

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Municipal Airport, 3300 W. 12th Street, on September 15, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Special 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 Matt Fong 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 Special Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 12, 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 following citizens spoke on the budget: Shawn Hartmann, Jacque Cranson, Joseph Chapman, Sam Rundle, Alyssa Langholz, Bruce Rundle, Jody Stutzman, Caroline Kemp, Dave Rippe, Craig Hubbard, Mikayla Wright, Joyce Moore, Daniel Hernandez, Collin Lewis, Kelsey Denson, Chuck Conrad, Brad Beahm, Justine McMurray, Scott Barwick, Susan

Meeske, Megan Arrington-Williams, Lucinda Glen, Edward Krontz, Georgie Warnock, Jessica Rohan.

AGENDA ITEMS:

(1.) Amended 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 Brad Consbruck seconded by Michael Anderson to approve amended 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 and amending the tax asking of the City of Hastings on all real estate and personal property to be reduced by a total of \$360,522. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that he worked with staff to meet the necessary reductions and outlined the proposed reductions in the operational areas of Administration Professional Services, Administration Training and Conferences, Safety Awards, Activity Guide, Credit Card Fees and service areas of Water Park Operation, Library Hours, Hoopla, Museum part-time position and Museum Hollywood Movies, various additional reductions at the Museum and the demolition fund. The total proposed reduction would be in the amount of \$368,071. Councilmember Rowan asked if the proposed cuts were in consultation with the department heads, and City Administrator Mark Funkey confirmed. Councilmember Rowan followed up regarding proposed cuts, including membership in the League of Nebraska Municipalities. Utility Manager Derek Zeisler discussed how the League provides substantial value when the league assisted with policy objectives, revolving loan funds, and municipal equalization. Councilmember Rowan stated his concern that league meetings have been lightly attended, and City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that keeping costs low was part of the consideration. Councilmember Huntley stated that he had looked at the budget and provided a handout of proposed reductions including Administration Professional Services. Councilmember Anderson expressed his concern that the City Administrator's cut list was not received by the Council until 3:34 p.m., the date of the meeting, he appreciates the feedback from the community; it's difficult to respond to questions without the information. Councilmember Huntley continued with proposed cuts to include auditorium professional services, fire department professional services, stormwater management professional services and advertising, and larger cuts to the contingency fund of \$200,000 and fire sinking fund by \$100,000; Councilmember Huntley stated that the Council could add items back in or adjust the numbers without cutting services. Councilmember Hoffman asked Fire Chief Troy Vorderstrasse if he had a conversation with Councilmember Huntley regarding the reduction in the sinking fund. The budget process was discussed between Mayor Beckby, Councilmember Hoffman,

Councilmember Huntley and City Administrator Mark Funkey. Councilmember Hoffman stated that cuts to professional services could help to educate staff on topics like proposed cuts. Councilmember Huntley stated that the goal of his proposal is to avoid cutting services and reduce taxes for his ward. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that the direction he received was to cut services and stressed in strong terms his desire for the Council to provide direction on cuts earlier in the budget process. Councilmember Michael Anderson stressed the need to work together even at the 11th hour; the goal is to save money without cutting services. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that the proposed cuts may have merit, but staff has not had time to review the impacts of changes to the contingency and sinking fund items. Councilmember Huntley provided that sometimes ideas come late when looking at the budget from many angles by both the Council and staff. Councilmember Esch stated that there should be accountability for actions; the conversation needs to occur earlier. Councilmember Huntley, Hoffman and City Administrator Funkey discussed the process of adopting the budget and how information is presented to the Council. Councilmember L. Consbruck added that the valuations are received at a time that limits the time that staff and Council must work with actual numbers; valuations have been up over the years. Councilmembers Anderson and B. Consbruck spoke about the complexity of the budget and adjusting the priorities. Councilmember B. Consbruck acknowledged that City Administrator Funkey did what the Council asked by cutting more than \$360,000 from the budget and discussed the timing of the list of the proposed cuts vs. having the time needed to finalize the proposed cuts. Councilmember B. Consbruck added that members of the City Council were also looking at cuts to the budget, and the cuts presented by Councilmember Huntley were completed the afternoon of the meeting also. Mayor Beckby expressed his concern that Council members were working on cuts, and he was not part of that conversation; he inquired as to who was part of those conversations. Councilmember Huntley acknowledged that he and Councilmembers Anderson, B. Consbruck, L. Consbruck were involved, and Councilmember Rowan had some input consisting of conversations. Mayor Beckby stated that the City has a well-paid staff that was directed to provide the cuts, but some Council members were working to provide a budget; that is not the process. Councilmember B. Consbruck stated that they were not together at all at the same time. Mayor Beckby recalled that as a candidate during the prior budget process the budget was brought together at the last minute; the budget process began earlier this year, and he would argue that it has been the most transparent process by staff that has ever occurred by the City. Councilmembers Huntley and B. Consbruck provided that they did not work to provide their own budget, but to provide suggestions for cuts. Councilmember Hoffman inquired about the details of the cuts proposed by Councilmember Huntley and provided the jet hangar as a possible cut. Councilmember Esch stated that the proposed cuts are

investments in the people, she would like the focus to remain on growth and investing in people; she would prefer to cut the jet hangar. Councilmember L. Consbruck and Rowan suggested reviewing the two cut proposals to achieve a compromise. Councilmember Rowan stated that he does not support the cuts to library and museum services. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that he was directed to cut services and avoid public safety; the alternative is museum, library and parks. City Administrator Mark Funkey and staff provided some details on the Council proposed cuts to professional services, advertising and contingency. Councilmember Fong stated that he does not support many of the proposed cuts, but for the cuts to be considered, they need to be vetted by the professionals; it is unfortunate that it has come down to the end of the budget process again for the decisions, since there has been plenty of time. Councilmember Hoffman asked to hear from Matt Kuhr on the jet hangar. City Administrator Mark Funkey provided that federal funding for the jet hangar may not be reliable and could be used for non-jet aircraft in the meantime. Councilmember Esch asked Airport Manager Matt Kuhr if it would be possible for the jet owner to pay for the hangar. Airport Manager Matt Kuhr provided that a person leasing the ground would be an option. Airport Manager Matt Kuhr provided that he received direction to proceed, and some engineering dollars have been spent towards the project; the jet hangar would allow an increase in status to receive additional funding and agreed that funding could change from the federal government, the status change would result in an extra \$150,000 per year and will be sunsetting in a couple of years. Councilmember B. Consbruck stated that he would support the jet hangar coming off the budget. Councilmember Anderson suggested leaving some of the funding in the budget for the hangar and City Administrator Mark Funkey agreed; the hangar could proceed in a phased approach. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Motion to amend Ordinance No. 4809 amending to remove jet hangar amount down to \$375,000. 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. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Brad Consbruck to amend Ordinance No. 4809 to remove credit card fees of \$18,000 from the City budget with fees being covered by the person charging them excluding landfill and utilities. Councilmember Esch asked if additional cuts are necessary since the needed cuts have been met and not charge the citizens for credit card fees. It could be an item to discuss the following budget year. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman. Nays: Maggie Esch, Matt Fong. Absent: None. The motion carried. The Council discussed the need to make additional cuts. Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Michael Anderson to amend Ordinance No. 4809 to remove administrative services as City Administrator Mark Funkey proposed \$10,000 of administrative training and conferences of \$5,000. Councilmember Esch stated that she views the item as an

investment in staff expertise; for growth there needs to be investment. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Nays: Maggie Esch, Matt Fong, Brian Hoffman. Absent: None. The motion carried. Mayor Beckby called for the Council to vote on the original motion on Ordinance No. 4809 as amended. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Matt Fong, Brian Hoffman. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: None. The motion carried. Councilmember Brian Hoffman moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended; Councilmember Maggie Esch seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote the following Councilmembers voted Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Matt Fong, Brian Hoffman. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: None. 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.

(2.) Resolution No. 2025-27 adopting 2025-2026 Annual Fee Resolution (Postponed from the September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting.) Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Resolution No. 2025-27 adopting 2025-2026 Annual Fee Resolution as amended. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked if the dividend fee would increase utility rates. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that the proposed dividend fee would increase the amount of dividend as a proposal from the City to address cash position. At the request of Councilmember Huntley, City Administrator Mark Funkey provided the proposed dividend rates which would generate approximately \$4.3 million. Councilmember Huntley asked if water park attendance dropped in the past with price increases. Parks and Recreation Director Hassenstab stated that attendance has not decreased. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Larry Consbruck to amend Resolution No. 2025-27 to reduce the dividend fee to the prior fiscal year amount. 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. Mayor Beckby called for a vote on the original motion as amended. 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.

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Beckby adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Geroge J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(SEAL)

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