

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 11, 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 May 11, 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, Brad Consbruck, Matt Fong, Marc Rowan, Maggie Esch. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. 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; Director of Human Resources, Lori Hartman; Library Director, Kelly Reisig; Safety Director, Trent Clark; 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 Steve Huntley to adopt the current agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, May 8, 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 Anderson reminded people to vote on May 12, 2026.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Stanley Knudson, Howard Shehey and Nate Karl spoke on Lake Hastings. Gloriann Peddicord, Curt Johnson, Edward Krontz, David Worrell, Craig Hubbard and Scott Witte spoke on the Restaurant Tax.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Service Anniversaries: Zachary Oreskovich, Maintenance, 10; Tyler Hermann, Fuel, 10; Matthew White, NDS, 5; Bryson Kniss, Water, 5; Sydnee Archibald, Police, 5; David Kempton, Operations, 5; Karen Rennick, Administration, 5.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. All Consent Items.

Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Matt Fong to approve the consent agenda except items e and h. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of April 27, 2026

(b) Approval of the minutes of the Worksession of April 20, 2026

(c) Approval of claims and payroll

(d) Approval of an increase in height for a fence at 2519 W. 10th Street

(e) Approval of Mayor signing land lease between City of Hastings, Johnson Imperial Homes Co. Inc., and Cloverton Farms Inc. for ASR Lagoon Property and North Baltimore property. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to approve the Mayor signing land lease between the City of Hastings, Johnson Imperial Homes Co. Inc., and Cloverton Farms Inc. for ASR Lagoon Property and North Baltimore property. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(f) Approval of Work Order EL-329, installation of a new three-phase overhead electric line and padmount transformer for two irrigation wells, a pivot, and grain bins east of Blaine Avenue, north of 94th Street

(g) Approval of a 5-year lease with Dell Financial to upgrade servers

(h) Approval of Mayor signing First Amendment to lease between City of Hastings and Meyers Aerial Service, LLC for an additional 15 x 15 foot area outside of hangar. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve the Mayor to sign First Amendment to lease between City of Hastings and Meyers Aerial Service, LLC for an additional 15 x 15 foot area outside of hangar. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(i) Approval of 4-year service agreement with NMC for generator maintenance at Pollution Control Facility and Maxon Avenue

(j) Approval of the agreement with Purple Wave Auction to sell Landfill shredder

(k) Approval of Invoice No. 2089 from South Central Economic Development District in the amount of \$8,375.00 for administrative services completed from November 1, 2023 through project close-out for Community Development Block Grant 19-DTR-103, Downtown Revitalization

(l) Approval of drawdown request for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$8,375.00 for general administration work completed from November 1, 2023 through project close-out for Community Development Block Grant #19-DTR-103, Downtown Revitalization

(m) Approval of a sign designating bookmobile parking at the northeast corner of 3rd Street and Denver Avenue

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

None.

3. Public Hearings.

(a) Public hearing on the application of El Puerto, LLC dba "El Puerto" for a Class "I" Liquor License (Beer, Wine, Spirits, On Sale) at 1008 S. Burlington Avenue. Resolution No. 2026-38 approving the application of El Puerto, LLC dba "El Puerto" for a Class "I" Liquor License at 1008 S. Burlington Avenue. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Rafael Ayala spoke in support of the application. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Resolution No. 2026-38 approving the application of El Puerto, LLC dba "El Puerto" for a Class "I" Liquor License at 1008 S. Burlington Avenue. City Attorney Jesses Oswald reported that the Police and Development Services Departments submitted letters to support the application. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(b) Approval of the manager application of Rafael Ayala in connection with the Class "I" Liquor License of El Puerto, LLC dba "El Puerto" located at 1008 S. Burlington Avenue. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Approval of the manager application of Rafael Ayala in connection with the Class "I" Liquor License of El Puerto, LLC dba "El Puerto" located at 1008 S. Burlington Avenue. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(c) Public hearing on the request of Queen City Development LLC for a Conditional Use Permit for first-floor residential at property commonly addressed as 714 West 5th Street, Hastings, Nebraska. Resolution No. 2026-39 approving the request of Queen City Development LLC for a Conditional Use Permit for first-floor residential at property commonly addressed as 714 West 5th Street, Hastings, Nebraska. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Project architect Patrick Moore spoke in support of the conditional use permit which would allow housing on the first floor and would add to the vitality of the area. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing. Kevin Kubo, Development Services Director, reported that there will be minimal impact on traffic in the area, utilities are available on site, no environmental issues, and will be a benefit to the area and improve property values. The Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the conditional use permit. Councilmember Rowan questioned the limited impact on traffic, and Development Services Director Kubo responded that the area was designed to handle more traffic as a school and will be less with the apartments. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(d) Motion to Adjourn as Mayor and City Council and reconvene as Board of Equalization. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Brad Consbruck to Adjourn as Mayor and City Council and reconvene as Board of Equalization. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(e) Public hearing on the levying of a special assessment for non-payment of costs associated with mowing, trimming, tree removal, demolition and/or general property clean-up on properties. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing following no comments from the public.

(f) Motion to adjourn as Board of Equalization and reconvene as Mayor and City Council. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Brad Consbruck to adjourn as Board of Equalization and reconvene as Mayor and City Council. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(g) Resolution No. 2026-40 approving the special assessment for non-payment of costs associated with mowing, trimming, tree removal, demolition, and/or general property clean-up on properties. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to approve Resolution No. 2026-40 relating to the special assessment for non-payment of costs associated with mowing, trimming, tree removal, demolition, and/or general property clean-up on properties. City Attorney Jesse Oswald reported that the assessments are for the mowing and cleanup of properties that occurred the prior summer and have not paid following billing. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

#### 4. General Business.

(a) Approval of moving Monday, May 25, 2026 City Council Meeting to Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Hastings Municipal Airport due to the Memorial Day holiday. Moved by Steve Huntley seconded by Michael Anderson to approve moving Monday, May 25, 2026, City Council Meeting to Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at the Hastings Municipal Airport due to the Memorial Day holiday. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(b) Approval to amend the Airport engineering agreement with Garver to include design and construction administration of runway 04-22 and the taxiway lighting. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Steve Huntley to amend the engineering agreement from Garver LLC for Federal project AIP#3-31-0040-024 to include design and construction administration of Runway 04-22 lighting, apron lighting, and taxiway lighting. Airport Manager Matt Kuhr reported that this item changes the scope of the agreement to cover the entire airport lighting system. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

#### 5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

(a) Ordinance No. 4829 establishing a Restaurant and Drinking Place Occupation Tax (Second Reading). Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brad Consbruck to table Ordinance 4829 establishing a Restaurant and Drinking place occupation tax on Second Reading. Roll

Call: Ayes: Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Matt Fong. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Marc Rowan. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion failed. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Ordinance 4829 establishing a Restaurant and Drinking place occupation tax on Second Reading. City Administrator Mark Funkey reported that the funds have been identified to replace funding for the Museum; revenue will not be added to the Museum and the property taxes currently supporting the Museum would be utilized in the general fund. Mayor Beckby asked if there was a different percentage that would be acceptable to the Council. Roll Call: Ayes: Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Matt Fong. Nays: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Marc Rowan. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion failed.

(b) Ordinance No. 4830 to convey the 6th Street right-of-way between Hastings Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and the alley to the south to the Community Redevelopment Authority. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Ordinance No. 4830 to convey the alley and 6th Street ROW to the CRA. Director of Engineering Lee Vrooman reported that this action is a cleanup to convey the alley property to the CRA. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

(c) Resolution No. 2026-41 maintaining natural water levels of Lake Hastings without adding water through City intervention. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve Resolution 2026-41 maintaining natural water levels of Lake Hastings without adding water through city intervention. Councilmember Huntley asked that with the running of unit 4, would future water be necessary; he doesn't want to see water over the dam at a cost. Utility Manager Derek Zeisler stated that he believes the Resolution is still relevant moving forward to provide direction to staff. Councilmember Rowan and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler discussed the proposed non-intervention and the potential future consideration of a well for the NRD to the north. Councilmember Rowan and City Attorney, Jesse Oswald discussed the agreement for water levels at Lake Hastings; the current level is above what is provided in the agreement as of the last couple of weeks. Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab reported that the water level is two feet below the top of the dam per the agreement; during a period of the spring season, it was below that level, but rain has added to the water level and is within two feet. Councilmember Anderson and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler discussed the use of unit 4; the Southwest Power Pool has issued a reliability unit commitment, and the City will receive a payment and a margin; it will help with reliability and keep rates down; the running of unit 4 could add six to eight inches of water. Councilmember Rowan expressed his concern with the Resolution as being a no on the water level, and Utility Manager Derek Zeisler clarified that regular operations and well testing will add to the water level and City Attorney Jesse Oswald stated that the unit would not be called up for the sole purpose of filling the lake and the Resolution does not limit the City on looking at future options to fill the lake. Utility Manager Derek Zeisler provided that the Little Blue NRD is asking the City to conserve with rules and statements until the drought goes away. Councilmember Rowan expresses his concern that the City would do nothing if the lake fell below the two-foot mark. A well in the Upper Blue NRD could be an option, but it would take time to come

online; Councilmember Fong added that restrictions could also be placed by the Upper Blue NRD and the Platte River looks like it's August. The Council discussed options for postponing the item to further evaluate options and the water level. Moved by Marc Rowan seconded by Michael Anderson to postpone the item to the second Council meeting of June. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Jay Beckby. Nays: Brad Consbruck, Matt Fong. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.  
None.

7. Appointments.  
Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Maggie Esch to approve the appointment of James Carson and Sarah Bruce to the City Planning Commission as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Brian Hoffman, Larry Consbruck. The motion carried.

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 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(SEAL)