

2015 HASTING CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT
LOCHLAND COUNTRY CLUB
March 19, 2015, 5:30 PM

The Meeting was called to order in regular session by Council President Duval; Motioned by Council Member Neimeyer and seconded by Council Member Skutnik at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Duval, Odom, Goebel, Skutnik, Hoops, Niemeier, Krings, and Harrington. Also in attendance: Joe Patterson, City Administrator. Mayor Powers joined in by way of Skype.

Prior to this meeting a notice was placed in the Hastings Tribune, notice was posted in three public places, and each Council Member and Mayor received a copy of the proposed agenda and that an agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection and that said meeting is held in open session.

Council Members were given the departmental reports in advance of the retreat.

Council is fine with the current Mission Statement and Goals.

The current ½ Cent Sales Tax will expire in 2017. The Council began discussion as to future priorities for the continuation past the current date. This issue will need to be placed on the fall election of 2016, so that if approved, the tax would stay in place. Street construction and repair are high on everyone's list. There will be more discussion on this issue moving forward.

The possibility of a 1% Restaurant Tax was discussed. The Council seemed open to the idea, and wondered if Grand Island had an election or was it passed by the City Council. New legislation, passed in 2014, would require a vote of the people if the tax would generate more than \$700,000 annually. Patterson will be doing some research on this and will get back to the Council. The possibility of a Community Committee was discussed.

The Council discussed the need for better language interpretation. This issue is being resolved through the purchase of a subscription to E.L.S.A (Enabling Language Service Anywhere). We plan to purchase four units for use by our Fire and Police Departments. If needed, we will expand to other departments. We will also be looking at providing our staff with cultural diversity training.

The Council discussed the need for a more comprehensive street and subdivision planning process. Lack of sidewalks on North Baltimore on the Hastings Lake homes was discussed. Staff members are working with the owners to extend a short section of trail to the North, as this is on the trail master plan. The City would cost share with the property owners to widen their sidewalk to trail standards.

Council President Duval spoke to recycling and the Waste Cap staff, who will be presenting at our April Worksession.

The Council discussed moving the Council Meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and not changing the days they meet. Council also discussed moving the Worksession to the third

Monday of the month and meeting at various City locations, as well as the second floor meeting room. These items will be placed on an upcoming Council Meeting agenda for consideration. The Council discussed the Police Pension shortfall situation. Patterson will be gathering more information for the Council to review. We currently have five disabled officers and seven officers eligible for a defined benefit retirement. We will be sampling the cost of annuities for the remaining pre-84's and most probably asking for a actuarial study.

The Council also discussed EPA future costs as they relate to our 2nd Street site cleanup. To date, the City has spent over \$300,000 and is committed to spend up to \$1,700,000 in total costs.

The Council was called into closed session by Council Member Hoops, seconded by Council Member Goebel at 6:40 p.m. Council Member Hoops called Council out of closed session, seconded by Council Member Goebel at 7:06 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Council Member Krings, seconded by Council Member Neimeyer that there being no further business to address the meeting be adjourned at 7:06 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(S E A L)