

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 26, 2026

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 January 26, 2026.

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, Marc Rowan. 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; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab; Development Services Director, Kevin Kubo; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash; Public Information Manager; Tony Herrman; Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; 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 Michael Anderson 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.

Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, January 23, 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.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Fong highlighted that there are exciting upcoming events at the library and encouraged members of the public to run for City Council; he will not be seeking another term. Councilmember Rowan stated that every encounter he has with the Museum is great and people should visit the gift shop and planetarium.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Rich Wilton spoke in support of item 4c. Bill Hitesman, Jody Stutzman, Chuck Shoemaker, Scott Kvols, Scott Barwick and Susan Meeske spoke in opposition to item 4c.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Beckby spoke on oversight, accountability and transparency and questioned the need to abolish the Utility Advisory Board. He would like the Council to sit down with the

Utility Advisory Board to learn more about what the board and community involvement means to the City.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve all consent items. 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 January 12, 2026
- (b) Approval of claims and payroll except the claim of Vaughan's Printing
- (c) Approval of Work Order PL-629, replacing North Denver Station 5 480V switchgear
- (d) Approval of Quitclaim Deed to Eileen Harmon
- (e) Approval of the Second Renewal Option of the Lease Agreement between City of Hastings dba Hastings Utilities and USCOC Nebraska/Kansas, LLC (US Cellular)

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the application of Los Posos, LLC dba "Jalisco Mexican Restaurant" for a Class "I" Liquor License (Beer, Wine, Spirits, On Sale) at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 130. Resolution No. 2026-03 approving the application of Los Posos, LLC dba "Jalisco Mexican Restaurant" for a Class "I" Liquor License at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 130. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Edward Aguirre spoke in support of the application. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Resolution No. 2026-03 approving the application of Los Posos, LLC dba "Jalisco Mexican Restaurant" for a Class "I" Liquor License at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 130. Police Chief Adam Story stated that El Puerto with the same ownership has operated in the City without issue. 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 the manager application of Jose G. Aguirre in connection with the Class "I" Liquor License of Los Posos, LLC dba "Jalisco Mexican Restaurant" located at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 130. Moved by Brad Consbruck seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve the manager application of Jose G. Aguirre in connection with the Class "I" Liquor License of Los Posos, LLC dba "Jalisco Mexican Restaurant" located at 3609 Cimarron Plaza, Suite 130. 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.

4. General Business.

(a) Approval of the claims of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$42.00. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve claims of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$42.00. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Abstention: Esch. Absent: None. The motion carried.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4823 annexing property generally located southeast of the intersection of East South Street and South Showboat Boulevard, known as The Garages 7th Addition, into the corporate limits of the City of Hastings (Second Reading). Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Ordinance No. 4823 to annex property generally located southeast of the intersection of East South Street and South Showboat Boulevard on Second Reading. 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) Resolution No. 2026-02 authorizing the Mayor to sign documents relating to the installation and operation of an Automated License Plate Reader System on a State Highway. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution 2026-02 authorizing mayor to sign the Agreement with the State for the installation and operation of ALPR systems. Police Chief Adam Story reported that approval would allow the cameras to be placed on state highways. The cameras will be visible to the public and reads license plates alerting the Police Department about public safety and criminal apprehension. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked if tickets could be issued using the cameras. Police Chief Adam Story stated that the cameras do not report speed or issue citations; tickets cannot be automated in the State of Nebraska. Police Chief Adam Story stated that the cameras can provide important information to the Engineering Department to conduct traffic counts. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Michael Anderson. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(c) Ordinance No. 4825 eliminating the Utility Advisory Board by repealing Chapter 52, Article II of the official Hastings City Code and amending sections 2-205, 52-101, 52-404, 52-736, and 52-745 of the official Hastings City Code (Requested by Councilmembers Marc Rowan, Steve Huntley, Mike Anderson, and Larry Consbruck). Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Maggie Esch to approve Ordinance No. 4825 eliminating the Utility Advisory Board by repealing Chapter 52, Article II of the official Hastings City Code and amending sections 2-205, 52-101, 52-404, 52-736, and 52-745 of the official Hastings City Code. Utilities Manager Derek Zeisler stated that the utility will work to do its job regardless of the structure, but he appreciates the ability to communicate issues to the Utility Advisory Board which has a good mix of skill sets and provides transparency to the ratepayers. Mayor Beckby inquired with Councilmember Rowan the reason for bringing the item for Council consideration. Councilmember Rowan discussed the process of adding items to the Council agenda and invited the discussion; he has been involved in conversations both ways regarding the Utility Advisory Board. Councilmember Rowan

stated that he would like to have a two-hour conversation about underground pipes; he may be the only one. He would like to better understand the issues and would support more utility items if he fully understood them; his concern is that the City Council does not get all the information that the Utility Advisory Board receives. Councilmember Anderson agreed regarding additional information, so that he can have an informed conversation with his constituents. Councilmember Fong stated that it's important to do homework, ask staff, and work as liaisons to the boards. Mayor Beckby agreed and would like to make the information from the advisory boards more accessible. Councilmember Huntley stated that he has Utility Manager Derek Zeisler do his liaison report; and he does a great job. Councilmember Huntley stated that he views this as a communication issue and suggested a joint worksession in March. Councilmember Anderson stated that he would like to have the information that the Utility Advisory Board has. Councilmember Esch provided that the materials and video of the Utility Advisory Board are available on the city website. City Administrator Mark Funkey stated that he would work with Utility Manager Derek Zeisler to explore providing item summaries and meeting minutes directly to the City Council and address specific questions as they come from City Council. Councilmember Hoffman provided that Councilmembers could have conversations with members of the Utility Advisory Board; the information can be filtered with the assistance of liaison. Councilmember Hoffman stated that the item before the Council seeks to abolish the Utility Advisory Board without a worksession to discuss; communications he received from his constituents were not in favor of this, and to the contrary, it has been described very negatively and would reduce transparency and accountability. Councilmember Esch stated that she believes that the Utility and Advisory Board provides an extra layer of transparency and accountability; she admits that she is not well versed in utilities and values the experience and knowledge of the Utility Advisory Board. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that additional discussion could lead to having a better opinion on the topics. Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Michael Anderson to postpone Ordinance No. 4825 eliminating the Utility Advisory Board by repealing Chapter 52, Article II of the official Hastings City Code and amending sections 2-205, 52-101, 52-404, 52-736, and 52-745 of the official Hastings City Code until after the Council Worksession in March. Roll Call: Ayes: Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Nays: Steve Huntley, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: None. The motion failed. Mayor Beckby called for a vote on the initial motion. Roll Call: Ayes: Marc Rowan. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: None. The motion failed.

(d) Ordinance No. 4826 amending Hastings City Code Section 2-205 establishing an Order of Business for City Council Work Sessions and to add an item to all Work Sessions titled "Utility and Public Works Matters" (Requested by Councilmembers Marc Rowan, Steve Huntley, Mike Anderson and Larry Consbruck). Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve Ordinance No. 4826 amending Hastings City Code Section 2-205 establishing an "Order of Business" for City Council Work Sessions and to add an item to all Work Sessions titled "Utility and Public Works Matters". Council discussed the timing of further discussion on the topic and agreed to the March Council Worksession. Roll Call:

Ayes: Marc Rowan. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. 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 7:27 p.m.

APPROVED:

George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(SEAL)