

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 23, 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 March 23, 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, Larry Consbruck, Brad Consbruck, Matt Fong, Marc Rowan, Maggie Esch. Absent: None. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; City Clerk, Tyler Ficken; Director of Finance/City Treasurer, Roger Nash; Technology Director, Erik Nielsen; Information Technology, Kirk Layton; Public Information Manager; Tony Herrman; Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler; Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman; Development Services Director, Kevin Kubo; Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Safety Director, Trent Clark; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; City Planner, Ember Batelaan; Police Chief, Adam Story.

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, March 20, 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 Rowan provided that the Hastings Museum has received preliminary word that they have been approved for re-accreditation.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Willis Hunt spoke on the audit presentation.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

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 March 9, 2026
- (b) Approval of the minutes of the Worksession of February 28, 2026
- (c) Approval of claims and payroll except the claim of Vaughan's Printing
- (d) Approval of the request of Do the Brew/Prairie Loft to utilize city property for the Downtown Do the Brew on April 25, 2026 (insurance pending)
- (e) Approval of the request of the Prairie Loft Center for a Special Designated Liquor License for a craft beer festival and tasting event (Downtown Do The Brew) to be located at the City Auditorium, Auditorium Park and on 4th Street right-of-way on April 25, 2026
- (f) Approval of the request of the Nebraska Chapter of the Antique Airplane Association to utilize city property for the Last Saturday Monthly Burger Cookout to be held from March 28, 2026 - October 31, 2026 at the Hastings Municipal Airport
- (g) Approval of Invoice No. 2060 from the South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$632.50 for general administration work for Community Development Block Grant 23-ED-001
- (h) Approval of drawdown request for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$623.50 for general grant administration work for Community Development Block Grant 23-ED-001
- (i) Approval of Invoice No. 2062 from South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$3,047.50 for administrative services for Community Development Block Grant 24-ED-003
- (j) Approval of drawdown request for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$3,047.50 for general administration work for Community Development Block Grant 24-ED-003
- (k) Approval of Invoice No. 2063 from South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$5,023.75 for administrative services for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWF-001
- (l) Approval of drawdown request for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$5,023.75 for general administration work for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWF-001
- (m) Approval of Invoice No. 2064 from South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$3,536.25 for administrative services for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008
- (n) Approval of Invoice No. 2065 from South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$1,351.25 for construction management services for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008
- (o) Approval of drawdown request Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$4,887.50 for general administration and construction management for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008
- (p) Approval of the Nebraska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Home Energy Utility Provider Agreement

(q) Approval of Quitclaim Deed from the City of Hastings to the Community Redevelopment Authority for property located near "F" Street and Lexington Avenue

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

None.

4. General Business.

(a) Approval of the claim of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$107.50. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve the claim of Vaughan's Printing in the amount of \$107.50. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

(b) Presentation of the Financial Audit for the City of Hastings ending September 30, 2025 - AMGL, P.C. Marcy Luth of AMGL P.C. presented the audit to the City Council, beginning with the twelve ratio benchmarking summary which compares the City of Hastings to peer communities. Valuation and sales tax per capita are lower when compared to the peer group, which may require a higher property tax levy to receive the same dollars; the property tax is in alignment with the peer communities. The municipal equalization dollars received are higher when compared to the peer communities due to valuation and the property tax ask. Historical government expenditures by function have been consistent over the years; comparison in this category is difficult due to the varying responsibilities of each community. The city has an excellent capacity to issue general obligation debt if needed. Unassigned fund balance versus general fund expenditures has historically exceeded the standard of thirty percent in this metric with built-up reserves; that number has been declining with the use of fund balance towards capital and operating expenditures, resulting in deficit spending. The city is meeting the benchmark, but it is an area to watch. The street fund cash metric is approximately twelve months of cash on hand; the City is currently at twenty-one months, but upcoming projects could reduce that. The tax levy rates have decreased from the prior year .39 compared to .42 the prior year; this goes hand in hand with valuation and sales tax and can pressure the tax levy when those numbers are low compared to peer communities. Capital asset depreciation is good, showing that investments have been made by the city and utility at 45% and 40% respectively, with the benchmark being 35%. The utility operating ratio target is 15% of revenue to build future reserves; electricity is just under 5%, which is improved, gas is a little lower than 15%, water meets the target, and pollution control is a little lower than 15%. Utility debt coverage shows excellent capacity. The final benchmark is cash on hand versus general fund expenditures and projected future capital needs, taking into account depreciation of the capital assets; the benchmark is \$19 million. Current unrestricted cash is \$9.3 million, which is a large decline with a large amount assigned for budgetary stabilization in the amount of \$7.7 million; those figures combined bring the city close to

the benchmark. The utility benchmark is \$86 million; there is a large amount in construction in progress currently which distorts the picture. The utility is at \$50 million with cash up \$2 million over the prior year. Marcy Luth stated that the city is receiving an unmodified opinion, which is desirable with a financial audit. She reviewed the audit document and identified where information on the following topics could be found: management discussion and analysis, asset liability and net position historical comparison, comparative revenue, expenses by function and direct revenue sources, governmental funds, proprietary funds, total cash, restricted funds, capital assets, debt, cash flow for debt, contractual commitments tax increment financing projects and oversight. Councilmember Rowan inquired about TIF projects, and Marcy Luth provided that there are a lot of projects, but not excessive and likely comparable to other communities; some have a lower number of projects with more dollars. Councilmember Rowan inquired whether finance staff oversight is adequate, and Marcy Luth agreed, but oversight from the Council adds value. Councilmember Anderson and Marcy Luth discussed the excess pension fund as an asset. Councilmember Rowan discussed fraud with Marcy Luth and while the purpose of an audit is not to detect fraud, if fraud were found it would be reported. Councilmember Huntley and Marcy Luth discussed the utility dividend transition; City Administrator Funkey will provide information on the sales tax status of the utility dividend. The audit is available on the City website.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.
None.

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 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(SEAL)