

Behind the Scenes

April 2023



A monthly report from the City Administrator and Department Heads

Hastings City Offices
220 N. Hastings Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901
www.cityofhastings.org
402-461-2309

Hastings Utilities
1228 N. Denver Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901
www.cityofhastings.org
402-463-1371



facebook.com/CityofHastings
facebook.com/HastingsParksRec-reation
facebook.com/hastingslibrary
facebook.com/hastingsmuseumfan
facebook.com/HastingsUtilities-Dept
facebook.com/HastingsFireRescue/
facebook.com/HastingsPoliceDepartmentNebraska



twitter.com/CityHastingsNE
twitter.com/hastingsutil
twitter.com/HastingsMuseum
twitter.com/Hastings_Rec
twitter.com/HastingsFireNE
twitter.com/PoliceHastings



www.instagram.com/cityofhastings/
www.instagram.com/hastingsmuseum/
www.instagram.com/hastingslibrary/
www.instagram.com/hastingsfirerescue/
www.instagram.com/hastings.police/
www.instagram.com/hastingsparksandrec/

Contents

A message from the City Administrator.....3

City Council Updates.....4

Public Information.....5

City Attorney.....6

Safety.....6

Parks and Recreation.....7

Hastings Police Department.....8

Hastings Fire and Rescue.....9

Hastings Public Library.....10

Hastings Museum.....11

Environmental.....12

Landfill.....13

Hastings Utilities Customer Service.....14

Hastings Utilities Electric Production.....15

Finance.....16

Engineering.....17

Human Resources.....17

Streets.....18

Development Services.....19

Airport.....20

General Excavating of Lincoln removed a 13,000-gallon fuel tank from the former Theis Service Station in early April. Gana Trucking of Martell then demolished the service station building.

Following demolition, the site will be seeded with grass.

The Hastings Public Library Foundation purchased the property at 302 N. Denver Ave., in May 2022 with the intent that the property be developed for library programming and public use.

Funds for the purchase of the property were raised by the Library Foundation.

Plans for the property at 302 N. Denver Ave., have not yet been developed.



Items included in photographs are highlighted in red text.

April 2023

Transparency in Local Government

One of my top priorities for the City of Hastings is to provide a transparent local government. This report is specifically geared for you, our residents. If you want to know what's going on at the City, you're not going to want to miss getting this report at your fingertips. Follow the instructions below so you can get your free monthly digital copy.

What is "Behind-the-Scenes"?

Put simply, the Behind-the-Scenes report is a compilation of department head reports. Once a month, department heads will put together their individual reports which consists of prior months accomplishments and upcoming projects. The Public Information Manager will gather the information into one report for you.

Who is the audience for the report?

The report is principally for residents who are interested in knowing what's happening at the city. The Mayor and Council and City employees will also benefit from this report.

Why is the City putting this report out monthly?

Residents need quality information so they can visit with their council members about what they



want to see happen in the community. When everyone is informed, better decisions are made.

How can I get this report each month?

Sign up for our monthly email blast via this link... <https://www.cityofhastings.org/services/enotifications.html>

The report will also be published on our website and social media channels.

Will the City Administrator discuss this report with the public?

Yes, after the report is published each month, I will visit with news stations and other media outlets to highlight some of the key happenings at the city.

Is the City planning on doing other public information outreach efforts besides this report?

Yes, after we produce this report, we'll be looking into other outreach efforts the city may not have seen before. More to come!

March meeting actions and updates

◆ Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Butch Eley to approve Resolution No. 2023-08 for an agreement between the City of Hastings and the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) for Project No. STP-S01C(102), Hastings Regional Center Spur Bridge - State Highway Detour. The motion carried.

The State of Nebraska will be replacing the bridge south of the Landfill on Southern Hills Drive during the 2024 construction season. To facilitate this work, the roadway will be closed for 95 working days and a detour route will be used. The motion carried 7-0 with Councilman Matt Fong absent.

◆ City Administrator Shawn Metcalf announced he was pursuing finding temporary office space for City Hall employees due to environmental concerns about the building at 220 N. Hastings Ave. due to mold.

◆ Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve Resolution No. 2023-09 for additional full-time equivalent and funding for the Assistant Director of Finance. That position would be a dedicated high level financial person for utilities, within the Finance Department. The motion carried 6-1 Councilman Steve Huntley dissented.

◆ Council members, during the worksession on March 20, a



presentation of the city's 2022 financial audit; discussed the Hastings Southeast Project including roundabout; discussed an update to the city/county EMS billing contract.

◆ Moved by Shawn Hartmann seconded by Marc Rowan to approve the claim of Eldon's Automotive Repair in the amount of \$602.68 (City). The motion carried 6-0-1. Councilwoman Joy Huffaker abstained.

◆ Moved by Butch Eley seconded by Shawn Hartmann to approve the bid from Crouch Recreation in the amount of \$103,649.00 for the purchase of a shelter to be installed at the Heartwell Park island. The motion carried 6-2 with council members Rowan and Huntley dissenting.

Future City Council meetings

- ◆ May 8
- ◆ May 15 worksession
- ◆ May 21 Hastings City Council retreat 1-4 p.m., in the Hastings Museum's Abbott Room
- ◆ May 22

Council meetings take place 5:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Mondays, with the worksession at 5:30 p.m., on the third Monday of the month.

Council meetings currently take place at City Hall, 220 N. Hastings Ave., but will temporarily be moved to the Hastings Municipal Airport terminal at 3300 W. 12th St. The move to the airport terminal will occur later than when city departments move out of 220 N. Hastings Ave.

The City of Hastings has had a Public Information Manager since March 2020.

That person oversees social media accounts for City Hall and Hastings Utilities, and assists with the social media accounts for several other city departments.

I, Tony Herrman, have been in the role since February 2023. Prior to working for the City, I spent nearly 18 years as a reporter at the Hastings Tribune with much of that time spent covering the City of Hastings.

When City Administrator Shawn Metcalf joined the City of Hastings in December 2022, one of his priorities was public communication.

This monthly Behind the Scenes newsletter was a communication tool Shawn brought to Hastings from Rawlins, Wyoming, where he previously served. Behind the Scenes looks at the accomplishments and ongoing projects of the different city departments.

The city has a nascent YouTube page, www.youtube.com/@CityOfHastingsNEB, which will become more robust in the future.

The Public Information Manager is also the staff member most directly involved with the media. Since starting, I have arranged several interviews for reporters with city staff members and have represented the city on television a few times myself.



Another public communication endeavor is town hall meetings with Hastings City Council members. The first of those is Thursday, April 27 at the Lincoln Park Fire Station, 1145 S. Hastings Ave. That town hall will be with Ward 1 council members Jeniffer Beahm and Steve Huntley.

The three other wards will be represented in future town hall events as well.

Shawn recently announced that departments currently housed in City Hall at 220 N. Hastings Ave., including administration, development services and finance departments, would be temporarily relocated. Moving out of the building at 220 N. Hastings Ave., will allow the Hastings City Council to determine whether to repair, rebuild

220 N. Hastings Ave., or build a new building.

Public feedback was received during a pair of townhall and tour events, on March 4 and 6, as well as a survey that saw 596 responses.

Shawn talked about that process during a press conference on March 14.

City Hall staff will be temporarily relocated in late May or early June, with the Administration and Finance departments going to the Landmark Center at 2727 W. Second St. The Development Services Department will be temporarily relocated to the city-owned building at 3505 Yost Ave.

Council meetings will be moved to the Hastings Municipal Airport at 3300 W. 12th St.

CITY ATTORNEY

Last months accomplishments:

- ◆ Filed prosecution regarding 16 city code violations including parking and animals
- ◆ Filed prosecution regarding 5 property violations
- ◆ Drafted and submitted viaduct litigation brief and reply brief
- ◆ Interviewed with Local 4 to promote awareness of abatement process of properties
- ◆ Reviewed multiple City contracts

Upcoming projects:

- ◆ Initiate the process for re-codification of city code
- ◆ Continue prosecuting city code violations



- ◆ Continue to streamline property abatement process
- ◆ Updates to city code

- ◆ Continued support of code enforcement officials across the City

SAFETY

The City of Hastings safety department is working to promote a culture of safety, as well as standardizing safety procedures.

Trent Clark joined the city on March 14 as safety director and has been conducting safety audits of city facilities to see how best to optimize operations. This benefits efficiency.

Clark joins Bob Davis, who has served as Hastings Utilities safety director for eight years.

Clark and Davis are a safety resource for city employees, making sure employees have the proper training online and, in many cases, in person.

All city employees have an-

nual safety training based their positions.

Davis implemented procedures such as 360 Walk Around for vehicles to ensure employees are as safe as possible before driving a city vehicle.

Clark's first goal as city safety director is implementing 5S, which is a five-step methodology for creating a more organized and productive workplace. The five S's are Sort, Straighten, Standardize, Shine and Sustain.

Beyond that, Clark wants to implement within the city the processes Davis already has in place for Hastings Utilities.

Davis is also implementing 5S



at Hastings Utilities.

Prior to coming to the city, Clark worked a variety of positions at Thermo King, including four years in safety. Environmental Health and Safety technician.

Recent Events

The annual Easter Egg hunt was April 1 at Brickyard Park. The weather was perfect for the hunt. The 4,000 Easter eggs were all picked up in less than a minute!!

Not to be forgotten, the Dog Park had it's own easter egg hunt. Dogs were on the hunt for eggs filled with dog bones. They too picked up their eggs in minutes!!

Upcoming Events

Pepsi Disc Golf Tournament will be Saturday, May 6 at Lake Hastings. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Registration is the day of the tournament.

Nebraska Youth Track and Field Meet will be held Thursday, May 18. Age divisions are 8-9, 10-11, 12-13. Pre-register by May 12.



POLICE

Highlights from March report

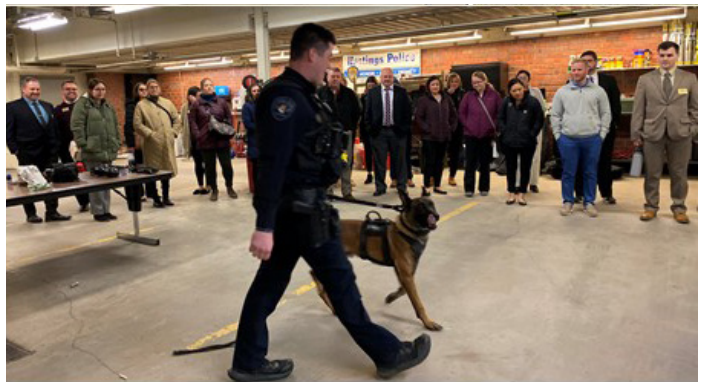
◆ March 8, the Hastings Police Department hosted Leadership Hastings at HPD with “Legal and Law Day.” Capt. Raelee Van Winkle is on the Leadership Hastings Board and scheduled presentations that our agency provided. Det. Jimmy Barron provided a drug presentation. Chief Adam Story provided an overview of the agency and tour. Det. Josh Onken provided a presentation on evidence processing. Sgt. Josh Fink provided a presentation on all HPD lethal weapons, less lethal weapons, ballistic equipment, breaching equipment, and other police equipment. He gave demos of some of the equipment. Ofc. Gardner, Sgt. Williamson and K9 Kane provided a presentation and demonstration with our Police Service Dog Team.

◆ March 21 and 28, officers of the Department participated in Arrest and Control Tactics training as well as Tactical Medical training developed by Ofc. Bartels and Ofc. Sharman respectively. Both trainings were taught at the Department by in-house instructors. Some of the training topics were handcuffing, controlling subjects on the ground, improvised tourniquets, and drags/carries

◆ March 29 and 31, officers participated in a live-fire training over High-Risk Traffic Stops developed by Sgt. Brooks. This training was conducted at the HPD firearms range while officers were on duty. Vehicles donated by Pat’s Towing were used for the exercise.

◆ March 29 and 30, School Resource Officer Brad Cunningham gave multiple tours at the Hastings Police Department to the preschool students of St. Michael’s.

◆ Throughout the month of March, all officers completed pursuit policy review. This is yearly training that is mandated by the state for officers to maintain their certification. Officers completed this training online via PoliceOne Academy.



	2023 Mar	2022 Mar	Year to Date Totals		Percent +/-
			YTD 2023	YTD 2022	
Police					
Total Calls for Service	3053	1932	8444	5759	46.6%
Incident Reports	262	322	747	810	-7.8%
Traffic Accidents	73	37	279	123	126.8%
Traffic Stops	464	484	1328	1303	1.9%
Part I Crimes	138	158	403	459	-12.2%
Complaints Against Employee	1	1	7	4	75.0%
Use of Force Incidents	1	0	2	4	-50.0%
Community Service Officers		0	0	0	
Animal Calls	132	151	344	435	-20.9%
Animals Impounded	36	26	82	91	-9.9%
Code Enforcement	37	46	111	151	-26.5%
Complaints Against Employee	1	0	2	0	100.0%
Communication Center		0	0	0	
911 Calls	881	812	2401	2308	4.0%
All Other Calls	5186	5164	13628	15024	-9.3%
Complaints Against Employee	0	0	0	2	200.0%

HASTINGS FIRE & RESCUE

MARCH 2023



TOTAL INCIDENTS

302

Fire 96
EMS 206

Turnout Time

1:21

0:54

FIRE

EMS

Turnout time – the time elapsed from when the emergency dispatcher notifies the fire department of an emergency and when the first apparatus leaves the fire station.

Response time – the time elapsed from when an apparatus begins to respond until

Response Time

4:20

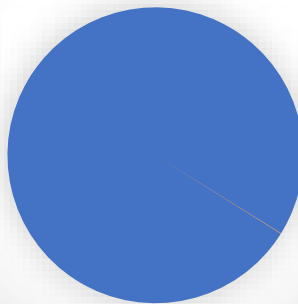
3:56

FIRE

EMS

Property Saved vs Property Lost

Dollars Saved
\$16,895,165



Losses
\$7,000

Total Training Hours

831

Community Risk Reduction Efforts

Building Inspections:

5

Plan Reviews:

24

Violations Corrected:

11

Violation Notices:

37

Public Ed Contacts:

62

Code Consultations:

10

Fire Investigations:

4

MARCH EVENTS

~HFR personnel participated in two career fairs.

~HFR personnel participated in a live training exercise at Greenleaf National Guard Training Site with the Aviation Regiment from Grand Island.

~Four employees graduated from the Training Academy on March 10.

~HFR conducted new hire written and physical ability testing for 18 candidates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

~Seven local EMS Students will be earning their clinical hours riding with HFR ambulance crews.

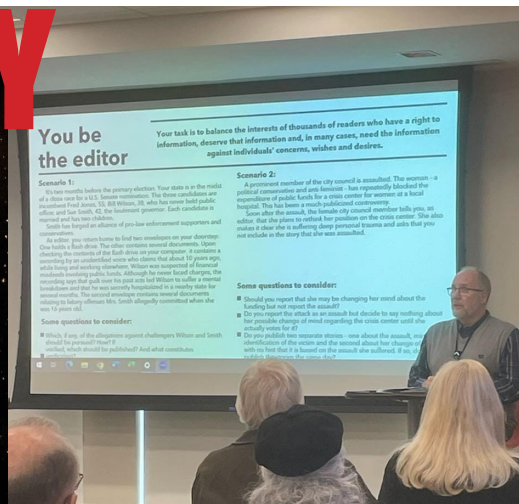
~Probationary firefighters will be testing for Firefighter I Certification.

~Leadership Hastings will be touring Station 1 on April 12.

~Give Hastings Day 2023 early giving will open on April 19. HRF is accepting donations for rope rescue equipment.



LIBRARY



For the second year in a row, fifth graders from Doniphan-Trumbull elementary school visited the Hastings Public Library for a special tour!

The 26-student class was divided into two groups. While one group was touring the library, the other set to work constructing a paper chain in a competition to see who could make the longest one. In the PIXLab, the students made their own buttons featuring their school mascot, the cardinal. They also explored everything that the library has to offer, including programs made just for their age group, like the wild, zany, and ever-popular, "Mega Brain Kidz Club."

The tour wrapped up with a group photo in front of the PIXLab's green screen where they used software to send themselves to another planet. Even the teachers got in on the fun! These types of tours are a great way to introduce students to library resources and encourage young readers to pursue their passions...after they come back from outer space, of course!

Hastings Public Library staff members celebrated St. Patrick's Day with over 40 children and parents. Festivities included green cookies and Kool-Aid, a shamrock scramble, plus Leprechaun-themed crafts and games

The library kicked off its Echoes of the Heartland series with "You Be the Editor" a program from retired newspaper editor Kent Warneke that was attended by 32 people. Echoes of the Heartland is made possible through a partnership with Humanities Nebraska and AARP. Echoes of the Heartland includes 12 programs now through December.



Building

We have City engineers working on documentation for the bidding process to complete capital outlay projects that include replacing 30-year-old boilers and bringing the fire alarm system up to code.

Programs

March is the beginning of the busy school season. Schools from all across central Nebraska and northern Kansas are coming to the Museum to participate in curriculum-based activities. Some also watch a film in the Theatre or attend a planetarium show while they are here.

We hosted over 100 girls scouts for the annual Girl Scout Overnighter March 18. During the event, they earned their pottery and jewelry badges, viewed exhibits, and watched a film before crawling into their sleeping bags which were spread throughout the Museum.

A bus full of patrons enjoyed a tour of the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot, watched Bunker University, and viewed artifacts from the NAD on March 25.

Exhibits

Flowers, Fowl, Fish, Butterflies, and Bugs ends April 2. This is a temporary exhibit consisting of photographs and carvings created by Jerri and Dee Haussler.

Exhibit Opening

Aliento A Tequila opens April 7 and runs through May 25. This traveling exhibit made possible by Mid-America Arts Alliance, Exhibits USA, and the National



Endowment for the Arts, explores and celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to tequila, Mexico's national drink. Joel Salcido's photos include the original distilleries that founded the industry, as well as several artisanal tequileras committed to the ancestral ways of making tequila from harvest to bottle. The photos also reveal the region's cultural and religious traditions. This exhibit is presented in English and Spanish.

Events

◆ April 30 – History on Foot: University Avenue Tour

◆ Visit www.HastingsMuseum.org for more information on these and other upcoming events.

◆ May 2, 7 pm Talon Talk with Devin Jaffe owner of Mile High Falcons. Learn about four raptors, see live birds, and watch one take flight!

◆ May 13, 2 pm Preschool Playday - Oceans

◆ May 20, 11 am Solar Observing, weather permitting



ENVIRONMENTAL

City of Hastings Environmental Department

Notes from the Environmental Director – Marty Stange

I appreciate this opportunity to introduce our department. We provide support for environmental compliance for all of the city of Hastings departments. Much of our work involves the utilities department. Our staff consists of 4 individuals. This includes Marina Richards, Jenny Sidlo, Roger Aspen and myself. Each of us have specific training and certifications to support engineering and environmental activities. I also oversee the Hastings Landfill and the various superfund sites including the South Landfill and North Landfill.

Our group was culled out of the HU Engineering Department to provide environmental support for the city and to oversee the landfill operations. We continue to support the Engineering Department and various other utility departments in operational analysis, design, permitting and reporting. This includes the operation of the Aquifer Storage and Restoration Project. We continue to support the water department with their Lead Service Lines replacement program with State Revolving Fund (SRF). We are also involved in the environmental issues affecting working conditions at various city and utility facilities.

How does our department support the public?

We are happy to field inquiries from the public on various environmental and utility questions. We are happy to support the public whenever possible. Inquiries include questions about water quality issues, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal, groundwater contamination, pollinator habitat developments, rain gardens, and air emissions. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Hastings Website.

Meet your Environmental Staff

Roger Aspen: In addition to other responsibili-



ties recently served as Interim Landfill Superintendent after Jack Newlun retired.

The hiring process for the vacated position is complete and Michelle Hill from the Landfill Scale House was selected to fill the roll. Roger transitioned out of the roll as Michelle transitioned from the Scale House roll and into the Superintendent position.

Training and Education Events

On March 31st three members of the Environmental staff attended a Wellhead Protection Network meeting in York Nebraska. We were joined by Jim Hardy from the Water Department for this field day.

Regulatory Action

By the end of March all compliance reporting for end of year, RY2022, has been submitted. This includes, Air Permit Deviation reports, Air Permit Certification of Compliance reports (COC), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act reports (EPCRA), State and Local Emissions Inventory System reports (SLEIS), and Greenhouse Gas reports (GHG). These reports cover various Hastings Utilities departments. We also directed and monitored the Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) for Whelan Energy Center Unit 1. This is required for the compliance and annual certification of the Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEM) System.

Notes from the Solid Waste Superintendent – Michelle Hill

Changes, changes, changes... This Department has a new Foreman, Superintendent, and operator. With a new Solid Waste Clerk in the near future! Adapt, Commit, and Thrive!

Our Dozer will be undergoing some major predicted repairs/replacements. We will be utilizing a rental while ours is getting repaired. Our dozer plays a significant part in our operation here.

What can we say about the wind... Our enemy? Possibly! The wind speeds could be worse, but are currently just enough to be a nuisance. We put in a lot of hours to maintain any/all litter in and around the Landfill.

What can the public do to assist the landfill operations?

Always comply with the City Ordinance in regards to having your loads tarped or strapped securely to eliminate losing any debris. We enjoy seeing the public out here and the best tip we can offer, ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings out here and secure your loads.

Meet your Solid Waste Staff

This department has recently hired a new Solid Waste Foreman, Konner Hinrichs. He worked in this department recently in the Maintenance position, took another job, and is now back to take the lead. Konner has jumped right in like he never left. We are all working together as a team to ensure we are putting our best foot forward!

Waste Inventory Summary

As a reminder the Hastings Landfill services 6 counties; including Adams, Clay, Franklin, Kearney, Nuckolls, and Webster county.

February 2023

There were 784 customers who placed 3,755.20 Tons of solid waste into the Landfill. Another 251.56 Tons of Wood/Green Waste was received. Various "In-Kind" services are provided for example the Hastings Parks Department brought in



129.88 Tons of Wood Waste from throughout the City for this department to process and turn into wood chips.

Training and Education Events

The Landfill played host to a Solid Waste Screening Workshop on April 20 and April 27 at the city-owned building at 3505 Yost Ave.

Regulatory Action

By the end of March, we will have completed/submitted our Air Permit Deviation Report, Air Permit Certification of Compliance Report, Air Emissions Inventory Report, and Greenhouse Gas Summary. Something else to note, this department was just re-permitted through NDEE which will allow our operation to continue through April of 2028.

HASTINGS UTILITIES

Customer Service

AMI and Smart Meters

Since 2020, Hastings Utilities has been installing electric smart meters throughout Hastings and the Juniata communities. The smart meters are part of an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) from Tantalus Inc. that allows for two-way communication between a meter and Hastings Utilities' billing department. Hastings Utilities also reads meters using automated meter reading (AMR) technology. AMR utilizes radio frequency to collect readings from a meter, typically from a handheld and mobile receiver. The smart meters currently being installed in the Hastings grid are able not only to report its own reading, but it also collects signals and readings from around twenty-five other meters as well.

There are a few major benefits with the implementation of an AMI system. **Reliability and Power Outage Restoration:** Smart meters and the Utilities Outage Management System will identify a power outage and the area affected in seconds. Pinpointing where the power is out will save on restoration time and restoring power back to the customers. When optimizing smart meter data and alerts properly by staff, some outages can be prevented.

Improving Customer Service: Smart meters are able to report daily data and on some services,

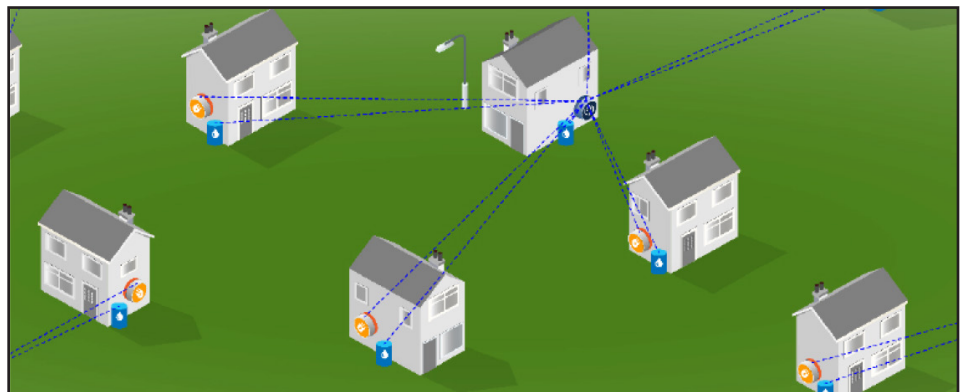
every hour. Customers can have real-time data to forecast a bill or to monitor their usage. A customer portal is currently unavailable but is anticipated in the future.

Employee efficiency: The AMI system has reduced the need to manually or drive by meters to obtain readings.

As more and more electric meters are replaced, the stronger the communication links become throughout the service area and more consumption data is available. Hastings Utilities is on a three-year replacement schedule to install smart meters in the Hastings service area. The goal is to replace one out of every eight to ten meters to form a strong communication grid. To date, more than 3,000 out of 14,100 smart meters have been installed. The smart meters are being strategically replaced based on Tantalus' initial propagation study. Service personnel from the Utility Department will have to be on customers' property to physically install the electric smart meters during the replacement timeframe.



Smart meters, like the one installed here, look very similar to other electric meters. The graphic below depicts how the meters communicate with one another.



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Electric production and energy supply



Whelan Energy Center 1 and 2 coal fire powerplants east of Hastings generate around a combined 300 Megawatt hours of power.

Southwest Power Pool

While Hastings Utilities (HU) has electric generation, HU is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP.) SPP is a nonprofit corporation that exists to provide reliable power and competitive electricity prices. HU generates electricity from our units, all of that power is sold to the SPP market at a price set by the SPP market. HU then purchases back the electricity needed for the city, again, at a price set by the SPP market. See below on what makes up the different types of generating units in the SPP market. This information was pulled directly from SPP's website: www.spp.org.

Energy production by fuel type on Jan. 19, 2023

287,289 Gigawatt hours

33.3% coal

37.5% wind

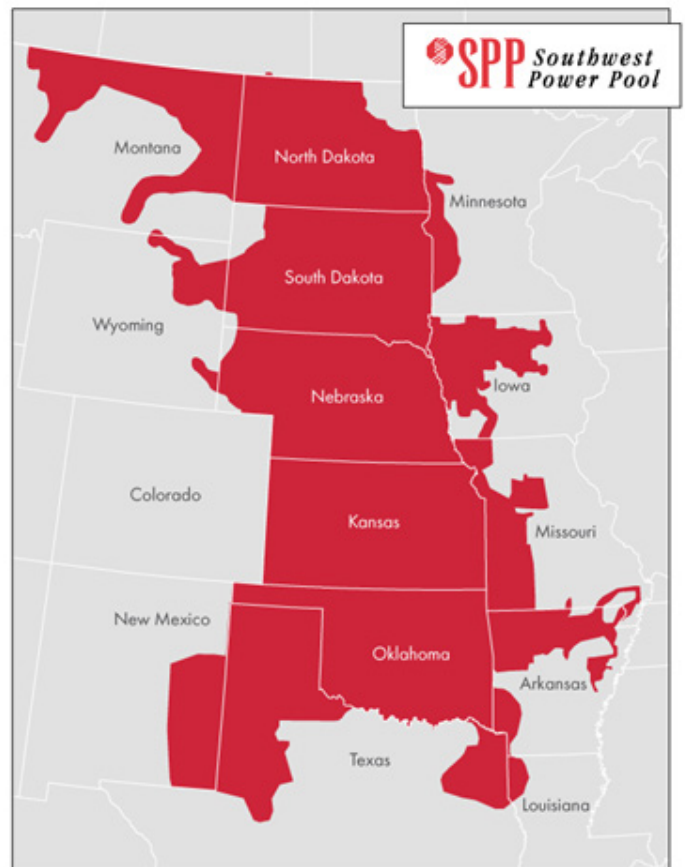
20.9% natural gas

5.1% nuclear

2.9% hydro

0.2% solar

0.1% other



FINANCE

The City of Hastings is in a good financial position as it looks at potential significant costs in the near future.

That was how Roger Nash, the city's director of finance, described the situation after the city received its audit report for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2022 from Grand Island accounting firm AMGL.

Members of the Hastings City Council received the audit report during their work session on March 20.

The city had \$19,124,799 million in general fund cash as of Sept. 30, 2022. That balance is far above the target amount of \$9.670 million.

The amount is less than the \$21,281,796 reported in the 2021 audit. Roger said the \$2,156,997 difference between the 2021 and 2022 figures represents the city's 2022 payment for the repairs that occurred in 2021 and 2022 near the intersection of U.S. highways 281 and 6, and also increased expenditures for public safety.

Having nearly \$20 million in reserves places the City of Hastings in a good position as the city looks at significant costs for potentially repairing, renovating, relocating or building a new City Hall as well as a local share of costs associated with the State of Nebraska's planned Hastings Southeast project, which would rebuild 2.39 miles of U.S. High-



way 6 and Elm Avenue at the city's east entrance.

"We're fortunate to have options," Roger said.

The utility department cash was \$86,652,170 million as of Sept. 30, 2022, also above the target amount of \$81,580,000 million.

Hastings finished the 2022 fiscal year with \$4,656,503 in outstanding general obligation debt. Following payments on three street pavement bonds and a public safety bond for the purchase of a new fire engine, the city is scheduled to end the current fiscal year on Sept. 30 with a general obligation balance of \$4,252,193.

Hastings finished with a debt-to-valuation ratio of .33%. That ratio is less than the .37%

of the previous year.

AMGL considers a good general obligation debt to valuation ratio to be anything less than 5% and excellent to be less than 3%.

When it comes to benchmarks, Hastings finished above the recommended amounts for revenue and below for expenses in nearly every category.

Even in the sales tax category, at \$340 Hastings may be below the recommended level of \$370 per capita, but the city still increased \$28 per capita from the 2021 amount of \$312.

That is the largest per-capita sales tax increase for the city in more than five years and follows a trend of increasing per-capita receipts each year.

ENGINEERING

Pg 17

Recent Accomplishments

◆ Lake Hastings Water Quality Public Meeting took place April 6 at the Parks and Recreation Community Center.

◆ CDBG curb ramp project in downtown continues

Continuing water main projects on First and Seventh Street and M Street

◆ Started rebuilding cooling tower for North Denver Unit 5

◆ Continue to work with consultant on design of substation improvements for Whelan Energy Center, Seventh Street and B Street

Upcoming Projects

◆ Quiet Crossing construction to start on Hastings Avenue

◆ 4.16KV to 13.8KV electric distribution conversion work, Second to Seventh Street and Briggs to Bellevue Avenue will start in April



◆ Concrete repair work on Fifth Street from Briggs to Kerr Avenue

HUMAN RESOURCES

◆ Participated in Seasonal job fair at City Auditorium – March 5

◆ Training with Munis consultant for the Enterprise Resource Planning human resources module – March 21-23

◆ Posted – five jobs

◆ Interviewed – 25 applicants

◆ Seasonal employees – 20 completely onboarded and ready to start

◆ Hired and onboarded – 7 new employees

◆ Tested:

Police officer – 3

Police Sergeant – 7

Firefighter/Para/EMT – 18

911 Dispatcher – 10



City of Hastings and Hastings Utilities employees meet with students during a job fair on April 20 at Hastings High School.

STREETS

Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ Continued patching pot-holes throughout the City
- ◆ Continued street sweeping activities
- ◆ Completed 3 street openings for plumbers this month
- ◆ Completed storm sewer repair and concrete replacement in alley connecting Lincoln and Hastings Avenues between Third and Fourth Streets
- ◆ Completed storm sewer drain repair in the 100 block of Colorado Avenue

Upcoming Projects

- ◆ Starting to crack seal
Temperatures warm enough to start concrete maintenance work
- ◆ Pickup trash and start mowing ROW's

Reminder of the Month

- ◆ As the temperatures warm up more people will be out enjoying the nice weather. As you are on the roadways, remember to watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES Pg 19

The City of Hastings has a tool to address unsafe properties not in compliance with the minimal property standards, but the city will continue to work with property owners.

The city's current budget includes \$300,000 allotted for demolition and cleanup of properties found to be dangerous to life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards, or the property is so damaged that collapse is possible.

Those minimal property standards are set forth in the International Property Maintenance Codes as adopted by the city through City Code 40-501.

The city wants to work with property owners and will give the property owner proper notice delivered personally, or via mail. The city also will post a notice on the property.

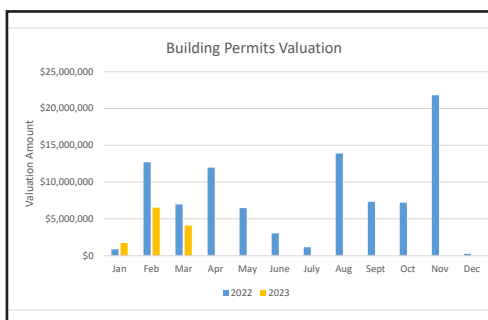
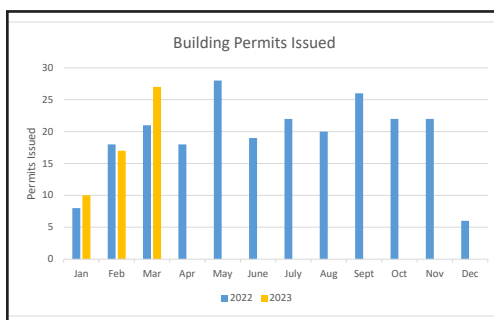
A few unsafe homes have been demolished so far, the first of which was 1938 W. Eighth St.



The home at 1938 W. Eighth St., which was previously deeded to the City of Hastings, was the first house deemed to be unsafe that was demolished.

Building permits for 2022 and 2023

	2022 Building/Issued			2023 Building/Issued		
	#	Fees	Valuation	#	Fees	Valuation
Jan	8	\$3,383.02	\$848,511.39	10	\$5,031.22	\$1,727,725.45
Feb	18	\$38,990.16	\$12,695,252.37	17	\$37,527.15	\$6,529,893.63
Mar	21	\$39,452.12	\$6,967,169.38	27	\$20,975.95	\$4,087,070.48
Apr	18	\$64,999.64	\$11,971,253.98			
May	28	\$26,147.87	\$6,469,413.89			
June	19	\$6,065.39	\$3,019,405.84			
July	22	\$3,297.34	\$1,135,204.23			
Aug	20	\$71,591.74	\$13,886,283.85			
Sept	26	\$18,156.28	\$7,331,063.51			
Oct	22	\$12,569.51	\$7,191,729.96			
Nov	22	\$120,656.47	21809652.42			
Dec	6	\$1,302.57	\$246,370.47			
Total	230	\$ 406,612.11	\$ 93,571,311.29	54	\$ 63,534.32	\$12,344,689.56



AIRPORT

March was a slower month. The weather kept some of the local pilots from flying and some of the corporate jets from stopping for fuel.

◆ There was 7,000 gallons of Jet A sold and 3,200 gallons of 100LL sold.

◆ We had a new pilot solo for the first time in March.

◆ We have approximately eight students at this time learning to fly.

◆ All of our hangars are currently full including the house being rented for a mechanic.

◆ The Antique Airplane Association had its first hamburger feed of the year on March 25 at the Hastings Municipal Airport. There were 42 airplanes that flew in that day and 160 burgers were cooked. The event was very successful. The Antique Airplane Association will hold the burger feed the last Saturday of every month 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is welcome and it is free will donation.

◆ The Antique Airplane Association has move a 1928 Lincoln Page airplane to the field. It was built in Lincoln Nebraska. It is on display to see at these burger feeds as well as many more planes.



Above: Three different businesses flew into Hastings Municipal Airport for business in town.

Below: Several Nebraska Pilots who flew in for the burger feed pose for a photo.