

**HASTINGS CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION AGENDA**

**Hastings Municipal Airport  
3300 W. 12th Street  
February 16, 2026  
6:00 PM**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA** for February 16, 2026 Worksession.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, February 13, 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: (Only for agenda items.)**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Update on EPA Superfund site status.
2. Presentation by Heartland Pet Connection - **Jennie Theesen** - Shelter Manager, **Jake Klabenos** - Board Treasurer, **Tara McDanel** - Board President.

**ADJOURN:**

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to enter into an executive session at any time during the meeting, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, even though the closed session may not be indicated on the agenda.

It is the intention of the Mayor and City Council to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Mayor and City Council reserve the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedules of the city council members, person having items on the agenda, and the public.

Worksession meetings are intended to allow for communication and discussion amongst the elected officials. At the prerogative of the presiding officer of the worksession, city staff, consultants or citizens may be requested or allowed to address specific items on the worksession agenda.

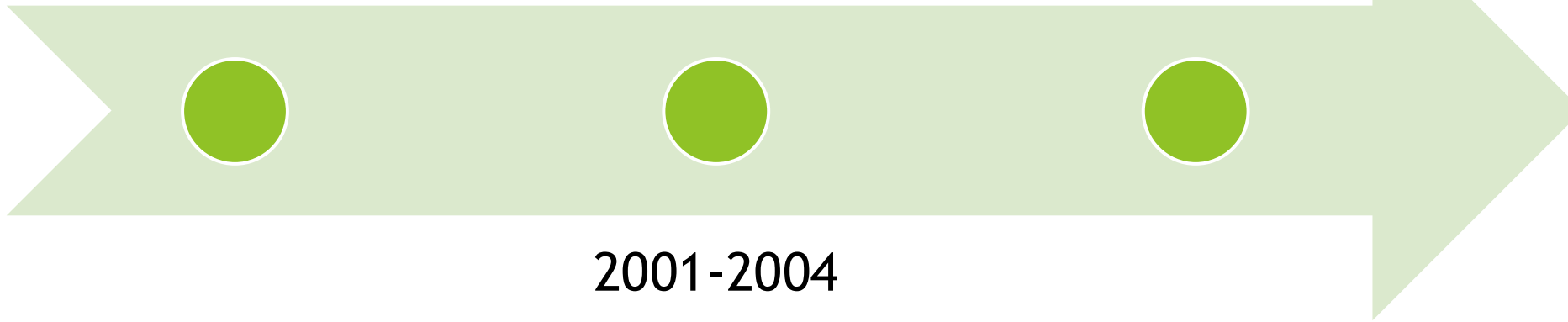
# Heartland Pet Connection

2025

2000- work with  
HPD shelter at  
station

1<sup>st</sup> contract  
with the city  
January 20,  
2003

2001-2004  
WAGS  
fundraising for  
shelter and pay  
for animal  
services at HPD



June 19,  
2003-  
501c3  
status

October 4,  
2004, HPC  
opens to  
the public



October 1,  
2004  
HPC  
operational

January 2005  
Protocols with vet  
clinics set

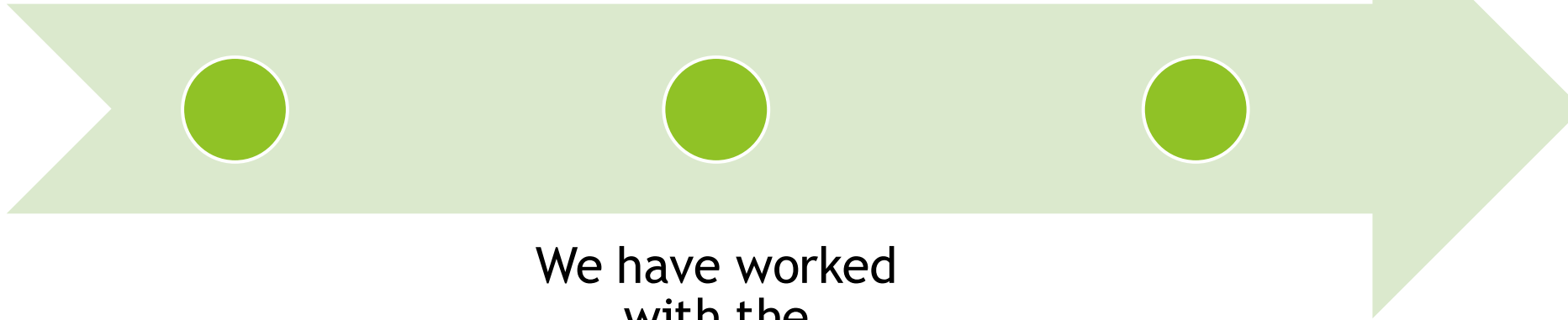
March 2010 HPC  
and Adams County  
Emergency  
Management grant  
for DART trailer.  
Pet food pantry  
also set up.

January 2009  
second contract up  
for signing

Since then, we have moved forward with kennel and building improvements

We have never had a citation or need for change from the Department of Agriculture inspectors

We have worked with the community on animal education and support during difficult times



# What does it cost to care for the animals?

- ▶ Overall, for each animal that came in, an average of \$212/animal was spent
  - ▶ 772 animals brought in fiscal year ending 9/30/25.
    - ▶ 709 (91.8%) from inside City of Hastings
    - ▶ 578 (74.9%) brought in by HPD (animal control and police officers)
    - ▶ Difference is those surrendered, brought in by the public, or animals born while in our care
- ▶ For each animal that came in, an average of \$65 was spent medically

# What does it cost to care for the animals?

- ▶ Wages, food, vet supplies/services totaled approximately **\$163,000** in the past fiscal year
- ▶ The City's proportionate share of costs exceeds **\$122,000**
  - ▶ These costs do not include additional shelter expenses such as insurance, cat litter, telephone, utilities, or credit card processing fees to name a few

# How do we stack up?

## Contracts with similar-sized cities and their shelters

	City	County	City/County	Animals	Per Animal	
<b>HPC</b>	\$65,920	\$7,000	\$72,920	709	\$96.33	
<b>Kearney</b>			\$193,749	Not provided, but was 1366 in 2022	\$141.84	County pays city and they pay the shelter \$
<b>Grand Island</b>	\$99,000		\$99,000	2,200	\$45 per animal per day for the first 3 days	
<b>Columbus</b>	\$84,000		\$84,000	375	\$224.00	City charges the fees for the first 72 hours
<b>Beatrice</b>	\$32,000		\$32,000	300	\$106.67	\$20,000 per year + \$12,000 for reimburse utilities =\$32,000  <b>looking to be doubling that contract</b>
<b>Fremont</b>	\$240,000		\$240,000	744	\$322.58	

# City contract with HPC

(Negative Amounts)

Contract History	Actual Contract	Assumed 3% growth	Cumulative Difference
24-25	65,920.00	78,654.67	12,734.67
23-24	64,000.00	76,363.75	12,363.75
22-23	56,499.99	74,139.57	17,639.58
21-22	52,000.00	71,980.16	19,980.16
20-21	52,000.00	69,883.65	17,883.65
19-20	52,000.00	67,848.21	15,848.21
18-19	51,999.96	65,872.04	13,872.08
17-18	51,999.96	63,953.44	11,953.48
16-17	52,000.00	62,090.72	10,090.72
15-16	51,999.96	60,282.25	8,282.29
14-15	52,000.00	58,526.46	6,526.46
13-14	52,000.00	56,821.80	4,821.80
12-13	52,000.00	55,166.80	3,166.80
11-12	52,000.00	53,560.00	1,560.00
10-11	52,000.00	52,000.00	-
	810,419.87	967,143.52	156,723.65

\*\*Increases really only started with the current contract.

\*\*Increase from the original \$50,000 contract at the start to current is \$15,920 (in 21 years of operation).

The slide features a solid green background on the left and a white background on the right, separated by a diagonal line. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent green geometric shapes (triangles and polygons) that create a modern, abstract design. The text is positioned on the green background.

# HPC Community

- ▶ Education



- ▶ Adoption counseling

- ▶ Education for all adopters to inform and answer questions

- ▶ Public presentations

- ▶ Ag Safety Day for elementary students
- ▶ 4-H members to define educational opportunities in animal industry
- ▶ Various service groups
- ▶ Tours of the facility for daycares and preschools
- ▶ Statewide HeadStart presentation
- ▶ Various middle schools



▶ Ideas to cut costs

## ▶ Staff hours

- ▶ Lack of staffing affects the additional care provided to animals
- ▶ Would like to hire more staff
  - ▶ This would likely increase adoptions because
    - ▶ HPC could be open more hours
    - ▶ Animals would be provided a higher level of care
    - ▶ Could be presented to possible adoptees with a better disposition and physical appearance
- ▶ Animals need consistent care and feeding

- ▶ Animal food
  - ▶ Changing contract to receive from Iams in Aurora
  - ▶ Food currently budgeted at \$7,000
  - ▶ Last year was about \$6,500
  - ▶ \*\*\*There is a possibility that this can incur some cost if the animals react poorly to the change in diet (diarrhea, etc.)
- ▶ Ensure that all seized animal cases are sent through for payment in a timely manner
  - ▶ Pursue with help from the city
  - ▶ Recent cases have left \$7,000 worth of care unreimbursed

- ▶ Have new owners spay/neuter after the animal is adopted
  - ▶ Currently are neutered as they are considered adoptable
  - ▶ A spay costs us about \$135 for each animal
  - ▶ >150 female animals adopted out last year
  - ▶ Potential cost savings of up to ~\$10,000
- ▶ Changing adoption fees
  - ▶ Changing the fee to be a little lower to reflect the reduced medical cost when spay/neuter is passed on to adopter
  - ▶ Fee includes a deposit until the animal is spayed or neutered and rabies vaccine is given

- ▶ Farm cat program will continue
  - ▶ Currently female animals are fixed at the vet's office
  - ▶ Male surgeries are done during contracted vet visits at the shelter
- ▶ Continue all vaccinations and monthly preventive care per contracted clinics
  - ▶ Includes heartworm, feline leukemia, FIV
- ▶ Look at giving other clinics in smaller towns the opportunity to do the spay/neuter surgeries at their expense



# ▶ Volunteer Ideas

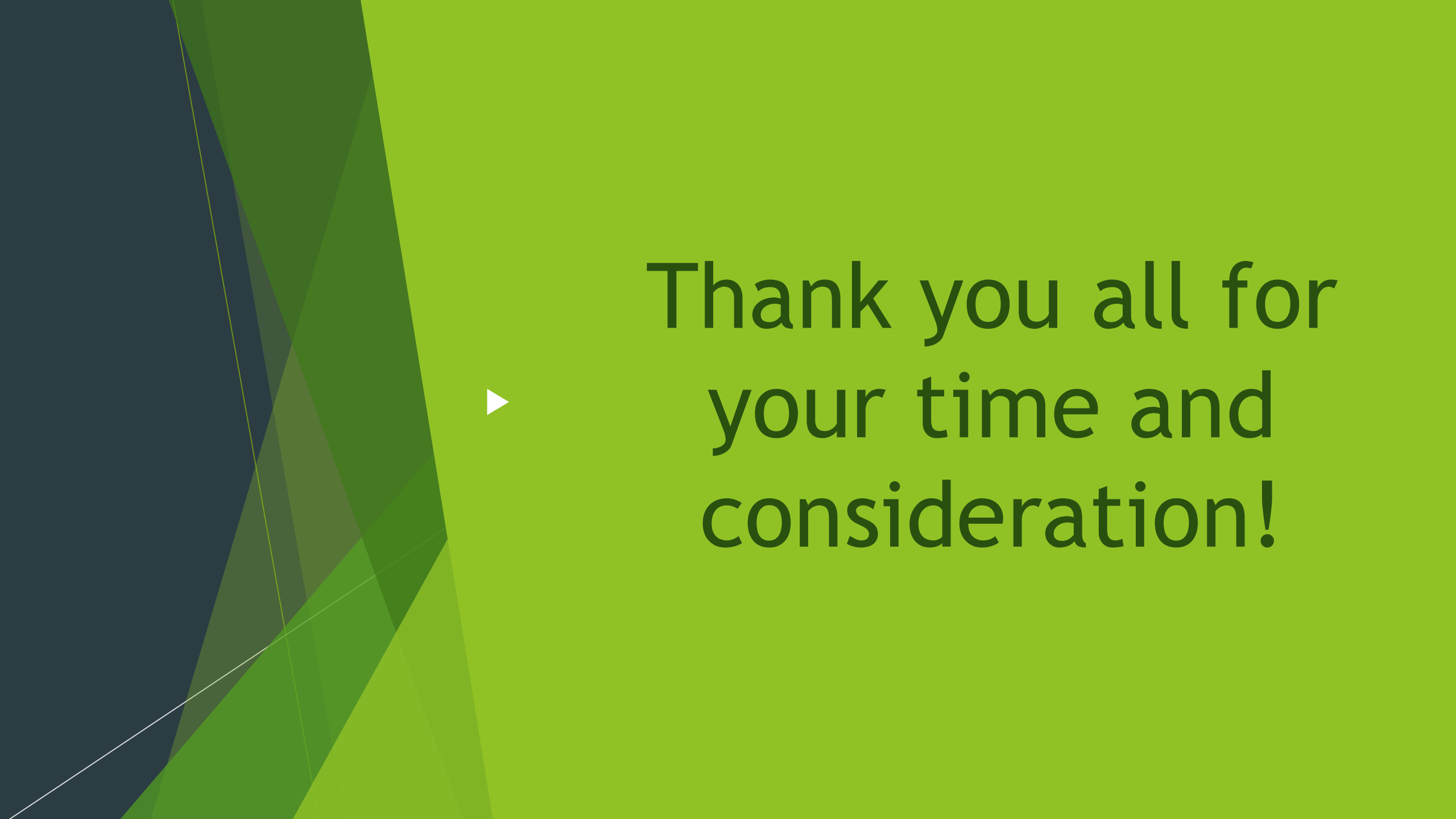
# Volunteer opportunities at the shelter:

## Daily needs:

- ▶ Cleaning kennels
- ▶ Feeding animals
- ▶ Spend time with the animals
  - ▶ Play and enrichment!
  - ▶ Socialization makes them more likely to get adopted

## Use your special talents!

- ▶ Electrician
- ▶ Plumbing
- ▶ HVAC
- ▶ Builders/Handyperson
- ▶ House/office cleaners
- ▶ Painters
- ▶ Groomers
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Event planners
- ▶ Public relations
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Marketing



Thank you all for  
your time and  
consideration!