

**COUNCIL WORKSESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015 AT 5:30
CITY HALL 2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Council President Duval with the following members present: Mayor Vern Powers, Odom, Niemeyer, Goebel, Krings, Harrington, Skutnik. Absent: Hoops

Moved by Odom, seconded by Harrington that the Worksession Agenda be adopted. The motion carried.

Council President Duval stated that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the 2nd Floor Conference room and that prior to this meeting a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Building, that each Councilmember 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. The motion carried.

Discussion of Proposed 2015-16 Annual City Budget

Joe Patterson presented the 2015-16 Annual City Budget to the group. Some of the highlights are below:

- Received certified levy from the assessor, which is slightly higher than expected.
- Pay plan increase of 2.93%, which is the same as Hastings Utilities. This does not include fire and police unions. We surveyed cities, but didn't do a position by position comparison.
- We did not budget revenue for a City Restaurant Tax. The reasoning was that we didn't want to budget and have a shortfall.
- Budgeted extra money in Administration budget for retirement buyouts for vacation and sick leave benefits, etc.
- Waiting on guidance from the consultant regarding staffing and service levels.
- Mayor/Council-Netbooks will be replaced.
- Councilmember Odom asked if there has been any further discussion on fiber. He is concerned on connectivity within City buildings. Joe is not aware of any recent discussion.
- Auditorium moving forward with renovations and will be under construction in 2016. Nothing scheduled in the Auditorium after Dec. 31, 2015.

Councilmember Hoops entered 6:07p.m.

- Library is working with the Museum for temporary space during Library renovations.
- Fire Department runs are up in utilization, which helps general fund revenues. Kent is working on translation equipment.
- Police normally budget for 2 cars, but are recommending 3 to keep compliant with State.
- Airport was discussed as to the threshold on the cost of maintaining an airport in comparison to the need.
- Nebraska Dept. of Roads will be working on East Highway 6 in the next few years. The Council discussed beautification of the East Corridor to the City.
- Discussed hiking/biking trail locations and funding options
- Landfill is purchasing a trash grinder which will extend the use of the landfill. Staff will send a video to the City Council members of how the machine works.
- Self-Insured Health Fund has additional \$500,000 budgeted for the fund. Specialty prescriptions are taking a large amount of funds. Joe will talk to other cities about what changes they are making to their policies.

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Mayor Powers left the meeting at 6:42 P.M.

Moved by Odom, seconded by Krings that the Mayor and Council go into closed session at 7:37 P.M. for the discussion of negotiations. The motion carried.

Moved by Odom, seconded by Skutnik that the Mayor and Council resume open session at 7:45 P.M. The motion carried.

Moved by Niemeyer, seconded by Krings there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 P.M. The motion carried.