

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, on October 6, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Special Session by Mayor Powers with the following members present: Harrington, Duval, Odom, Niemeyer, Krings, Hoops, Skutnik, Goebel. Absent: None.

The Mayor led the group in recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Moved by Skutnik, seconded by Niemeyer, that the Agenda for the October 6, 2015 Special Meeting be adopted. Official Notice of the meeting was given in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, October 2, 2015. Roll Call: Ayes: Harrington, Duval, Odom, Niemeyer, Krings, Hoops, Skutnik, Goebel. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Powers read the Public Notice – Pursuant to the 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 located at the back of the Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

Moved by Odom, seconded by Niemeyer to approve the revised contract with Sinclair Hille Architects of Lincoln, Nebraska for Hastings City Auditorium renovation.

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, stated the scope of the auditorium renovation project has been reduced because it is no longer tied to the proposed convention center. We are under time constraints on the grant to finish the auditorium so the projects were separated.

Councilmember Duval mentioned her concern with omission of an elevator on the renovation plans. Mayor Powers will check into the cost of adding an elevator.

Roll Call: Ayes: Harrington, Duval, Odom, Niemeyer, Krings, Hoops, Skutnik, Goebel. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

Presentation of consultant's organizational study by Michelle Ferguson and Ron Norris from The Novak Consulting Group. (Power Point attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Mayor Powers mentioned that a comprehensive study on every department in the City of Hastings had not been done since 1976. He also stated that public remarks will not be accepted at the meeting tonight. Mayor Powers announced that the Final Report is posted on the City's website.

Michelle Ferguson and Ron Norris from The Novak Consulting Group presented methodology and summary of work completed by their group. The purpose of evaluating the City's organizational structure is to ensure that the structure serves effectively and efficiently and meets the needs of the community today and into the future.

An overview of the 79 specific recommendations was provided in addition to a draft implementation plan. The Mayor, City Administrator, and Council will assess the recommendations and set priorities.

Councilmembers discussed several of the recommendations and opportunities to work better as a community.

Some Councilmembers questioned why the recommendation for abolishing the Board of Public Works was given. Michelle and Ron explained that eliminating the Board of Public Works and reorganizing Hastings Utilities under the authority and direction of the City Administrator would help to eradicate the cultural, managerial, and operational divide between the City and Hastings Utilities.

Councilmember Niemeyer asked the Council to have a serious conversation regarding combining services for the Library and Museum under one roof in order to share services and staffing.

Councilmember Krings asked everyone to keep an open mind in the conversations to follow.

Mayor Powers stated the report is unfiltered for the community to see. He asked for solutions, not just comments in discussions that follow the release of the study. He promised the study and recommendations will not be left on the shelf. The Council will schedule a worksession immediately to review the recommendations, discuss solutions and priorities of implementation.

Mayor Powers asked for all employees of the City of Hastings to work together. He also thanked The Novak Consulting Group for their work on the report.

Moved by Krings, seconded by Odom to receive and place on file the organizational study.  
Roll Call: Ayes: Harrington, Duval, Odom, Niemeyer, Krings, Hoops, Skutnik, Goebel. Nays: None.  
Absent: None. The motion carried.

Moved by Niemeyer, seconded by Skutnik there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 P.M. Roll Call: Ayes: Harrington, Duval, Odom, Niemeyer, Krings, Hoops, Skutnik, Goebel. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

APPROVED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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