong to approve that the Mayor be authorized to execute those documents necessary to obtain and maintain a letter of credit from Five Points Bank of Hastings in the amount of $1,690,304.25 to satisfy the Performance Guarantee obligations related to the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site. Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash reported that the EPA requires that the city assure funds are set aside for potential testing and cleanup; the amount required is provided by the EPA. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(g) Approval of the agreement with the Babcock & Wilcox Company for the Whelan Energy Center 1 Bottom Ash Water Recirculation System. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve the agreement with The Babcock & Wilcox Company for the WEC 1 Bottom Ash Water Recirculation System in the amount of $444,576.33. Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman stated the staff recommends approval of the lower of two bids; the project is under the engineer's estimate and is driven by regulation. Councilmember Huntley asked if there are any other future regulatory changes expected from the federal government. Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman stated that the City is on the tail end of the federal regulation, but it is not an absolute. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4809 adopting the Annual Appropriation Bill for the City of Hastings and adopting appropriate sums for the necessary expenses and liability for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Maggie Esch to adopt Ordinance No. 4809 adopting the Annual Appropriation Bill for the City of Hastings and adopting appropriate sums for the necessary expenses and liability for the fiscal year 2025-2026. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that the proposed budget has not materially changed; a timeline of the budget process was provided. Councilmember Huntley and City Administrator Mark Funkey discussed the timing of the pink postcard meeting and when notice is required to be sent to the County; the meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at the Hasting High School Auditorium and will be attended by City Administrator Mark Funkey and Mayor Beckby. Councilmember B. Consbruck questioned the timing of the pink postcard meeting and asked what the increase would be. City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that the City's tax ask will be 7.21% greater than the prior year. Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash provided that if the Council makes a change to the tax ask to be no higher than 2% plus growth of .95%, it will become unnecessary to attend the meeting. Councilmember L. Consbruck asked if the increase would put the City in a position not to use cash reserves. Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash stated that cash reserve would be used towards capital expenditures. At the request of Councilmember Fong, City Administrator Mark Funkey reviewed the proposed cuts, which include staff reduction through attrition of $800,000, operating expenses of $309,000, and capital expenses for the airport will be reimbursed largely through federal funding; personnel costs will be up 1.53% from the prior year which includes the 2.5% increase previously approved. Councilmember Hoffman and City Administrator Mark Funkey discussed the proposed fee schedule and making sensible increases. Councilmember Rowan and City Administrator Mark Funkey discussed additional cuts as requested to include training, conferences, professional memberships, League of Nebraska Municipalities, safety awards, demolition funds and the jet hangar. Councilmember Huntley and City Administrator Mark Funkey discussed bonding the City Hall project, but without a revenue source to pay for the bond, the funds would ultimately need to come from a cash reserve restricted fund with interest in the future. Councilmember Fong asked about any state or federal funding changes that would have an impact on the budget. City Attorney Jesse Oswald stated that the Legislature is not currently in session, and the federal level is an unknown. Councilmember Huntley stated that the people attending the open house were not in support of the budget and that weighs on his mind. Mayor Beckby discussed the numbers with Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash and determined that for an average home in Hastings, the additional tax ask is approximately $6 per month. Councilmember Huntley stated that reduction by the City would help with taxes overall; Councilmember Anderson added that people are living on fixed incomes. Mayor Beckby provided that the cash reserve trajectory is projected to shrink, and City services will be impacted; cash reserves will go from $13 million to $500,000 by 2030. City Administrator Mark Funkey added the timeline for the cash reserve would be advanced if the levy is reduced. Councilmember Anderson stated that the community needs to grow, and he is a no on the budget. Councilmember B. Consbruck stated that his problem with the budget is that it is an increase. City Administrator Mark Funkey and Councilmember B. Consbruck discussed service levels and whether Council or staff would be making the decisions on where the cuts would be made. Councilmembers Huntley, Hoffman and Esch discussed the amount of input the Council has had on the budget, with Councilmember

Huntley stating that the input has not been adequate and Hoffman and Esch disagreeing. Councilmember Anderson stated that his work schedule did not allow him to attend meetings, but he appreciated the updates from City Administrator Mark Funkey; an opportunity to sit down with the department heads can add to the conversation. Mayor Beckby stated that the budget includes $800,000 in personnel cuts and $300,000 in operational cuts; planning could begin even earlier next year, but many of the questions tonight could have been addressed months ago. Councilmember Anderson stated that members of the Council may not understand the budget as well as Mayor Beckby; it takes time to look through the budget, and the City Administrator made clarifications and provided information, and answered questions in a timely manner, and this year is probably better than last year, and the process can always improve. Councilmember Anderson stated that he doesn't want to see employees fired, but there is a need to continue to trim. Councilmember Hoffman stated that household expenditures are up, and the City is facing the same. Councilmember Huntley asked where employees are brought in on the pay scale, and Human Resources Director Lori Hartman provided that they are generally brought in at step one. Mayor Beckby provided an observation from the open house meeting that there was concern about the auditorium foundation, cemetery mowing, and the early closing of Fisher Fountain. Directly following that discussion, the question was asked regarding support for the budget, and it was quiet; you can't have your cake and eat it too, because the City is a service organization, and it costs money. Roll Call: Ayes: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Absent: None. The motion failed.

(b) Resolution No. 2025-26 adopting property tax request at a different amount for fiscal year 2025-2026. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-26 adopting property tax request at a different amount for fiscal year 2025-2026. Councilmember Rowan asked why the motion includes the "different" language if the levy is proposed to remain the same. Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash responded that the levy is proposed to be the same, but the tax ask is different; the resolution language is provided by the state. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked what the tax ask was the prior year and Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash provided an answer of $8,445,000. Roll Call: Ayes: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Absent: None. The motion failed. Councilmember Hoffman asked that the Council provide feedback to the City Administrator and staff on what the tax ask should be since the proposal was not approved. Councilmember Anderson stated that the budget needs to be reduced to what it was the prior year. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that if the aim is not to attend the pink postcard meeting, the City is allowed 2% plus growth for a total of 2.95% which would reduce the tax ask from 7.2% down to 2.95%. Councilmember Rowan asked if that would be $600,000, and City Administrator Mark Funkey replied that it would be closer to $400,000. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that it would be a reasonable goal. Councilmember Esch asked if this change would affect the cash reserve. Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash responded that if the tax ask is reduced to 2.95%, the tax ask would be reduced by $360,000; the tax ask would be reduced to $8,695,076, and the levy would drop to .379091. Councilmember L. Consbruck asked if the surplus account would be raided. City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that changes would need to be made to the budget. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve at 2.95% or $8,695,076 with a levy amount of .379091. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(c) Resolution No. 2025-27 adopting 2025-2026 Annual Fee Resolution. Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Resolution No. 2025-27 adopting 2025-2026 Annual Fee Resolution. City Administrator Mark Funkey reported that an item added includes the move from a PILOT fee to a dividend fee which is included in the fee resolution; the proposed rates for Electric, Gas and Water were provided and is expected to generate approximately $4.3 million to support municipal functions. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked if the City has been working on the restaurant tax and City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that staff has been working on projected revenues and plan to bring the item to Council soon at a worksession. Councilmember Hoffman asked if it would be prudent to review the proposed fee schedule since the budget was not approved. City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that the proposed dividend fees, given concerns on cash reserve, is proposed to be increased by $500,000 over the PILOT fee from the prior year. Councilmember Hoffman added that the City may need to look at the rates for the pool, basketball courts, farm leases, season passes; the dollars matter; Councilmember Hoffman added, that with a levy reduction, the cash reserve will be reduced faster, to perhaps 2028. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that he was surprised at the low rates for farm leases; the going rates are around $150/acre. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked if the fee resolution could be reviewed for increases in certain areas; City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that staff could review the schedule and find places to increase. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Steve Huntley to postpone the current fee schedule for the City of Hastings and send it back to the staff to look at and add increases to some fees on the schedule until the September 15, 2025 Special City Council meeting. Councilmember Anderson stated that the value of leased property should be known before it is leased, and there might be a need to hire a broker and have a list of leased property. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(d) Ordinance No. 4810 providing for an electric dividend fee and amending electric rates to remove the PILOT fee (Second and possible Final Reading.) Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Ordinance No. 4810 amending Section 52-404 of the official city code providing for an electric dividend fee and amending electric rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve second and final reading on Ordinance No. 4810 amending Section 52-404 of the official city code providing for an electric dividend fee and amending electric rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. 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.

(e) Ordinance No. 4811 providing for a gas dividend fee and amending gas rates to remove the PILOT fee (Second and possible Final Reading.) Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Matt Fong to approve Ordinance No. 4811 amending Section 52-502 of the official city code providing for a gas dividend fee and amending the gas rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve second and final reading on Ordinance No. 4811 amending Section 52-502 of the official city code providing for a gas dividend fee and amending the gas rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. 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.

(f) Ordinance No. 4812 providing for a water dividend fee and amending water rates to remove the PILOT fee (Second and possible Final Reading.) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Ordinance No. 4812 amending Section 52-910 of the official city code providing for a water dividend fee and amending water rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve second and final reading on Ordinance No. 4812 amending Section 52-910 of the official city code providing for a water dividend fee and amending water rates to remove the PILOT fee. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. 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.

(g) Resolution No. 2025-30 approving the 2026-2031 One and Six Year Street Improvement Plan. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution No. 2025-30 adopting the City of Hastings Engineering Department 2026-2031 One and Six Year Street Improvement Plan. Director of Engineering Lee Vrooman reported that the public hearing for this item was held at the last City Council meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(h) Resolution No. 2025-31 authorizing the Mayor to sign documents relating to the acquisition of new right-of-way, permanent easement and temporary easement by the Nebraska Department of Transportation from the City of Hastings for the Hastings Southeast project. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Resolution No. 2025-31 authorizing the Mayor to sign documents relating to the acquisition of new right-of-way, permanent easement and temporary easement by the Nebraska Department of Transportation from the City of Hastings for the Hastings Southeast project. Councilmember Huntley asked if the State is still on schedule for bidding in the fall. Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman confirmed and reported that the State is acquiring seven tracks from the City of Hastings; the City will receive approximately $164,000. Councilmember Hoffman asked when the public could begin to see detours in the area. Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman stated that detour activity would begin around the bid letting in November. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

None.

8. Miscellaneous and Other Business.

None.

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

None.

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Beckby adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

APPROVED:

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George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(S E A L)