

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, June 22, 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 June 22, 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, Larry Consbruck, Matt Fong, Brian Hoffman, Marc Rowan. Absent: Maggie Esch. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator, Mark Funkey; City Clerk, Tyler Ficken; City Attorney, Jesse Oswald; 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; Director of Parks & Recreation, Jeff Hassenstab; 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.

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

Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to adopt the current agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Thursday, June 18, 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 thanked the Parks & Recreation and Street Department for the cleanup following the recent hail event and provided information regarding the Chautauqua events. Councilmember Rowan spoke about the Flatwater Music Festival, films at the Museum and the Bambino League. Councilmember Anderson spoke about the criteria for the return of the Heartland Pet Connection contract.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Nate Karl and Howard Sheley spoke in opposition to item 2a.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:**

Recognition of Hastings Police and Hastings Fire & Rescue personnel for their lifesaving efforts. Lieutenant Jared Hackler, firefighter paramedic Bryce Paulson, firefighter EMT

Tanner Klein, firefighter EMT Shane Parker, Corporal Grady Gardner, police Officer Cambren Montague, police Sergeant Ethan Sharman, and police Officer Stephen Gonzales received the Phoenix Award for the rescue of an 18-month-old with an obstructed airway.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. All Consent Items.

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

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting of June 8, 2026
- (b) Approval of claims and payroll
- (c) Approval of Pay Estimate #1 from Duncan Theis to Revive, Inc. in the amount of \$51,639.66 for Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWF-001, Public Works Facilities
- (d) Approval of the drawdown request for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$51,639.66 for Pay Estimate #1 (work completed by Duncan Theis) on Community Development Block Grant Project 24-PWF-001, Public Works Facilities (Revive)
- (e) Approval of Pay Request #12 in the amount of \$40,605.03 from the Community Redevelopment Authority for work completed at 405 W. 2nd Street for the Community Development Block Grant Project 21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization
- (f) Approval of the request for Community Development Block Grant funds, Drawdown #17, in the amount of \$40,605.43 for project activity work completed for Community Redevelopment Block Grant Project 21-DTR-007, Downtown Revitalization
- (g) Approval of the Telecommunications Line Right-of Way License Agreement with Great Plains Communications from Crane Avenue Sub-station to the Communication tower on Barnes Avenue and BNSF Railroad
- (h) Approval of Professional Service Agreement for general administration services with South Central Economic Development District in connection with Community Development Block Grant Project 25-ED-001, Pacha Soap Co.
- (i) Approval of Department of Economic Development Procurement Procedures and Code of Conduct related to the Community Development Block Grant program
- (j) Approval of the request of the Hastings Business Improvement District to utilize city property for the Downtown Market every Thursday from June 25, 2026, to August 6, 2026

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

(a) Resolution No. 2026-41 maintaining natural water levels of Lake Hastings without adding water through City intervention (Postponed from the May 11, 2026 City Council Meeting.) Moved by Michael Anderson seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve resolution 2026-41 maintaining natural water levels of Lake Hastings without adding water through city intervention. At the request of Councilmember Huntley, City Administrator Mark Funkey summarized the issue as a policy as to whether to take additional actions beyond

normal City operations to raise the level of Lake Hastings. Councilmember Rowan expressed that he was not in favor of not adding water; he mentioned the option of adding a well. Councilmember Anderson confirmed with the City Attorney, Jesse Oswald that the topic at hand is addressing the water and not other aspects of the contract such as silt. Councilmember Anderson confirmed with City Attorney, Jesse Oswald that a future Council could change course if necessary, and City Attorney, Jesse Oswald agreed while the goal would be to adopt a policy that would last. Utility Manager Derek Zeisler explained the allocation process with the Little Blue NRD; the water use is a resource for which planning needs to occur and the water conservation plan recommends not using water for recreational needs. Councilmember L. Consbruck stated that the farmers who produce the food are on allocations and everyone needs to take part in the consequences of drought. Councilmember B. Consbruck discussed the historic water level of Lake Hastings with Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Hassenstab and the process and timing of Utility water discharge into the lake; historically the discharge by the utility during times of higher temperatures has added water at the time when it is needed and Unit #4 is called up. Councilmember Rowan stated that he supports voting no on the resolution because it has not been an issue for 70 years, and he would not like to create a rule. Mayor Beckby stated that the issue could be addressed in future years if necessary, due to low water levels. Councilmember Fong stated that the Little Blue NRD is asking for policy, the decisions are not popular but are important for planning future water use moving forward. Councilmember Hoffman stated that adopting the policy would be a snub to farmers and adopting the policy would be a nod in the right direction; the sprinkler pilot program and tiered water rates are additional steps to address serious water concerns. Councilmember Rowan stated that the option to add a well would be stopped with approval of the resolution. Councilmember Huntley stated that the well option would take time, is expensive, and water restrictions could be placed by the Upper Blue NRD. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: Marc Rowan. Absent: Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

### 3. Public Hearings.

(a) Second public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Project: #24-PWI-008, Hastings Mobile Home Park/Communities (K & K and the Nebraskan) Improvement Project. Mayor Beckby opened the public hearing. Lori Ferguson with the South Central Economic Development District spoke in support of the project. Mayor Beckby closed the public hearing.

### 4. General Business.

(a) Approval of purchase agreement with MacQueen Equipment LLC, for a Pierce Fire Apparatus. Moved by Brian Hoffman seconded by Brad Consbruck to approve purchase agreement number (1286 or 1147) with MacQueen Equipment LLC, for a Pierce fire apparatus. Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse provided a report on the current fleet, replacement plan, sinking fund and purchase options moving forward. Councilmember Hoffman confirmed with Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse that Option 1 is the preferred option. Todd Klein with MacQueen Equipment LLC described the status of the unit being purchased and the improved delivery times following questions from Councilmembers B.

Consbruck and Huntley. Councilmember Rowan inquired about the sinking fund and Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse explained that the unit would be planned for and purchased over several years. Finance Director, Roger Nash stated that the sinking fund is used for apparatus and other needs and has been funded in the amount of \$300,000; the annual payment will be made for the proposed unit while other payments will cycle off providing for planning and purchases for further future needs. Councilmember Rowan asked if purchasing both units would be a viable option. Fire Chief, Troy Vorderstrasse stated that his concern would be moving off the current replacement plan which is balanced; it would be difficult to replace two units at the same time in the future. Moved by Rowan seconded by Anderson to approve amendment for Option 1 purchase agreement number 1286 with MacQueen Equipment LLC, for a Pierce fire apparatus. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Maggie Esch. The motion carried. The City Council voted on the original motion as amended. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

(b) Approval of MOU with Hastings Fire & Rescue changing the shift schedule for the remainder of Union Contract period. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Brian Hoffman to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hastings Fire and Rescue changing the shift schedule for the remainder of Union Contract period. Tom Treffer representing the Hastings Professional Firefighters Local 675 provided a presentation on the proposed schedule change to a 48/96 work schedule; other communities in the region are adopting the scheduling and advantages include improved recovery time, less commuting, maximizing vacation times and increasing the number of full weekends off. Additionally, training can be more balanced, improved morale, employee retention and overtime reduction. Councilmember Huntley inquired about the number of staff in support of the change and Tom Treffer reported that 90% of the union members present voted in support of the change approximately one year ago. Councilmember B. Consbruck asked how long the change would take to implement, and Tom Treffer provided that the change would occur at the next fiscal year, and Chief Vorderstrasse agreed, adding that there would be some operational considerations on late night calls, training and paperwork. Councilmember Hoffman asked if there were any arguments against making the change or expected turnover, and Tom Treffer provided that the timing of large events with recovery time would require more planning, and the potential for 72-hour shifts, but that would still be followed by 72 hours off for recovery. Tom Treffer stated that there would be an adjustment for families, but when speaking with other department personnel, the comment was made that it would have been great if the change had been made 20 years ago. Addressing retention, Tom Treffer stated that he believes it would be a wash. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Maggie Esch. The motion carried.

(c) 2026-2027 Budget Presentations: Museum, Library. Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson provided a budget summary including no additional staffing, revenue will remain steady, expenses will increase slightly for maintenance and a boiler project. Two capital

projects include the Kool-Aid exhibit conversion and collection rehousing project, and both projects are funded with the 1/2 cent sales tax. Future capital projects include the Naval Ammunition Depot and reenvisioned Hastings Area History project and replacement of a failed HVAC control system in the theatre addition. Councilmember Fong asked about the cost of the planetarium replacement, and Museum Director, Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson provided that the project is approximately \$150,000.

Library Director, Kelly Reisig presented the investment that the community made in the library and her numbers showed a \$4,172,685 savings to the taxpayers absent the library. Programming was attended by 15,049 attendees and at a cost of \$10 per attendee, this provided a value of \$128,567 to the community. No additional staffing is being considered, but employee and vendor costs are increasing with cost of living and inflation. The capital project of note is a new bookmobile to utilize the library sinking fund in cooperation with Adams County. Councilmember Hoffman discussed the bookmobile and shared his concern that a low-profile vehicle may have issues traversing rural railroad crossings, and discussed the popularity of the Hoopla program and potential expansion.

5. Ordinances and Resolutions.

None.

6. Final Passage of Ordinances.

None.

7. Appointments.

(a) Appointments to Boards and Commissions. Moved by Matt Fong seconded by Michael Anderson to approve the appointment as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Steve Huntley, Michael Anderson, Brad Consbruck, Larry Consbruck, Marc Rowan, Brian Hoffman, Matt Fong. Nays: None. Absent: Maggie Esch. 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 7:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

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George J.J. Beckby, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tyler Ficken, City Clerk

(SEAL)