

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
Monday, June 15, 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 W. 12th Street, on June 15, 2026.

The Worksession Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Steve Huntley with the following members present: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan. City Officials 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 Parks & Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Matt Fing seconded by Michael Anderson to adopt the current agenda for the June 15, 2026 City Council Worksession. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Absent: Larry Consbruck, Maggie Esch, Marc Rowan. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Worksession was published in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, June 12, 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:**

None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

2026-2027 Budget Presentations: IT, Development Services, Parks and Recreation/Airport. Director of Information Technology, Erik Nielsen reported on budget goals with personnel not being increased and a review of software for alternatives; three software packages are being reduced, and staff are being reorganized to improve efficiency. Inflation is an issue for the budget and, additionally software costs and unfunded mandates. Director of Information Technology, Erik Nielsen reviewed major projects for the budget, including network redesign, physical server refresh, virtual server updates and police and fire vehicle updates. Councilmember Hoffman asked about the reduction of the Engage Hastings

software, and Director of Information Technology, Erik Nielsen explained that the city website redesign will address the functions of the Engage Hastings software. Councilmember Fong inquired about the physical and virtual server projects and Director of Information Technology, Erik Nielsen reported that the physical servers will be replaced and have been approved by the City Council; the virtual software will be updated. Councilmember Anderson asked about A.I., and Director of Information Technology, Erik Nielsen reported that A.I. has positives and negatives and reported that the updated City website will have an A.I. assistant and hazards will be addressed with training and software. Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab reported that there will not be any additional positions; the department is fully staffed, and minimum wage increases have impacted part-time personnel costs. Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab reviewed the capital costs for the parks, cemetery, Aquacourt, airport and Parks & Recreation Sales Tax Capital requests. Councilmember Hoffman asked about the demand for pickle ball courts, and whether stripes could be added to the Hastings Utilities courts. Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab reported that it is possible, but the challenge is that the courts are used for tennis competition by St. Cecilia for their season; he will have a conversation with St. Cecilia. Councilmember Anderson asked if the design work for the pickle ball courts could be completed by City staff; Director of Engineering Lee Vrooman reported that similar projects had not been completed by City staff previously. Councilmember Fong asked if the pending phase for the cemetery pavement improvements is the largest at \$605,000; Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab confirmed that it is. Development Services Director, Kevin Kubo reported that the department has some older vehicles that are accumulating repair costs and will increase the line item for repairs, fuel costs will increase, and office equipment will increase; other line items will remain the same.

Council President Huntley stated there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

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George J.J. Bixby, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

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