

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Worksession Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted at the Hastings Municipal Airport, 3300 W. 12th Street, on January 20, 2026.

The Worksession Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council President Steve Huntley with the following members present: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong.

City Officials Present: Mayor Jay Beckby, Mark Funkey, Jesse Oswald, Lori Vorderstrasse, Adam Story, Troy Vorderstrasse, Erik Nielsen, Jeff Hassenstab, Lee Vrooman, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson, Tony Herrman, Lori Hartman, Derek Zeisler, Kevin Kubo, Kirk Layton, Trent Clark, Michelle Hill, Anthony Murphy.

Others Present: Matt Moshier, Head of Engineering with NewCarbon and Omar Khayum, NewCarbon CEO.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Michael Anderson seconded by Larry Consbruck to adopt the current agenda for the January 20, 2026 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, January 16, 2026. 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.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Delegated Authority: Dave Rippe, 1312 Heritage Drive, Dennis Schissel, 8202 N. 167th Avenue, Bennington, NE, (Hastings College), Natalie and Artur Terabelian (Dragonfly and Firefly Inns), Kevin Smith, 1005 W. "E" Street (Heartwell Renewables)

UTV regulations: Sandra Thaut, Good Samaritan Village, Tyler Long, 2850 Osborne Drive East (Powerhouse)

Meeting time change: Roger Coffman, 849 N. Burlington Avenue

NewCarbon Landfill RNG Project update.

Michelle Hill, Solidwaste Superintendent, stated she wanted to update City Council and share some of the progress and the timeline regarding the Landfill Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project. Matt Moshier, Head of Engineering with NewCarbon, and Omar Khayum, NewCarbon CEO were present from NewCarbon. Mr. Moshier indicated they were last here on May 12, 2025, NewCarbon, LLC and the City of Hastings entered into a 25-year Landfill Gas Purchase and Ground Lease Agreement to develop a Landfill RNG project at the City's Solid Waste Landfill. NewCarbon is investing \$20 million in development which enables compliance as well as generating \$2 million for the City in royalty revenue over the course of the project.

Ms. Hill discussed the Landfill Fill Plan and indicated this is not the original plan, but the one that works best for both parties for the project. She stated that the Landfill Fill Plan focuses on stacking waste in cells five and six with it tapering a little bit into cell four with a base elevation of 1940' (2027) and ultimately getting up to an elevation of 1960' (2029).

Mr. Moshier indicated to Council that any real meaningful development will start in 2028 which coincides with the stacking of the waste. He spoke about the two conditions, Landfill achieves 1.6 million short tons of waste in place and cells five and six reach an elevation of 1960'. Mr. Moshier reminded Council that NewCarbon is building the LFG Collection and Flaring System and the RNG Processing Plant. He reviewed the RNG Project Schedule: **City of Hastings Landfill - 2027 - height 1940', 2028 - height 1950', 2029 - height 1960' NewCarbon RNG Project - development 2028-2030, construction 2029-2031, operations 2031 and onward.**

Councilmember Hoffman asked about the total life span of the project. Mr. Moshier indicated 25 years. Councilmember Larry Consbruck asked if the project was using any of the unlined portion of the Landfill. Ms. Hill stated that everything that NewCarbon would be capturing has a lining under it. Councilmember Larry Consbruck asked if the old unlined portion is unrecoverable. Mr. Moshier stated it would be a lower recovery and not worthwhile to gather the gas. Councilmember Fong asked if this was the timeline they expected going into the project. Mr. Moshier stated it was. Councilmember Anderson asked about the CO2 and the Sulfur. Mr. Moshier indicated the Sulfur is collected and just removed and the CO2 is omitted. Councilmember Anderson asked about the EPA benefit. Mr. Moshier stated the EPA guidance was to reduce the amount of methane omitted and that is what they are doing.

Discussion regarding Delegated Authority.

Troy Vorderstrasse, Fire Chief, stated that tonight's discussion is about Delegated Authority and the process. He talked about Delegated Authority being a process for reducing red tape, confusion, and duplication of effort by transferring the State fire and life safety code processes from the State Fire Marshal's Office/Deputies to a qualified local entity. He indicated similar approaches already seen in the City: electrical code/inspectors, Nebraska accessibilities code/inspectors and local law enforcement. He stated that Delegated Authority is allowed by the following State Statute: §81-502 (3) The State Fire Marshal may delegate the authority set forth in this section and section 81-503.01 to qualified local fire prevention personnel. He listed the following Delegated Cities: Scottsbluff, North Platte, Grand Island, Papillion/Lavista, Boys Town, Norfolk, Omaha, Lincoln and Bellevue as well as UNK/UNL/UNO. Chief Vorderstrasse reviewed the building permit review/inspection process without Delegated Authority and with Delegated Authority. He spoke about the issue of delays, weeks or months, when dealing with the State Fire Marshal's office due to the vast area they have to cover. He told Council that Delegated Authority moves the permit process to a much simpler, quicker and more efficient process. Chief Vorderstrasse reviewed previous discussions regarding improving the permitting and development process in Hastings starting in May of 2024. He discussed statistics since July of 2024 related to Delegated Authority including plans reviewed, inspections, equivalencies granted, temporary certificates of occupancy granted and staff hours saved on conflict resolution. He explained the QR code on each inspector's card so that citizens can give feedback regarding the permit process and their experience with it. He shared with the Council the mostly positive feedback received since July of 2024 regarding customers' overall experience with Delegated Authority.

Chief Vorderstrasse stated that in looking back over the last year, he felt there are more advantages than disadvantages. He felt the developers, contractors and builders like the process due to it being more efficient and less complex, and in reaching out to other communities, he found the response to be the same and that the benefits are the same in

Hastings as they are in other communities.

Councilmember Rowan stated he has been against Delegated Authority for a long time due to concerns regarding having to hire more people and asked Chief Vorderstrasse to address the workload. Chief Vorderstrasse stated that they had taken on 31 state licensure inspections in the year. He explained that would be the extra workload so the licensure component of the State code is what has been taken on but he felt it was worth it for the developers even though the workload is heavy. Councilmember Huntley questioned the number of staff eligible to do Delegated Authority.

Councilmember Fong left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Chief Vorderstrasse indicated they have two, the Risk Reduction Officer and the Fire Inspector. Councilmember Huntley asked if Chief Vorderstrasse or his assistant chiefs could do Delegated Authority. Chief Vorderstrasse stated there are state requirements that must be met and if you trained current staff, they would have to be pulled off an ambulance or firetruck. Councilmember Rowan brought up the complaints about attitude and that was not good and that seems to have worked itself out. Councilmember Huntley questioned if there is anything we can't do with Delegated Authority. It was indicated that inspections related to underground storage tanks and state buildings could not be done under Delegated Authority by the City. Councilmember Anderson asked if all businesses are inspected. Chief Vorderstrasse stated that all new and existing buildings are inspected every three years. Councilmember Esch asked why they are talking about this item and if there are issues or is it just an update. Chief Vorderstrasse indicated it was a pilot program and they are at the one-year review date. Councilmember Huntley stated that if he remembered right, they didn't have to do anything as a Council to continue Delegated Authority and in fact, they could have put it into place without Council approval. Chief Vorderstrasse indicated that was correct. Councilmember Huntley asked for a quarterly written report. Chief Vorderstrasse stated they could do whatever the Council wants. Councilmember Brad Consbruck stated that it seems to be working more efficiently now and he has heard very few complaints and it seems a lot different than in the beginning. He also stated he felt an annual update would be fine. Councilmember Hoffman stated they don't ask for quarterly reports from any other departments, so it could be an annual report or go under the development services reporting. Councilmember Hoffman asked about a renewal process with the state regarding Delegate Authority. Chief Vorderstrasse indicated that once the State delegates the authority to the City, they have that authority until the City asks them not to have it. Councilmember Hoffman asked about required continued education. Chief Vorderstrasse indicated they do have requirements for continued education. Councilmember Hoffman asked if the state has any spot checking. Chief Vorderstrasse indicated that the Risk Reduction Officer meets with Deputy State Fire Marshals quarterly. Councilmember Hoffman stated he felt it is working great and appreciated the efforts of staff.

Discussion of UTV regulations on city streets.

Councilmember Mike Anderson indicated he was approached by people who thought this might be a good idea. He stated there are cities that are comparable to Hastings who have regulations for UTVs and he just wanted discussion. Councilmember Esch questioned if golf carts were allowed at Good Samaritan Village (GSV). Adam Story, Police Chief, indicated that GSV is private property so they are allowed but they are not allowed on public roadways. Councilmember Rowan stated he appreciated bringing it up, even if they don't go forward with it and stated he likes the input from citizens. Councilmember Anderson stated that other states have statewide allowance of UTVs. Councilmember Larry Consbruck cautioned that this might open the door to other stuff down the road. Councilmember Brad Consbruck stated he didn't disagree with Larry, but didn't know if there was a necessity for this type of thing or that it is

something they would want to take on. Chief Story clarified that he didn't know how a farmer driving a UTV into town would work, since you can't drive them on the highway, they can only be driven from field to field for work in the county and they aren't allowed to be drive down a gravel road for five miles to get to a town. He indicated you would be breaking the law to get to our town and he wanted to point this out as problematic and couldn't be accomplished legally. Councilmember Hoffman stated his feeling was they are designed to be the modern workhorse on the farm and he felt it would be very dangerous to allow them in Hastings and he was against it. Councilmember Anderson thanked staff for putting this item on the agenda and getting it out for discussion.

Discussion on changing the time of City Council Worksessions and Council Meetings back to 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Brad Consbruck stated that he felt the moving of the time back was a pilot program and that they were previously meeting at 5:30 p.m. and the thought was to move the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. and see if that was better for public attendance. He state he felt that with the exception of hot button issues, the audience is usually full whether at 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. He stated the meetings have been at 6:00 p.m. for nine months and have been the same attendance wise as when the meeting was at 5:30 p.m. He also felt that city employees attending the meeting have an hour down time before they come out for the meeting and sometimes the meetings can be quite long and it might only be a half hour but it is a half hour they can have back at the end of the night and that is why he would like to see the time moved back to 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Anderson asked if it was known how many people watched the meeting live and asked if the numbers have changed. Mark Funkey, City Administrator, stated they could find out those numbers for Council. Councilmember Huntley asked why staff come to the meetings if there is nothing on the agenda for them and if they really needed to be there. Mr. Funkey stated that most want to be at the meeting to be informed on what is coming down from City Council. Councilmember Hoffman stated 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m., it didn't really matter to him and he didn't see a change in the audience. Councilmember Larry Consbruck stated it made no difference to him. Councilmember Esch indicated that 6:00 p.m. works better for her but it doesn't make any difference. Councilmember Rowan indicated he was hoping it would bring more folks in from the community but he didn't know if that happened. Councilmember Esch asked what staff thinks. Mr. Funkey stated he felt, generally speaking, staff felt 5:30 p.m. was better than 6:00 p.m. Mr. Funkey stated he would get number information out to Council when he had it.

Council President Huntley stated there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.