

Behind the Scenes

MAY 2023



A monthly report from the City Administrator and Department Heads

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A crew from Icon Poly Studio of Gibbon delivered and set up the 6-foot Kool-Aid Man statue on April 29.

Kool-Aid Man’s exterior is made from urethane fiberglass. The interior includes a heavy duty polyurethane foam in the legs and urethane wooden armature inside the structure for stability.

Altogether, the sculpture weighs about 200 pounds.

Museum staff hope Kool-Aid Man will enhance visibility for the Museum’s connection to the famous beverage that was invented in Hastings.

Kool-Aid was created in Hastings by Edwin Perkins in 1927.



Items included in photographs, or mentioned in entries are highlighted in pink text.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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City Hall Q&A with Shawn Metcalf

Q: What's the latest news on City Hall?

A: In March 2023, I made the decision to move employees out of City Hall due to ongoing environmental health concerns. Since that decision, we've been preparing to move.

Q: Where are City Hall employees moving?

A: Administration and finance employees are moving to the Landmark Center at 2727 W. Second Street, Suites No. 422 & 424. Offices are accessible from the southeast entrance. Signs will be put up so you can find us. ADA access is available at the entrance in the middle of the west side, near Nebraska Cancer Specialists.

Development Services employees will be temporarily relocated to the city-owned building at 3505 Yost Ave.

Q: When will we be moving out?

A: We anticipate moving in early June 2023. We'll keep the community posted when we get closer.

Q: Will we call the same numbers to reach City Hall employees?

A: Yes, I.T. is going to set us up on the City's network so that we can use the same phone numbers.

Q: How much is the city going to spend per month on rent?

A: Approximately \$4,000 per month

Q: Will Council meetings and other board meetings continue to be held at City Hall?

A: Yes, however, the city is fixing up the airport terminal to accommodate these meetings. We'll keep the community informed when it's time to move meetings to the terminal.

Q: I heard there was a City Hall survey. What did we learn from that?

A: The biggest takeaway was that most residents AND employees want to see City Hall remain in the downtown area.

High on the priority list for residents is having a building that is energy efficient, adherence to adopted fire and building codes, high consideration of overall cost, larger space for City Council meetings, adherence to Americans with Disability Act, low operation and maintenance costs, safe

location for visitors/staff/residents, sufficient parking, and having a one-stop location for developers to access Development Services, Engineering, and Utilities.

Some of the key comments were, "Don't build a Taj Majal," "Make City Hall a place that we can be proud of because City Hall is a reflection of the City," "Maintain what we have, fix it!" "Make it safe," "Employees should be able to work in a safe/healthy environment," "Renovate the building like the school district," "Stay invested in downtown," "Make maintenance a priority now and in the future so we don't have another situation like this."

Q: When will the City Council decide on what to do with City Hall? What are the current options?

A: Right now, we are waiting to get some new architectural drawings that would cost less to implement. Depending on the option selected, the previous architectural drawings indicated the project would cost somewhere in the range of \$9-\$11 million.

When we get the new drawings the City Hall committee will meet to review the drawings and come up with pros and cons of each option. The new options include renovation options and a new build option; however, careful consideration will be given to see if a repair option is possible. We will likely have the new drawings in June 2023.

Q: Will the City Hall Committee present their findings to the City Council?

A: Yes, after the Committee meets, they'll present their findings at a City Council work session.

Q: How long will it take if the City Council choose to renovate or build new?

A: It depends on which option is chosen, but if a renovation or new building is chosen, it would likely be 2-4 years.

Q: How will we prevent issues like this in the future?

A: I will be requesting additional personnel to take better care of our buildings and infrastructure.

Q: If positions are approved, when would we start hiring? What about infrastructure money?

A: October 2023

April 10

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the application of Hublocsters, LLC dba “Back Alley Bakery” for a Class “C” Liquor License at 609 W. Second Street. Councilwoman Joy Huffaker was absent.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the manager application of Kerry-Anne Block in connection with the Class “C” Liquor License for Back Alley Bakery.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the request of Bryce and Stephanie Anderson to change zoning from “R-1, Urban Single Family Residential District” to “R-2, Mixed Density Neighborhood District” for property commonly addressed as 901 S. Lincoln Avenue.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the Final Plat for Brickhouse Subdivision.

◆Voted 6-1 to approve the agreement with Werner Construction for paving Street Improvement District 2022-3 Laird Avenue in the amount of \$412,511.22. The motion carried. Councilman Marc Rowan dissented.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve a resolution giving advance notice to the Nebraska Department of Transportation that the City of Hastings intends to conduct a special event, the Half Hastings Races, requiring the closing of a portion of the state highway system on June 3, 2023.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve a resolution approving the requirements for building a private hangar at the Hastings Municipal Airport.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve a resolution

for removal of the blighted and substandard designation for the Hastings Dog Park.

◆Voted 3-4 to table a resolution supporting the Nebraska Department of Transportation’s design and construction of a roundabout at Elm Avenue and South Street as part of the Hastings Southeast Project. The motion failed.

◆Voted 5-3 to approve a resolution supporting the Nebraska Department of Transportation design and construction that includes a roundabout for the Hastings Southeast Project. Council members Marc Rowan, Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck dissented. Mayor Corey Stutte also voted in favor.

April 17 Worksession

◆Presentation of Library Annual Report.

◆Presentation of the Whelan Energy Center fly ash project.

◆Presentation of Community Solar Expansion.

◆Discussion of Delegated Authority.

◆Discussion of City Hall Survey Results.

April 24

◆Voted 8-0 to award a contract to Morten Construction of Kearney in the amount of \$367,084 for Phase 4 road resurfacing at Parkview Cemetery.

◆Voted 8-0 to approve the contract with Philip Carkoski Construction and Trenching, Inc. for New Concrete Storage at the Utility Warehouse in the amount of \$80,663.

◆Voted 8-0 to approve the con-



tract with Babcock & Wilcox Co. for the Whelan Energy Center 1 Bottom Ash System in the amount of \$1,665,811.

◆Voted 6-2 to approve the contract with GenPro Energy Solutions for the Hastings Solar Farm Phase 2 in the amount of \$8,413,259. Councilmen Marc Rowan and Steve Huntley dissented.

◆Voted 7-1 to approve Ordinance No. 4732 amending city code to remove director of development services from the list of department heads. Passed on final reading. Marc Rowan dissented.

◆Voted 8-0 to approve Ordinance 4733 amending city code to return speed limits on Showboat Boulevard to 50 MPH from U.S. Highway 6 to 422 feet north of 12th Street. Passed on final reading.

◆Voted 8-0 to approve a resolution temporarily place a stop sign at 26th Street and Osborne Drive East during construction of the Adams County’s box culvert on Showboat Boulevard.

◆Voted 8-0 to approve Mayor Stutte’s appointment for Stefan Schneider to the Mechanical Board for a term from April 24, 2023 to April 24, 2025.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Pg 5

The City of Hastings and Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce collaborated on a town hall meeting Thursday April 27 at Fire Station 2 - Lincoln Park with First Ward Hastings City Council members Jeniffer Beahm and Steve Huntley.

Tony Herrman, Public Information Manager for the City of Hastings, organized and facilitated the discussion.

About 35 people attended this town hall, which was the first such event since December 2022, when Shawn Metcalf became Hastings City Administrator and brought an emphasis on public communication.

The event provided an opportunity for the public to ask questions, and receive feedback, about city projects.

Earlier in the day on April 27 at Fire Station 2, Public Information Manager Tony Herrman was also among city staff members to participate in a tabletop critical incident response exercise organized by Adams County Emergency Management Director Ron Pughes. The exercise allowed participants to think about their role in the response during a school shooting in Hastings. Representatives from the Hastings Police Department, Hastings Fire and Rescue, the Street Department and several other local agencies were included as well.

Work continues at the City of Hastings on other forms of public communication as well, such as social media posts, setting up interviews between city staff and the media, and this newsletter.

Upcoming events

The next Hastings City Council town hall meeting will be 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday June 29 at Hastings College's Barrett Alumni Center, 1001 N. Sixth Ave.



CITY ATTORNEY

Last month's accomplishments:

- ◆ Filed 16 new complaints regarding, property, parking, animal and fire code violations.
- ◆ Prosecuted 18 violations of City Code.
- ◆ Began discussions regarding review of areas eligible for annexation as required by City Ordinance 2-606.
- ◆ Drafted and reviewed contracts and requests for proposals.
- ◆ Drafted resolutions and ordinances for City Council meetings, including the first removal of property designated as blighted and substandard.
- ◆ Participated in and provided recommendations to the Employee Handbook Committee.



Upcoming Projects:

- ◆ Continued implementation of abatement process.
- ◆ Continued review of city code updates as requested by depart-

ments.

- ◆ Continued filing and prosecution regarding city code violations
- ◆ Continued support of code enforcement officers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Last month's accomplishments:

- ◆ Posted nine positions.
- ◆ Interviewed 35 candidates
- ◆ Hired and onboarded four new hires.
- ◆ 93 seasonal employees completed all their paperwork for Summer employment.
- ◆ After hours Teambuilding/Wellness event making t-shirts at Small Town Famous.
- ◆ Facilitated several city departments participating in a job fair April 20 at Hastings High School.



PARKS AND REC

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Arbor Day Program

The city's Arbor Day program was Friday, April 28 at the Community Center at 2015 W. Third St., which is also the Parks and Recreation Department office. Hastings Tree Board member Joe Kindig planted on Thursday, April 27 a Purple Prince crabapple tree.

Hastings City Councilman Marc Rowan, the council's Tree Board liaison, read a city proclamation for Arbor Day. Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Hassenstab commended Tree Board members Ethan Stout, Joe Kindig, William Locke, Margaret Lainson Hermes, Jane Marie, Hassenstab and Rowan for their efforts promoting community forestry.

Parks staff member Dave Wicker spoke about proper tree pruning techniques.

During the Arbor Day program, Recreation Superintendent Ryan Martin read about the history of Arbor Day and the value of trees.

Gregg Lemke, assistant conservation forester with the Nebraska Forest Service, spoke about proper tree planning techniques.

This year marks the 33rd year that Hastings is a Tree City community. To receive Tree City recognition, a community must meet four standards:

1. Maintain a tree board or department
2. Have a community tree ordinance
3. Spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
4. Celebrate Arbor Day

Upcoming events

◆Hastings Aquacourt Opening Day – noon to 7 p.m., May 27.

◆Bicycle Sunday Fun Day – 2-4 p.m., May 28 on the Pioneer Spirit Trail.

◆Youth Tennis Open House – 10:30 a.m.-noon, May 31 at the Hastings High tennis courts.

◆Pickleball Tournament – 9 a.m., June 3 at the Carter Park Courts.

◆Fishing Derby – 10-11:30 a.m., June 10 at Lake Hastings



POLICE

Highlights from April report

◆ **April 10, the Hastings Police Department welcomed Kassie Geiger as the newest member of our team.** Kassie has been hired as an Officer in Training until she graduates from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. Kassie began her 16-week basic training in May.

◆ **April 11, Department firearms instructors met to practice and prepare for upcoming department wide firearms trainings.** Instructor days allow the instructors to test drills, check time management, and hone their own shooting skills. Officer Tony Burnett developed the training program for April.

◆ **April 11, Officers attended a morning session of Firearms & Fitness at the HPD shooting range.** The program gives them a chance to practice their marksmanship under stress and improve their physical fitness.

◆ **April 19, Capt. Raelee Van Winkle and Chief Adam Story met with Nebraska Attorney General, Mike Hilgers.** There were many law enforcement topics discussed at the meeting and these meetings are necessary to have needed partnerships.

◆ **April 20, Capt. Jason Haase, Sgt. Josh Fink, and Officer Ethan Sharman attended a career fair at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for their Criminal Justice students.** Sgt. Fink participated in an interview panel with other law enforcement agencies so students could ask questions about current police issues. This event was well attended by students and other law enforcement agencies.

◆ **April 21, Officer Byron Arroyo graduated from the NLETC in Grand Island.** Over the past 16 weeks, Officer Arroyo received training at NLETC, giving him the expertise to be a police officer in the State of Nebraska. He will continue his training within the Hastings Police Department for the next several weeks, giving him the knowledge and skills to provide the excellent services our community deserves.

◆ **April 22, the Hastings Police Department hosted a DEA National Rx Take Back event at our agency.** Thank you for everyone that helped us collect 127 pounds of unused prescription medications for safe disposal.



April 2023 Statistics:

	2023	2022	Year to Date Totals		Percent t +/-
	Apr	Apr	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	
Police					
Total Calls for Service	2889	1850	11333	7609	48.9%
Incident Reports	261	290	1008	1100	-8.4%
Traffic Accidents	78	36	357	159	124.5%
Traffic Stops	386	413	1714	1716	-0.1%
Part I Crimes	123	160	526	619	-15.0%
Complaints Against Employee	5	4	12	8	50.0%
Use of Force Incidents	2	3	4	7	-42.9%
Community Service Officers					
Animal Calls	181	194	525	629	-16.5%
Animals Impounded	42	41	124	132	-6.1%
Code Enforcement	31	41	142	192	-26.0%
Complaints Against Employee	0	0	2	0	100.0%
Communication Center					
911 Calls	982	901	3383	3209	5.4%
All Other Calls	4450	5084	18078	20108	-10.1%
Complaints Against Employee	1	0	1	2	-200.0%

HASTINGS FIRE & RESCUE

APRIL 2023



TOTAL INCIDENTS

307

Fire 110

EMS 197

Turnout Time

1:18

0:56

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.

Travel time – the time elapsed from when an apparatus begins to respond until its arrival on scene.

Travel Time

3:56

3:53

FIRE

EMS

Property Saved vs Property Lost

Dollars Saved
\$83,850



Losses
\$1,150

Total Training Hours

566

Community Risk Reduction Efforts

Building Inspections:

10

Plan Reviews:

4

Violations Corrected:

10

Violation Notices:

8

Public Ed Contacts:

118

Code Consultations:

1

Fire Investigations:

1

APRIL EVENTS

- ~Leadership Hastings toured Station 1 and participated in hands on activities.
- ~HFR personnel conducted a show-n-tell at Lincoln Elementary.
- ~HFR made 4 conditional job offers.
- ~Seven local EMS students are currently riding with HFR and earning clinical hours.
- ~HFR and SafeKids held a car seat event with temperature display.
- ~HFR installed 3 carbon monoxide alarms and 3 smoke alarms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~Seven local EMS students are earning clinical hours riding with HFR crews.
- ~EMS Week is May 21-27th. Join us at Coach's Corner on May 22 to visit with an HFR Ambulance Crew.
- ~On May 22, Coach's Corner will be donating a portion of sales to HFR for the educational temperature display
- ~On May 27, HFR will be doing a burn trailer demonstration at the Library Block Party for Home Fire Sprinkler Week.



LIBRARY

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Graduation

Hastings Public Library held a graduation ceremony on April 29 for the first class of children who logged 1,000 books read before starting kinder-

garten before 2023. After having cookies and punch, graduates received a certificate of completion, a button, and an acrylic leaf engraved with their name that was affixed to the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten tree on the Children's Floor. Graduation ceremonies will be held annually for future readers as they complete the program.

Upcoming Events:

We're kicking off the Summer Reading Program for 2023 with a community block party! We're inviting non-profits, community helpers, food trucks, and so much more. There will be games, activities, and demonstrations from exciting places, all from our very own community. Join us 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on May 27 to start the summer off with a blast!

Summer Reading 2023 runs May 30-July 31. Our theme is "All Together Now," celebrating community, inclusivity, and connection. All ages are encouraged to join by visiting our website or by signing up in person at the library. Every participant gets a free book just for signing up. As you complete the challenges and earn badges, you'll earn tickets to enter into drawings for amazing grand prizes. Visit www.hastingslibrary.us for details!



MUSEUM

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Last month's accomplishments:

- ◆ Representatives from RLR Design of Indianapolis met with Hastings Museum staff and city building officials to review initial floor plans for the new Kool-Aid Exhibit.
- ◆ Another successful S.I.P. event on April 15 was enjoyed by 90 guests who engaged with 5 interesting people.
- ◆ History on Foot toured University Avenue on April 30 with 99 participants braving the windy day.
- ◆ Jessica Noyd led a workshop on April 17 at the Nebraska Museum Association annual meeting teaching smaller museum staff and volunteers how to make artifact boxes.
- ◆ Raices de me Pueblo dancers demonstrated traditional dances from several Mexican states where Agave, the plant used to make tequila, is grown. The performance on April 23 was part of Humanities Nebraska programming in conjunction with Hastings Museum's "Aliento a Tequila."

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ June 5-July 28: Summer Fun classes take place.
- ◆ June 10: 2-2:45 p.m. Preschool Playday. The theme is fairy tales and science.
- ◆ June 15: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Film & Speaker Bud Pettigrew, Hastings resident, former Marine and one of just 10 commissioners nationwide on the American Battle Monuments Commission, will speak after a showing of the film "Our Promise: 100 Years of the American Battle Monuments Commission." The film will also be shown June 17, 18 and 21.

For more information go to www.hastingsmuseum.org.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Notes from the Environmental Director – Marty Stange

April was a busy month as we have completed the required quarterly Air Emission reports for the Whelan Energy Center.

Aquifer Storage and Restoration (ASR) presentation was provided to the leadership of Hastings. **Scripps News** requested an interview regarding the ASR operations specifically addressing uranium contamination and control. The correspondent opened her news article with a nod to Kool-Aid.

An interview with Nebraska Public Media was requested to discuss superfund activities and how the City of Hastings provided unique compliance options. This being the Well D project and the use of a phytocap for the South Landfill. The correspondent was very impressed with the innovative efforts that we have implemented.

Attended the NRCS Water Quality Subcommittee to give guidance on spending Farm Bill Appropriations on protect groundwater from nitrates and other farm chemicals. The committee recommend continued work and financing to bring new efforts in the education and implementation of best management practice related to the nitrate groundwater issues.

How does our department support the public?

This past month we received a call concerning how to test for mold in a home. We advised them accordingly. It was a good opportunity to provide some education and how to properly address mold and provide mold mitigation practices.

Special Events

The Environmental Department and Water Department held a tree planting event on Arbor Day. A total of 50 trees and 75 shrubs were planted at five well locations to provide for living snow fences. Not only will the living snow fence reduce the snow drifting at the wells it will provide habitat for birds and pollinators. This was a very good team building event for our departments.

Regulatory Action

The EPA is revising the Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) and new regulations my impact the Whelan Energy Center operations. If new limitations are promulgated they will be included in the forthcoming NPDES Permit renewal.



Notes from the Solid Waste Department

As the projects pick up across our area, so does the traffic out here! Everything from purchasing wood chips for landscaping to bringing out home remodeling debris. We still always ask the public to please be aware of your surroundings out here and keep your debris secured in your vehicle or trailer while transporting to the landfill to eliminate roadside litter.

Waste Inventory Summary

For the Month of April, traffic has definitely picked up. We had 2,358 customers who brought in 4,790.72 tons of Solid Waste and 301.40 tons of Wood/Green Waste to our facility.

Training and Education

All of the Solid Waste Department staff attended a Solid Waste Workshop in April. Not only did we learn and get a refresher, we were able to meet many others from surrounding Landfills and Transfer Stations. The first workshop was on April 20th. Aside from our Landfill, we had 1 from York, 4 from Osceola, 2 from Lexington, 2 from Kearney, and 3 from Beatrice. The 2nd workshop on April 27th we had 3 from Loup Central, 2 from Oakland, 1 from NDEE, and 2 from Beatrice. There was a great turn out for both days.

New Staff Alert

We have hired a new Scale Clerk. Her name is Lisa Davis. While there is a lot for her to learn, she is picking it up quickly! Lisa has shown nothing but a positive attitude and willingness to learn more and more each day.

Looking Ahead

The Landfill is looking into purchasing a new Compactor for the fiscal year 23'-24'. We have been visiting with a few representatives to get the most information we can. Our compactor is one of the most vital parts of our operation. Compaction is key in the Landfill world. More compaction equals longer Landfill life. Our goal is to utilize our Landfill for the longest possible amount of time.



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Wastewater

Performance indicators

Gallons of Wastewater treated at Pollution Control Facility in 2023:

◆ Total through April: 322,220,000 Gallons

◆ Average: 2,850,000 Gallons Per Day

Major Contaminant Average % Removal from Wastewater in 2023:

Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (A test measured by the depletion of dissolved oxygen by biological organisms in a body of water in which the contribution from nitrogenous bacteria has been suppressed) 98.68% removal, Total Suspended Solids 99.79% removal, Ammonia 99.59% removal.

Big Projects

◆ Primary Digester New Cover and Recirculation System Project is Underway. The new lid was raised April 6 and successfully leak tested April 11. Coating and welding to continue through the summer.

Primary sludge digestion converts settleable solids in wastewater into cropland applicable fertilizer with heat, mixing, and anaerobic (without oxygen) bacteria. The cover keeps oxygenated air out of the system and traps methane gas generated from the bacterial process. The methane is used as supplemental fuel, burned in the boilers at PCF to heat the digesters and heat some of the buildings on site.

The Primary Digester cover replacement will cost about \$2.5 million by the end of the fiscal year.

The new digester lid weight:

Cover Weight: 130,528 lb

Ballas Weight: 134,215 lb

Total Weight: 264,743 lb

◆ South Burlington Lift Station received upgrades to ventilation, lighting, and hydraulic grinder system.



Water

Performance Indicators

Gallons of water treated via Aquifer Storage and Restoration and re-injected back into the aquifer in 2023:

Total through April:

◆584,500,000 gallons

◆Average: 4,870,833 Gallons Per Day

Gallons of water distributed through our municipal system in 2023:

◆Total through April:

557,300,000

◆Average: 4,644,167 Gallons Per Day

Big Projects

There were 29 lead water services replaced in 2023 and progress improving with the weather.

Seasonal Well Contaminant Sampling in full swing.

Backflow survey

Hastings Utilities needs the help of water customers.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services public health regulations require the city to survey all customers every five years to determine if backflow conditions exist.

Backflow is the reverse flow of detrimental and dangerous material into water mains. When there are connections between the water supply and sources



of possible contamination, it is potentially dangerous – and connections between drinking water lines and commercial and industrial plumbing systems can be deadly.

Backflow occurs when water pressure in a customer's service connection is greater than the pressure in the public's water supply in the pipe. Of greatest concern is backflow of toxic chemicals and wastewater that may contain pathogens – for example, chemically treated water from a boiler system being forced back through the service line into the public's drinking water supply.

Hastings Utilities customers will receive with their June bills a brief survey concerning potential backflow conditions at their residence. Based on the information provided, Hastings Utilities may contact the homeowner to conduct a backflow inspection, to evaluate and eliminate any backflow conditions.

The participant's name, address, phone number and date of completion are all required both to validate the survey, as well as to locate potential black-

flow issues for Hastings Utilities customers.

Backflow prevention is a matter of protecting the quality and safety of the water supply. Backflow prevention helps to ensure that dangerous contaminants, such as microorganisms, bacteria, noxious chemicals, heavy metals, gases and other potentially threatening pollutants/substances do not enter the community's potable water system. Additionally, backflow prevention helps to ensure that an epidemic spread of life-threatening diseases, which can and have resulted in death, does not occur.

The required backflow prevention assembly provides containment and it protects the public water system from hazards in your facility.

Spanish-language versions of the survey are available in addition to the English-language version.

English- and Spanish-language versions of the survey are also available through a QR code, seen here.

Thank you for your participation.

English



Español



FINANCE

Larry Fox started May 15 in the city's newly created Assistant Director of Finance position.

The Assistant Director of Finance position was created to lead the Hastings Utilities accounting team and an ongoing major software conversion as the city continues the implementation of its Enterprise Resource Planning modules. That implementation began in fall 2017.

ERP Modules for different processes are implemented one at a time, and officials expect another three or more years of additional work to get the system fully functional.

Fox comes to the City of Hastings with more than 30 years of experience in finance and accounting. He previously served in the government, education and manufacturing sectors, working most recently for Aurora Cooperative Elevator as Controller. His past experiences also include 10 years of working for the City of Grand Island as Controller and Assistant Finance Director. As Controller, Fox supervised a City Accountant and Utility Accountant among others. As the Assistant Finance Director, Fox supervised the IT Manager, Utility Service Manager and Controller.

Fox was introduced during the Hastings Utility Board meeting on May 11.

"There were quite a few things that were familiar challenges that we had that we worked on quite a few years ago," he said of his time in Grand Island.

Fox said he is looking forward to his new position.



"I'm excited to be here," he said. 'Hopefully I can help, we can work together. I look forward to doing that. I think it'll be great. I appreciate the opportunity.'

Fox and his wife, Paige, have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

ENGINEERING

Pg 17

Last month's accomplishments:

- ◆ CDBG curb ramp project in downtown complete
- ◆ Rebuilding cooling tower for North Denver Unit 5
- ◆ 4.16KV to 13.8KV electric distribution conversion work, 2nd to 7th Street and Briggs to Bellevue Avenue started
- ◆ Completed 2022 inner duct (fiber) projects which continues to complete the City's internal fiber network between key buildings

Upcoming Projects:

- ◆ Quiet Crossing construction to start on Hastings Avenue
- ◆ Solar Farm Phase II project kickoff meeting
- ◆ Issuing final bid package, Construction Services, for the 3 large substation projects
- ◆ Receiving bids on Coal Transfer Tower electrical work and material bids for Heartwell Renewable electrical feeders
- ◆ Concrete repair work to begin on 7th Street from West Lawn to Chestnut Avenue
- ◆ Bottom ash and fly ash projects for WEC 1 kick-off

Engineering Fact of the Month:

- ◆ The Engineering Department supports all City Departments with their technical needs. This fiscal year, the Engineering Department will work on over 125 different projects.



STREETS

Last Month's Accomplishments:

- ◆ Continued street sweeping activities
- ◆ Completed 6 street openings for plumbers this month
- ◆ Set up barricades and fencing for Do the Brew event
- ◆ Received the departments new backhoe with point break

Upcoming Projects

- ◆ Street maintenance work including concrete removal and replacement work
- ◆ Mowing of Right-of-Ways will be in full swing
- ◆ Painting activities for crosswalks and street markings

Reminder of the Month

- ◆ When mowing your lawn, please do not blow the grass into the street. This grass ends up in the storm sewers and eventually our city lakes, creating poor water quality.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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The Hastings Family YMCA is moving along with its project. This is the second floor on the north side of the structure, where the new steel has been installed and is progressing nicely.

St. Cecilia is working on Phase 3 of the project, at the close of school. This is the dry-in part of the project on the north side, and they are looking at the end of summer for completion on the north remodel.

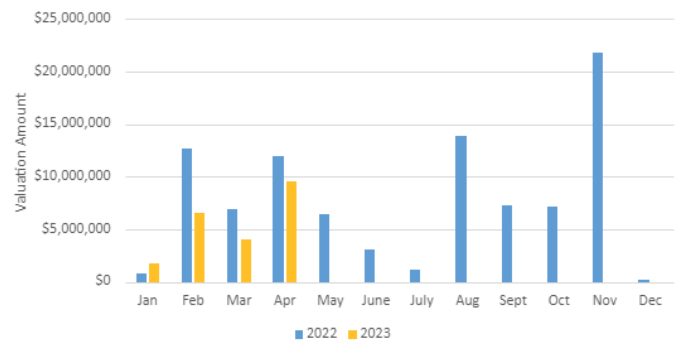
In May, the Planning Commission discussed properties that will be considered in this year's annexation.

The Development Services Department is scheduled to move into new, temporary offices at 3505 Yost Avenue in Hastings.

The City of Hastings issued a Certificate of Occupancy to the third floor of the Mary Lanning Medical Office Building to allow for the nursing college to start moving into its new space.

The City of Hastings is also encouraging citizens to please check to make sure their addresses are on their residences or buildings with minimum of 4-inch high numbers that are contrasting to the color of the house. This will help ensure emergency personnel arrive at the correct address.

Building Permits Valuation



IT DEPARTMENT

The City of Hastings’ Information Technology department supports every department within the city and regularly collaborates with other departments on big projects.

This was the case with Hastings Utilities’ energy supply department’s market participant conversion NextEra, from a different contractor.

As market participant, NextEra helps manage the HU fleet of electric generation including Whelan Energy Center, units 4 and 5 at the North Denver Station and Don Henry substation in west Hastings.

NextEra serves as an intermediary between Hastings Utilities and the Southwest Power Pool. NextEra helps Hastings Utilities market capacity and forecast

the market.

Including a pair of Geographic Information System employees, the City of Hastings’ IT Department has 13 employees.

The energy supply department brought the market participant conversion to the IT department about six months ago. The conversion was completed prior to the April 1 deadline. It was a major project overseen by Utility IT Manager Kirk Layton.

The conversion included the purchase of new equipment. IT department personnel worked with NextEra to enable necessary secure communication through the Internet.

As market participant, NextEra now provides redundant connections as well as fallback cellular connection.

There is redundant equipment on firewall and connection on the NextEra and city sides to boost the consistency of signal and data.

“We’re a support team that supports all the departments with all the different styles and stuff they’re doing,” IT Director Erik Nielsen said.

Other recent, large projects IT collaborated on with other city departments included GPS and in-car communication for the Hastings Police Department, GPS for Hastings Fire and Rescue, fire department, computer-aided design for the engineering department, Advanced Metering Infrastructure and the supervisory control and data acquisition network to corporate network for HU.

INCIDENTS MANAGEMENT INCIDENTS VOLUME BREAKDOWN
Incidents Volume Breakdown

