

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, April 13, 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 April 13, 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; Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Safety Director, Trent Clark; Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson; Police Chief, Adam Story; Airport Manager, Matt Kuhr.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to adopt the current agenda. 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, April 10, 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 stated that he was happy to be liaison for the library, which provides good work and good cake. Councilmember Rowan showed the logo for the air show scheduled for 2027 and provided information about the museum's Art After Dark event. Councilmember Hoffman thanked the Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters and public access channel for their respective candidate forums. At the request of Councilmember Huntley, Utility Manager, Derek Zeisler provided an update on utility sewer billing. Councilmember Anderson provided a reminder of the town hall meeting scheduled for April 23, 2026, where the Highway 6 project, trail project and zoning will be discussed.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Edward Krontz talked about population signage.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Service Anniversaries. Mayor Beckby recognized service anniversaries for Roger Nash, Finance, 15.

Proclamation declaring April 19-25, 2026 as National Library Week. Mayor Beckby read the proclamation declaring April 19-25, 2026 as National Library Week.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Matt Fong to approve the consent agenda except for item i. 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 23, 2026

(b) Approval of the minutes of the Worksession of March 16, 2026

(c) Approval of claims and payroll

(d) Approval of a Professional Service Agreement for construction management services with South Central Economic Development District in connection with the Community Development Block Grant award #24-DTR-004 for Downtown Revitalization

(e) Approval of Invoice No. 2058 in the amount of \$2,000.00 and Invoice No. 2059 in the amount of \$1,753.75 from South Central Economic Development District for administrative and construction management services for Community Development Block Grant Project 21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization

(f) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #15, in the amount of \$3,753.75 for Community Development Block Grant Project #21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization

(g) Approval of Invoice No. 2061 in the amount of \$2,242.50 from South Central Economic Development District for administrative services for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-DTR-004, Downtown Revitalization

(h) Approval of the request for Community Redevelopment Block Grant funds, Drawdown #4, in the amount of \$2,242.50 for general administration services for Community Redevelopment Block Grant Project 24-DTR-004, Downtown Revitalization

(i) Approval of Release of Easement to Brent Terwey for a tract of land near West South Street and South Colorado Avenue. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve Release of Easement to Brent Terwey for a tract of land near West South Street and South Colorado Avenue. 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.

(j) Approval of Work Order EL-323, relocate wood pole and anchors; extend existing three-phase underground to new pole; replace underground cable from new pole to cable junction cabinet along North Shore Drive west of Osborne Drive West

(k) Approval of Work Order EL-324, installation of a single-phase underground electric line and padmount transformer to serve two residential lots on North Shore Drive west of Osborne Drive West

(l) Approval of Work Order EL-325, relocate transformer south of Prairie Lake Road and east of Smokey Hill Road

(m) Approval of Work Order EL-326, installation of a single-phase underground electric line and padmount transformer to serve a new residence south of Prairie Lake Road and east of Smokey Hill Road

(n) Approval of Work Order EL-327, extension of an overhead electric line on Burlington Avenue south of M Street; reroute service to barn east of Lexington Avenue, south of WR Reserve, and removal of existing overhead lines on Lexington Avenue south of M Street

(o) Approval of Work Order SW-389, South Burlington Lift Station automatic transfer switch replacement

(p) Approval of the request of Mary Lanning Healthcare to utilize City property for the Mary Lanning Fun Wun on June 6, 2026

(q) Approval of the request of Mary Lanning Healthcare to utilize City property for the Half Hastings Marathon on May 30, 2026

(r) Resolution No. 2026-36 giving advance notice to the Nebraska Department of Transportation that the City of Hastings intends to conduct a special event, the Half Hastings Races, requiring the closing of a portion of the State Highway System on May 30, 2026

(s) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #5, in the amount of \$49,831.24 for project activity costs (70% of Pay Estimate #1 from Diamond Engineering) for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008, Public Works

(t) Approve Pay Estimate #1 in the amount of \$71,187.49 from Diamond Engineering for work completed on the Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWI-008, Mobile Home Communities

#### REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.  
None.

#### 3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the application of Wanda's Place, LLC dba "Wanda's Place" for a Class "C" Liquor License (Beer, Wine, Spirits, On and Off Sale) at 623 W. 1st Street. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public. Resolution No. 2026-35 approving the application of Wanda's Place, LLC dba "Wanda's Place" for a Class "C" Liquor License at 623 W. 1st Street. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Resolution No. 2026-35 approving the application of Wanda's Place, LLC dba "Wanda's Place" for a Class "C" Liquor License at 623 W. 1st Street. Police Chief, Adam Story provided a report with no opposition to the applications. 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 Grant Hohlfeld in connection with the Class "C" Liquor License of Wanda's Place, LLC dba "Wanda's Place" located at 623 W. 1st Street. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve the manager application

of Grant Hohlfeld in connection with the Class "C" Liquor License of Wanda's Place, LLC dba "Wanda's Place" located at 623 W. 1st Street. 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.

(c) Motion to adjourn as Mayor and City Council and reconvene as Board of Equalization. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to adjourn as Mayor and City Council and reconvene as the Board of Equalization. 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.

(d) Public Hearing on the levying of assessments in Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(e) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Gas Extension District 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(f) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Sewer Connection District 2024-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(g) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Water Extension District 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(h) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Gas Extension District 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(i) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Street Improvement District 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(j) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Water Extension District 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(k) Public hearing on the levying of assessments in Sewer Extension District 2024-3 Elm Meadows First Subdivision. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(l) Motion to adjourn as Board of Equalization and reconvene as Mayor and City Council. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to adjourn as Board of Equalization and

reconvene as Mayor and City Council. 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.

(m) Resolution No. 2026-27 making assessments in Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Matt Fong to approve Resolution No. 2026-27, Resolution No. 2026-28, Resolution No. 2026-29 and Resolution No. 2026-30. Director of Engineering, Lee Vrooman reported that property owners will have 50 days to pay the assessment in full without interest accruing or finance the improvements for up to 15 years at 4.25% interest with a delinquent rate of 14% interest. The exception is the sewer connection district, where a tap fee will be assessed at the time of connection. 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.

(n) Resolution No. 2026-28 making assessments in Gas Extension District No. 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17

(o) Resolution No. 2026-29 making assessments in Sewer Connection District No. 2024-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17

(p) Resolution No. 2026-30 making assessments in Water Extension District No. 2025-1 Lochland Meadows Subdivision Number 17

(q) Resolution No. 2026-31 making assessments in Gas Extension District No. 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Larry Consbruck to approve Resolution No. 2026-31, Resolution No. 2026-32, Resolution No. 2026-33 and Resolution No. 2026-34. 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.

(r) Resolution No. 2026-32 making assessments in Street Improvement District No. 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision

(s) Resolution No. 2026-33 making assessments in Water Extension District No. 2024-1 Elm Meadows First Subdivision

(t) Resolution No. 2026-34 making assessments in Sewer Extension District No. 2024-3 Elm Meadows First Subdivision

#### 4. General Business.

(a) Approval of awarding contract for construction of airport hangar. Moved by Michael Anderson seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve the awarding of the contract for the airport hanger in the amount of \$774,657 to RMV Construction. 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 Mayor and the City Attorney signing documents accepting a grant offer for Project No. 3-31-0040-025-2026 regarding the sealing, replacing and reconstructing of the airport apron. Moved by Maggie Esch seconded by Matt Fong to authorize the mayor and the city attorney to sign documents accepting a grant offer for Project No. 3-31-0040-025-2026. 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.

#### 5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4827 vacating the entire 14 foot alley extending east and west within Block 3 of M.J. Smith's Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brad Consbruck to approve Ordinance No. 4827 Vacating the entire 14 foot alley extending east and west within Block 3 of M.J. Smith's Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. Director of Engineering Lee Vrooman reported on the area being vacated will allow Johnson Concrete to expand their business. 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. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 4827 and take it to the second and final 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. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinance. The ordinance is declared to be lawfully adopted upon publication as required by law.

(b) Ordinance No. 4828 conveying the entire 14 foot alley and part of the abandoned railroad right-of-way adjacent to Lot 24, all within Block 3 of M.J. Smith's Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. Moved by Larry Consbruck seconded by Matt Fong to approve Ordinance No. 4828 Conveying the entire 14 foot alley and part of the abandoned railroad right-of-way adjacent to lot 24, all within Block 3 of M.J. Smith's Addition to the City of Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska. 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. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 4828 and take it to the second and final 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. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three fourths vote of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinance. The ordinance is declared to be lawfully adopted upon publication as required by law.

#### 6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

(a) Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to appoint TiAnn Allen to the Business Improvement District Board. 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) Appointments to City Planning Commission

Moved by Maggie Esch seconded by Matt Fong to appoint Shawn Hartmann and Jacque Cranson (alternate) to the City Planning Commission. Mayor Beckby discussed the process of appointments; Mayor Beckby stated that he was notified by councilmembers contacted by other councilmembers that he did not have the votes to pass the appointments. The Planning and Zoning Commission had trouble building a quorum due to illness and availability at a recent meeting; a quorum was achieved following a 15-minute delay. It is important to have a quorum dealing with growth and development. In speaking with the applicants, one has issues with frequent travel, and another is currently running for City Council; Mayor Beckby discussed his criteria for selecting candidates. Councilmember Hoffman stated that he reviewed the qualifications of the proposed applicants and stated that he received a call from Councilmember Huntley that the votes were there to table or remove the appointments from the agenda. He questioned how five councilmembers could have already aligned on a decision outside a public hearing and how it complies with the open meetings act. He stated that the discussion should occur at the Council Meeting and not behind closed doors and asked for an explanation. Councilmember Huntley stated that he received a call from a councilmember saying they could not vote for this, followed by another councilmember. It was not a secret meeting; there were multiple people calling and asking for advice. His advice was to remove the item to shield the people involved. There was no violation of the open meeting act, and we decided to bring in councilmembers Hoffman, Esch and Fong to let them know; they were all individual calls coming to him as Council President. Councilmember Huntley stated that he would not vote for this because he heard from his ward of the need to have representation on the Planning Commission; he is planning to address this at the upcoming town hall meeting. Councilmember Esch asked the Mayor if any of the applicants were from Ward 1, and Mayor Beckby reviewed the applicants and concluded that none were from Ward 1. Councilmember Hoffman stated that he would like to have qualified candidates, not based on where they live. Councilmember Anderson stated that this is the second instance of an accusation being made of a quorum, and he submitted that, following an investigation, upon finding that there was not a quorum, a public meeting should be held where that can be admitted to the audience. Councilmember Hoffman reiterated that on Saturday morning, he was told that the agenda item would be pulled because "we have the votes", was specifically stated. Councilmember Anderson stated that he was not in the conversation and was making a statement. Councilmember Huntley added that he said we were thinking of pulling the agenda items if we had the votes. Councilmember Esch stated that she appreciated the heads-up on Saturday and had a

conversation with Mayor Beckby; she stated that she is looking for qualified applicants, and there are a lot of opportunities to satisfy all the wards, but there is an immediate need. When it comes to appointments, she asks if the person has the experience, knowledge, commitment, and she believes the proposed appointees do. Councilmember Fong stated that TiAnn was appointed with no discussion as to ward; the City boards and commissions do not have ward restrictions while the City Council does, and he doesn't think there should be an additional requirement when there is disagreement. Councilmember Fong stated that he does not vote against appointees, even when he disagrees with them. Mayor Beckby stated that following the vote, he asked that councilmembers explain their vote and provided qualifications or not representing a certain ward as examples.

Roll Call: Ayes: Maggie Esch, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan. Abstention: Brad Consbruck. Absent: None. The motion failed.

Councilmember Huntley stated that his ward wants representation on the board. Councilmember Anderson stated that during the budget process, he remembered two people who were raising Cain and not acting as good citizens, encouraging disruption, and he didn't think that is a character needed in Planning and Zoning. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that he didn't like the conduct at the budget meeting and was called a liar at an HEDC meeting. Councilmember Esch stated that she understands Councilmember Anderson's position, but the Mayor has allowed speech out of turn unfortunately. Hartmann has attended one meeting and made his voice known, and she thinks that allowing different perspectives is OK. Councilmember Rowan stated that he would not like to give his reasoning; he doesn't believe he has to give his reasoning. Councilmember Hoffman shared his concerns about transparency, public trust, leadership and accountability which is eroding, and this hinders the Planning and Zoning Commission; Hastings and the staff and Mayor deserve better and a fair vote was deserved. Councilmember Fong stated that this was disappointing and unfortunate and offered his apologies to the candidates. There are many other ways to get involved and participate and he hoped for their future participation in the City and added that reasonable heads are needed moving forward who value different opinions and perspectives on all the boards, commissions and Council.

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 6:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

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George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

( S E A L )