

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 22, 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 22, 2025.

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, Brian Hoffman, Maggie Esch, Larry Consbruck, Brad Consbruck, Matt Fong. Absent: Marc Rowan. The following City Officials were present: 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; 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 Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to adopt the current agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, September 19, 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 Fong thanked Parks & Recreation, airport volunteers and participants for the success of the 5K on the Runway event. Councilmember Hoffman asked the public to keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities for Celebration of Lights. Councilmember Anderson thanked those who volunteered for the convoy event and thanked the truck drivers.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Sydney Erickson of the HEDC spoke in support of the Pacha Soap CDBG grant application. Edward Krantz spoke on the budget process. Rich Wilton invited people to a meeting of his group and children in the streets on electric scooters. Andrew Vrbas thanked the Council for support on the Pacha Soap CDBG grant application.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Beckby participated in the evening of worship event; approximately 700 people attended. He also enjoyed the convoy event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

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

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of September 8, 2025
 - (b) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of September 8, 2025
 - (c) Approval of claims and payroll
 - (d) Approval of the request of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce to utilize city property for the Celebration of Lights event on November 20, 2025

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the application of Chaudhary Liquor, LLC dba "Top Shelf Liquor" for a Class "D" Liquor License (Beer, Wine, Spirits, Off Sale) at 905 Theatre Drive, Suite 4. Resolution No. 2025-33 approving the application of Chaudhary Liquor, LLC dba "Top Shelf Liquor" for a Class "D" Liquor License at 905 Theatre Drive, Suite 4. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Receiving no comments, Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Resolution No. 2025-33 approving the application of Chaudhary Liquor, LLC dba "Top Shelf Liquor" for a Class "D" Liquor License at 905 Theatre Drive, Suite 4. Police Chief Adam Story recommended approval of the application. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

(b) Approval of the manager application of Harshil Chaudhary in connection with the Class "D" Liquor License of Chaudhary Liquor, LLC dba "Top Shelf Liquor" located at 905 Theatre Drive, Suite 4. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve Approval of the manager application of Harshil Chaudhary in connection with the Class "D" Liquor License of Chaudhary Liquor, LLC dba "Top Shelf Liquor" located at 905 Theatre Drive, Suite 4. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

(c) Public hearing regarding an application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$245,000 for Pacha Soap Co. Resolution No. 2025-34 authorizing the Chief Elected Official to sign an application for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$255,000 for Pacha Soap Co. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Andrew Vrbas spoke in support of the project, and people are moving back to Hastings from around the country. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Resolution 2024-34 authorizing the Chief Elected Official to sign an application for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$255,000 for Pacha Soap Co. City Attorney Jesse Oswald reported that the item was previously approved; there is a request for an additional \$70,000 to add two jobs to the project. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

4. General Business.

(a) Approval of the purchase of a 2025 F-150 Lightning Electric Truck from Hastings Ford. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Maggie Esch to approve the purchase of a 2025 F-150 Lightning Electric Truck from Hastings Ford. Utility Manager Derek Zeisler reported on the electric vehicle grant which will allow the utility to purchase a 2025 Chevy Equinox and 2025 Ford Lightning pickup for \$9,165 after grant funding. Councilmember Huntley asked if the cost would include charging stations and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler confirmed that they would be charged in the shop. Councilmember Anderson asked about the life expectancy of the vehicles and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler commented that it is a relatively new technology, and the life expectancy is offset by the low cost to the City, and they will be used in town. Councilmember Anderson followed up with questions on insurance costs and the safety of parking them indoors with the large vehicle fleet, and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler provided that the insurance costs are generally the same as gas-powered vehicles, and he is aware that the vehicle batteries do not do well in the cold. Councilmember Hoffman thanked the utility for the work on the grant. Roll Call: Ayes:

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

(b) Approval of authorizing the Mayor to sign easement agreement with Nebraska Public Power District for a Natural Gas Pipeline. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign the Easement agreement with NPPD for a Natural Gas Pipeline. Director of Engineering reported that the easement is for a natural gas pipeline for the Hastings Southeast Project, and is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Street and Showboat Blvd. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

(c) Approval of insurance coverage for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve the City's insurance coverage for FY2025-26 to Travelers' Insurance Company for Property, Casualty, Crime, and Workers' Compensation; Corvus for Cyber; Old Republic for Airport; AEGIS for Utility Excess Liability; FM Global for Utility Property coverage; and Chubb for Utility Inland Marine. Jeff Scanlan and Mark Frantz of FNIC reported on the renewal process. FNIC has served as the insurance broker for the City of Hastings since 2018 for placement, risk management and consulting. Travelers carries the bulk of the City's policies and are a good fit for a community the size of Hastings, Covis is the Cyber carrier, FM is the Utility property carrier and AEGIS provides the umbrella coverage. The costs of coverage came in as expected for the renewal with a 6% increase with a 3% increase in rate and another 3% in changes to exposure. Property insurance has been a cost driver, but those costs are beginning to level off, and the Workers' Compensation experience mod is .61, which exceeds peers and costs have decreased. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

(d) Discussion on establishing an ordinance for lightweight E-scooter and one-wheel scooter usage on public property. City Attorney Oswald reported updates to the ordinance which included: prohibiting use on streets with posted speeds in excess of 25mph, prohibiting use on sidewalks in business districts, and requiring they yield to pedestrians on sidewalks. Mayor Beckby stated his preference to have the Ordinance on a worksession and have an approved ordinance in October. Councilmember Hoffman addressed the topic of helmets and sought the input of Police Chief Adam Story. Councilmember B. Consbruck discussed the legality of requiring helmets due to State law and discussed a review of that law with City Attorney Jesse Oswald.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

None.

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

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 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(S E A L)