

Behind the Scenes

Volume 1, No. 4

JULY 2023



A monthly report from the City Administrator and Department Heads

www.cityofhastings.org



facebook.com/CityofHastings
facebook.com/HastingsParksRecreation
facebook.com/hastingslibrary
facebook.com/hastingsmuseumfan
facebook.com/HastingsUtilitiesDept
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/

To receive a digital copy of the Behind-the-Scenes report each month, go to:

<https://www.cityofhastings.org/government/administrative-services/behind-the-scenes.html>

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator – Behind the Scenes Message July 2023

Ongoing Maintenance of City Assets

A major pain point in the community right now is the lack of maintenance on city assets. I acknowledge this problem and plan to make changes that will put us in a better situation moving forward.

Q: Why didn't we maintain City Hall and other assets better?

A: My thoughts on this, considering that I've worked for the city approximately 7 months now, is that there were higher priorities. One of the highest priorities that I am aware of is that the city previously had a lot of debt. The City prioritized reducing debt, and deferred maintenance was an effective tool to reduce debt. That prioritization has put us in a good financial position, but it also put us in a position where we really need to spend a substantial amount of money on maintenance needs now to catch up.

Q: So, we know there was deferred maintenance... What will we do moving forward?

A: The city's budget runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 of each year. For the upcoming budget we've programmed several positions to help make ongoing maintenance a priority again. The first position being recommended is a Building Maintenance Manager. If this position is approved, the individual in this role will have the principal role of compiling and monitoring a master list of building maintenance needs (i.e. roofs, HVAC systems, flooring, boilers, etc) and prioritizing these according to condition and age. At budget season, this individual would advise each department head on building maintenance needs so they can plug in capital expenditure costs aligned with this master list.

Q: Will there be any other positions recommended at budget time to help with deferred maintenance?

A: Yes, we will recommend adding at least one more Building Maintenance Specialist that would be charged with proactively changing filters, monitoring for structural issues, and other ongoing



maintenance items. Many of our buildings do not have someone dedicated to this type of work, so it is paramount to put personnel in place to proactively maintain our assets.

Q: Do we have any personnel right now that do maintenance on city buildings?

A: Yes, we have three full-time employees that take care of the Museum, Utilities, Whelan Energy Center, Parks and Rec buildings/assets, and the City Auditorium. The additional personnel will prioritize taking care of the rest of the city buildings, such as City Hall, Library, Airport, Streets, Police, Fire, etc. Right now, these departments do their best to maintain their buildings; however, they need the expertise of building maintenance personnel to really take proper care of their buildings.

Q: How will we ensure building maintenance is being taken care of?

A: We intend to set up this new Building Maintenance division the same way the Information Technology department is set up. The Mainte-

nance Manager would oversee the Facility Maintenance Specialists and each department would have the ability to submit tickets via an online ticketing system to track and respond to various needs. This tracking is important because it will help us identify which buildings are requiring the most work and will help the Building Maintenance Manager coordinate efforts in an effective and strategic way.

Q: Will these changes solve all building problems?

A: No, because there is only so much money to go around; however, it will place us in a strategic position to make informed decisions on our maintenance needs and greatly reduce the chance of larger issues like City Hall. The natural result of quality ongoing maintenance is that we can lengthen the life of assets, ultimately saving the city money. We should invest now for a better future.

Q: What about cleaning of buildings?

A: Right now, most departments contract out cleaning services. We will be proposing some additional funding to provide more regular cleaning of city facilities to keep them in good shape. There is an inconsistent approach and frequency of cleaning our buildings. Ideally, through consolidation, we can bid out a larger amount of the buildings to save tax payer money.

Q: If the positions/funding is approved by Council, how will residents know what's being done?

A: If the Building Manager gets approved, I'm going to take the recommendation of resident, Karren Carnes, who gave a recommendation at the July 10 Hastings City Council meeting to add a section to the monthly Behind The Scenes report with ongoing updates on maintenance efforts by the Building Maintenance Manager and Specialists.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The City of Hastings and Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce collaborated on a town hall meeting Thursday June 29 at Hastings College's Barrett Alumni Center with Fourth Ward Hastings City Council members Matt Fong and Shawn Hartmann.

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

Nearly 100 people attended the town hall.

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

Topics included firework sales, the Hastings Aquacourt water park lazy river, 26th Street detour, Racino, City Hall future, road resurfacing at Parkview Cemetery, Heartwell Park and Strategic Plan.

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 Aug. 24., at the Hastings Museum theater, 1330 N. Burlington Ave.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council members took the following action:

June 12

◆Voted 6-1 to approve expenditure bonuses for certified law enforcement officers and dispatchers at the Hastings Police Department. Councilman Steve Huntley dissented and councilwoman Jeniffer Beahm was absent. Each newly hired dispatcher and police officer hired after Nov. 1, 2022, would receive \$2,000 to \$7,500, depending on experience, and to approve a retention bonus to each currently employed dispatcher and sworn police officer to be paid in the amount of \$3,000 to \$6,000, depending on years of service.

◆Council members voted 7-0 to approve the application of Barrel Bar II, LLC dba "Barrel Bar" for a Class "C" Liquor License at 1200 E. South Street.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the manager application of Mark Hammond in connection with the Class "C" Liquor License of Barrel Bar II, LLC dba "Barrel Bar" located at 1200 E. South Street.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the Telecommunications Line Right-of Way License Agreement with Viaero Fiber Networks, LLC along 12th Street from Nalan Drive to Highland Road and on Highland Road from 1/2 mile north of 12th Street south to U.S. Highway 6.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the Professional Services/Consultant Agreement with South Central

Economic Development District, Inc. for Community Development Block Grant 20-ED-003 grant administration.

◆Voted 6-1 to approve the addendum to remove Scottsbluff from the array of Nebraska cities from the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9 Union Contract. Councilman Brad Consbruck dissented.

◆Voted 6-1 to approve Resolution No. 2023-17 authorizing Roger Nash, Finance Director and Larry Fox Jr., Assistant Finance Director as signatories on City of Hastings bank accounts and other transactions of City business. Rowan dissented.

◆Voted 6-1 to approve ORDINANCE NO. 4737 CONVEYING OWNERSHIP OF "C" STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY TO ROCKFORD PROPERTIES, LP.

June 19 worksession

◆Discussed city hall options.

June 26

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the selection of Garver as the Aviation Consultant for future Airport Development Projects for the next 5 years. Councilman Butch Eley was absent.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve the agreement with Ziemba Roofing for the North Denver Station Plant Roof Replacement for \$314,829.

◆Voted 5-3 to approve moving City Council Meetings from the Council Chambers in the City Building, 220 North Hastings Avenue, to the Hastings Public

Library, 314 North Denver Avenue, at 5:30 P.M. beginning July 10, 2023 and to include following meetings. Councilmen Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck and Marc Rowan dissented. Mayor Corey Stutte voted yes.

◆Voted 5-3 to approve moving City Council Worksessions from the Council Chambers in the City Building, 220 North Hastings Avenue, to the Hastings Public Library, 314 North Denver Avenue, at 5:30 P.M. Councilmen Steve Huntley, Brad Consbruck and Marc Rowan dissented. Mayor Corey Stutte voted yes.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve Resolution No. 2023-18 authorizing plaques, certificates of achievement or items of value may be awarded to City of Hastings employees in an amount not to exceed \$25 per award.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve ORDINANCE NO. 4738 CONVEYING OWNERSHIP OF ALLEY ALONG SOUTH STREET BETWEEN KANSAS AND COLORADO AVENUE TO THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

◆Voted 7-0 to approve Mayor Stutte's board and commission appointments, as presented: Zoning Board of Adjustment: Dan Schwartzkopf, July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2026, Reappointment; Civil Service Commission: Rick Schnase, July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2028, Reappointment; Utility Advisory Board: Scott Snell, July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2028, Replacing Shayne Raitt.

General fund budget summary for the third quarter of fiscal year 2023

The table below is a summary of the cash budget receipts and disbursements for October 2022 – June 30, 2023.

Revenues are 80.5% of the original budget, which normally would be 75% through the first nine months. Sales tax is trending slightly higher than budget and a significant increase in interest income are the main reasons receipts are higher than anticipated through the first nine months of the fiscal year.

Expenses are 64.8% of the original appropriation. The main reasons disbursements are be-

low budget at the end of the third quarter are a substantial number of vacant positions, capital projects not completed due to supply chain issues and equipment lead times. Also, the departments are efficient at managing their operating budgets and staying within their appropriations.

Other governmental funds are comprised of expenses that go across all departments and not specific to one. The major line items in this department are auditing, consulting/professional services, insurance, and a contingency fund.

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL APPROP	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
GENERAL FUND REVENUES	-21,879,707.00	-17,613,404.55	0.00	-4,266,302.45	80.50%
ADMIN - CITY ADMINISTRATOR	750,259.00	380,342.12	39,075.96	330,840.92	55.90%
ADMIN - HR	675,979.00	467,994.97	0.00	207,984.03	69.23%
ADMIN - CITY ATTORNEY	340,933.00	181,232.53	0.00	159,700.47	53.16%
ADMIN - FINANCE	894,830.00	679,468.76	0.00	215,361.24	75.93%
ADMIN - MAYOR & COUNCIL	109,452.00	79,098.87	0.00	30,353.13	72.27%
ADMIN - CITY CLERK	288,713.00	196,561.80	0.00	92,151.20	68.08%
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	1,074,054.00	512,172.19	100.00	561,781.81	47.70%
PARKS & REC - AUDITORIUM	172,756.00	122,018.68	0.00	50,737.32	70.63%
PARKS & REC - CEMETERY	377,223.00	350,747.95	0.00	26,475.05	92.98%
PARKS & REC - PARKS	2,182,142.00	1,483,231.15	0.00	698,910.85	67.97%
PARKS & REC - WATER PARK	472,152.00	196,746.00	0.00	275,406.00	41.67%
PARKS & REC - RECREATION	190,734.00	122,993.04	0.00	67,740.96	64.48%
LIBRARY	1,562,973.00	1,020,286.75	0.00	542,686.25	65.28%
POLICE - 911 CENTER	1,200,017.00	538,448.52	0.00	661,568.48	44.87%
POLICE	6,280,452.00	3,926,595.23	24,504.42	2,329,352.35	62.91%
FIRE	4,202,906.00	2,681,855.50	0.00	1,521,050.50	63.81%
FIRE - AMBULANCE	199,500.00	107,140.86	0.00	92,359.14	53.70%
PW - EPA MANDATES	183,650.00	48,029.36	0.00	135,620.64	26.15%
PW - STORM WATER MGMT	56,800.00	25,615.24	24,238.50	6,946.26	87.77%
AIRPORT	369,168.00	225,819.45	0.00	143,348.55	61.17%
OTHER GOV'T ACCOUNTS	5,732,583.00	3,254,830.35	1,011,315.79	1,466,436.86	74.42%
Revenue Total	-21,879,707.00	-17,613,404.55	0.00	-4,266,302.45	80.50%
Expense Total	27,317,276.00	16,601,229.32	1,099,234.67	9,616,812.01	64.80%

STREET DEPARTMENT

Last Month's Accomplishments

- ◆ Continued street sweeping, mowing, painting, **concrete replacement** and asphalt work
- ◆ Used the machete boom mower to mow all the ditches that cannot be mowed by the regular mowers. This is done twice a year.

◆ Completed 1 street openings for plumbers this month

◆ Set up barricades and fencing for 4 events

Upcoming Projects

◆ Continued maintenance activities

ENGINEERING

Last Month's Accomplishments

- ◆ 4.16KV to 13.8KV electric distribution conversion work, 2nd to 7th Street and Briggs to Bellevue Avenue started
- ◆ Finalizing draft of capital budgets
- ◆ Quiet Crossing construction started on Hastings Avenue

◆ Continuing construction of water main replacement and **street improvement projects**

◆ Completed repairs to Unit 5 cooling tower

◆ Supported test runs of NDS Unit 4 and Unit 5

Upcoming Projects

Receiving bids for construction of 3 large substation projects



HUMAN RESOURCES

Pg 7

During the month of June, the HR department helped facilitate the onboarding of nine new City employees, the off-boarding of eight employees, and participated in 22 interviews.

We would like to utilize this space to allow you to get to know each member of the HR department a little better. We will start off this month with Diane Parker, the Administrative Assistant for the department.

Diane has worked for the City of Hastings for eight years. She's been in HR since September of 2020, previously working in the Engineering department. When Diane isn't at work she enjoys her family – husband Brent; daughter Lacey Mack and her husband Kevin and their three boys, Titus, Tate and Teague; son Dustin Mayfield and his wife Lauren and their new baby



Photo caption: HR/Payroll department l-r: Ann Reinhardt, Alisha Hellner, Lori Hartman, Joslynn Roth, Sheila Thompson, Diane Parker

daughter Nora.

When asked what she enjoys about working in HR, Diane said she likes being able to help employees and enjoys getting to know them better. One thing

that folks may not know about Diane is that she used to be a competitive barrel racer.

Stop in and say hi to Diane the next time you are on the second floor of North Denver Station.

CITY ATTORNEY

Last month's accomplishments:

- ◆ New Complaints filed -8
- ◆ Prosecuted- 26
- ◆ Held meeting with bank in attempt to resolve deed issues with the City Building located at 220 N. Hastings Avenue. On going discussions are currently in progress with bank to reach an agreeable resolution.
- ◆ Reminder that public records requests are for records of the City of Hastings and the City does not produce or generate records to answer questions individuals may have regarding City plans. Should you have questions about City plans please direct those questions to the appropriate department as a question, not a public records request.



MUSEUM

The Museum hosted two guest speakers recently. Photo 1. Hastings' own, Bud Pettigrew spoke about his role as a commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission in conjunction with the film Our Promise. Shane Tucker, Nebraska's Highway Paleontologist, shared information, and examples of Nebraska's rich fossil

history at Member Celebration. 2. Runza assisted in providing meals during our annual Member Celebration and is a sponsor of the new film, Dinosaurs of Antarctica. Runza Rex also got in the action, posing for numerous photos.

3. The Museum is proudly hosting the traveling exhibit, Sun, Earth, Universe. This

hands-on exhibit uses NASA science to explain the Earth's relation to the sun and universe, which is now open through November.

4. The Outdoor Classroom is open for visitors. Please visit <https://hastingsmuseum.org/event/outdoor-classroom/> for more information and times.



Dinosaur Ranger Anthony visited the Hastings Public Library to present his show **Stomp, Chomp, & Roar!** on June 26.

He amazed the crowd of over 160 with facts and legends all about different types of dinosaurs and showed off dozens of fossil replicas. The show also included a baby Spinosaurus and a gigantic volcano experiment!

Stomp, Chomp, & Roar! was one of several events for the Summer Reading Program. Here are some upcoming events:

◆ **Fabulous Feedsack Era** 2 p.m., Aug. 5

Join us for an entertaining and educational program regarding cotton feedsacks and their importance in the lives of rural Nebraskans during a time when money and resources were scarce.

◆ **Mario Party in Real Life!** 6 p.m., Aug. 10

Play Mario Party in the real world! Move around the life-sized gameboard, collect coins and stars, and compete in mini games to see which team comes out on top! Ages 13 to 18 can register through the website or call the library.



◆ **Giant Candy Land** Aug. 26, 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Journey through Candy Land as a life-size game piece! You'll encounter delicious surprises as you race to the castle in this sweet adventure! This program is for ages 5-8 and is divided into four sessions. Register online or by calling the library.



POLICE



June 1, we celebrated the promotion of Captain Haase and Sergeant Hanson with a ceremony. In attendance were friends, family and co-workers. Congratulations Cpt. Haase and Sgt. Hanson!



June 6, we celebrated the promotions of Corporal Burnett and Corporal Sharman with a ceremony. In attendance were friends, family and co-workers. Congratulations Cpl. Burnett and Cpl. Sharman!

June 20 and 27, Officers completed 8 hours of Active Shooter Response training. Thank you to Hastings Senior High School for allowing this training to take place in their building. Sgt. Josh Fink developed and led the training.

June 26, Officer Keyle Alcorn started back at the Hastings Police Department. He will complete a Field Training Program prior to working on his own. Welcome back to HPD Officer Alcorn.

June 28 and 30, Pooh Corner brought kindergarten and school aged students to HPD for a tour.

These are highlights from the full June monthly report.

June Stats:

	2023	2022	Year to Date Totals		Percent
	Jun	Jun	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	+/-
Police					
Total Calls for Service	2965	2121	16983	11983	41.7%
Incident Reports	281	292	1570	1697	-7.5%
Traffic Accidents	67	57	491	267	83.9%
Traffic Stops	356	387	2424	2573	-5.8%
Part I Crimes	145	160	827	941	-12.1%
Complaints Against Employee	1	5	14	15	-6.7%
Use of Force Incidents	1	3	6	16	-62.5%
Community Service Officers		0	0	0	
Animal Calls	181	201	898	1038	-13.5%
Animals Impounded	58	56	228	228	0.0%
Code Enforcement	242	78	576	429	34.3%
Complaints Against Employee	0	0	2	0	100.0%
Communication Center		0	0	0	
911 Calls	1225	977	5765	5153	11.9%
All Other Calls	5227	5856	28056	31568	-11.1%
Complaints Against Employee	0	1	1	3	-200.0%



JUNE 2023



TOTAL INCIDENTS

293

Fire 102

EMS 191

Turnout Time

1:29

0:59

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

4:30

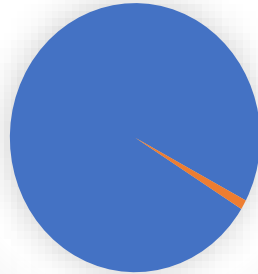
3:58

FIRE

EMS

Property Saved vs Property Lost

Dollars Saved,
\$426,926



Losses,
\$5,000

Total Training Hours

769

Community Risk Reduction Efforts

Building Inspections:

40

Plan Reviews:

13

Violations Corrected:

30

Violation Notices:

101

Public Ed Contacts:

334

Code Consultations:

8

Fire Investigations:

2

JUNE EVENTS

~HFR welcomed four new firefighter trainees to the 2023-2 Fire Academy.
~Battle of the Badges blood drive was a success! Hastings is the Tri-City Champion with 85 units of blood!

Hastings Fire - 55 / Hastings Police - 40

~Every June 17th, we take a moment to reflect on the loss of one of our own. Harley A. Mullen, 49, perished fighting a fire on June 17, 1931.
~HFR inspected 12 fireworks stands.

UPCOMING EVENTS

~HFR will be out in the community promoting fireworks safety.
~HFR will be participating in the YWCA 4th of July Children's Parade!
~HFR will be at Juniata Days and also participating in the 1st Annual Darrel Stromer Memorial Parade.
~HFR will be conducting Fire Extinguisher Training for Paperworks.
~HFR will be welcoming a new Fire Inspector in July.



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Electric production

Power Production conducts two planned outages for each unit each year.

In the case of Spring 2023, Whelan Energy Center No. 1 came offline and started its outage on March 29 and ended June 6, when the unit came back online.

WEC2 came offline and started its outage May 4 and ended on May 26 when the unit was restarted.

Planned outages are part of a preventive maintenance program.

The planned outages scheduled to take place during off-peak generation times of the year during spring and fall.

The planned outages allow the Maintenance, EI&C, and Fuel Handling teams to address major repair items that can't be addressed while the units are operational.

These times of maintenance increase power plant reliability during extended operation.

Major Capital Improvement Projects are conducted during outages.

The 2023 Combined Spring outage lasted approximately 10 weeks. The work that occurs during this time requires coordination between Operations, Maintenance, EI&C, Fuel Handling, Chemist, Storekeepers, Substations, Dispatch, Engineering, and Contractors.

The work includes more than 120 combined Lockout Tag Outs administered by the Operations department. The LOTO program was developed to prevent personal injury resulting from unexpected start-up, energization or release of stored energy during servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment. Over 500 individual sources of energy had to be isolated.

Unit 1 outage consisted of over 230 individual work orders/PMs completed by WEC staff, as well as the following major projects:

- ◆Generator Re-winding.
- ◆Forced Draft Fan Overhaul.

Unit 2 outage consisted of over 190 individual work orders/PMs completed by WEC staff, as well as the following major projects:

- ◆Coal Burner Repairs.
- ◆Coal Pulverizer Repairs.



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Customer Service

Pg 13

Hastings Utilities staff members began the process about 18 months ago, looking at updating the current format to facilitate the transparency of billing components.

Karl Block, HU Manager of Administration, updated members of the Hastings Utility Board about the bill format change during the board's regular meeting on July 13. Block has been working closely with InfoSend, the contractor that will be printing and mailing bills, with the hope that the update will go into effect by either September or October.

"Right now we're working really hard on making sure our billing software is transmitting all the proper data to InfoSend," Block told utility board members. "They'll be able to aggregate, take all that data and put it into the bill for each one of these customers."

The front of the bill includes a circle chart with colors proportionate to the usage associated with each individual utility service.

There is also a bar chart showing 12-month usage for electric, water and gas services.

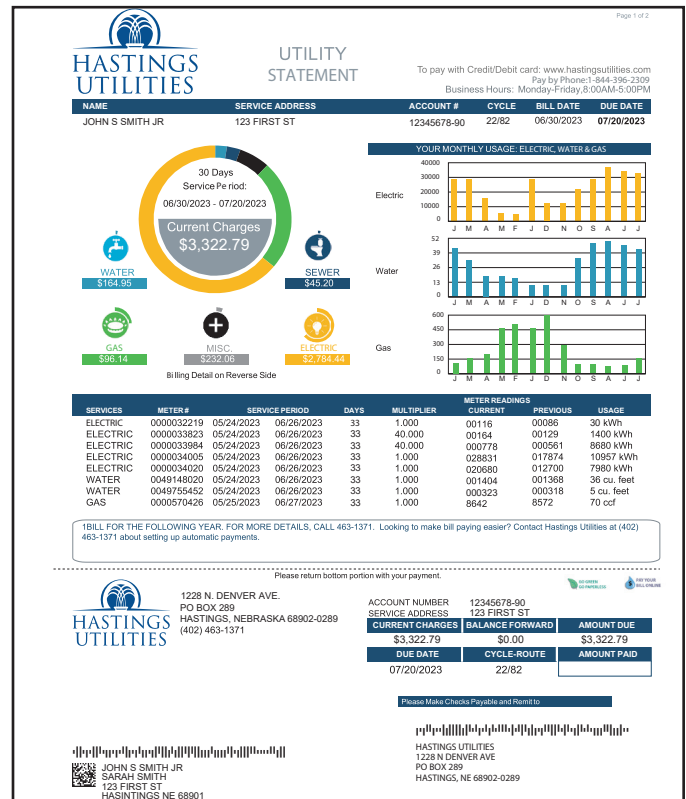
The front of the bill also includes readings for all of a customer's meters.

The bottom third of the front side will include a tearable portion to be returned with payment.

The back side of the bill includes a description of each billing component.

As the new billing format is changing, HU customer service staff members are working to come up with a list of possible questions from the public and resources to answer those questions.

Information about Hastings Utilities resources – including online bill payment, service sign up or disconnect, customer connect, rates, outage and reporting, and rebates and incentives -- is also available on the utilities page on the city website. Linked in this QR Code.



Page 2 of 2

Billing Detail		Billing Detail Continued	
WATER	WATERCOMMERCIAL - URBAN RESIDENTIAL-URBAN BLOCK 1 WATER SUBTOTAL	\$90.35 \$65.80 \$156.15	
SEWER	SEWER SEWER SUBTOTAL	\$45.20 \$45.20	
GAS	COMMERCIAL - URBAN COMMERCIAL - URBAN BLOCK 1 PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT GAS SUBTOTAL	\$13.00 \$48.07 \$35.07 \$96.14	
ELECTRICITY	COMMERCIAL - URBAN COMMERCIAL - URBAN BLOCK1 COMMERCIAL - URBAN BLOCK3 STRLHT COMMERCIAL-ISM STRLHT COMMERCIAL-INFRA ELECTRIC SUBTOTAL	\$95.00 \$58.95 \$410.78 \$2,214.00 \$4.03 \$1.70 \$2,784.44	
MISC.	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FEE STATE/CITY TAXES	\$14.88 \$217.38	
TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES		\$3,322.79	
			Account Summary PREVIOUS BALANCE \$3,218.19 PAYMENT 06/15/2023 -\$3,218.19 BALANCE FORWARD \$0.00 CURRENT CHARGES \$3,322.79 TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$3,322.79
			BTU Adjustment (x of used) 1.0743 PGA Adjustment (per ccf billed) 0.2740 EAC Adjustment (per kWh) 0.0000

Drop Box Payment Locations:

Hastings Utilities*	Fisher Fountain*	Allen's Shopping Center*	Juniata Village Hall**
1228 N. Denver Ave	1228 N Denver Ave	1115 W. 2nd St	911 N Juniata Ave

* Payments dropped in these locations will not be processed until the following business day.
** Payments dropped in this location will only be picked up and processed 1 time per week.

Report an Outage: Visit www.cityofhastings.org/huoutages on your computer or mobile device.

Automatic Bill Payment: Sign up for Automatic Bank Draft by completing the Authorization Form at www.hastingsutilities.com. Payments are taken on Fridays (either on the due date, if due date is a Friday, or the Friday after the Due Date.)

Budget Billing: Is it easier for you to pay a leveled monthly charge rather than a bill that changes every month? With budget billing, your annual utility costs are divided into eleven equal payments, with the twelfth month being the settlement month.

Moving?: Visit www.hastingsutilities.com and follow the instructions to Sign-up or Disconnect service. All requests must be in writing or submitted through the on-line portal and require one-business day notice to take effect.

Trouble Paying your Bill?: Visit www.hastingsutilities.com for a payment arrangement application or a list of other Bill Pay Support resources.

Customer Deposits: Customer utility deposits are retained for a minimum of two years. Deposits are refunded to utility customers in the form of a statement credit upon completion of 24 consecutive months of satisfactory payment history with no more than 2 delinquent notices and zero disconnections due to non-payment. Refunds are processed once per quarter for all customers that have completed this requirement in the preceding quarter.

For more information about these or any other Hastings Utility question please contact Customer Service at (402) 463-1371 or send us an email at customerservice@cityofhastings.org.

It is the responsibility of the customer to make provisions for back-up power during a power outage and to protect themselves and their personal property from damage caused by storms and factors beyond our control.

AIRPORT

Forty-two teams, consisting of 100 women pilots from across the United States and around the world, participated in the 46th Air Race Classic, the annual all-women cross-country airplane race that departed Tuesday, June 20 from Grand Forks International Airport, Grand Forks, North Dakota, for a competition across 12 states and ended Friday, June 23 at Miami Homestead General Aviation Airport in Homestead, Florida. Hastings Municipal Airport was one of nine intermediate stops and was selected by the pilots as the best stop on the race.

Nearly 400 people watched "Top Gun: Maverick" at the Hastings Municipal Airport on July 7. A special thanks to Big G Ace for the popcorn, Platte River Foot & Ankle Surgeons for the movie license, and Hastings College for the screen!



Recent accomplishments

City safety representatives oversaw repairs of the Hastings Aquacourt Water Park lazy river by Hastings Utilities water department crews and Parks and Recreation crews as well as the lift by Farris Construction of the mini excavator on June 29 into the Aquacourt to assist with the repairs.

Members of the city's Safety Committee discussed during their July meeting reinforcing the importance of employees using the correct personal protective equipment.

The street department started to implement heavy equipment training logs.



PARKS AND RECREATION



The Concerts & Fireworks show at Brickyard Park was held on July 5th due to weather on the 4th. A record crowd attended. Luke Mills was the headliner followed by an 18-minute firework show.

The lazy river experienced a significant leak and was shut down on June 12. After extensive research by the HU water department and Parks staff the leak was discovered and repairs were made. The lazy river reopened on Friday, July 7. Kudos to the HU water department and Aquacourt maintenance staff for their dedication and around the clock work to solve the leak. The fittings are made of iron and are subject to a corrosive environment with being exposed to chemicals. This particular fitting just wore down after 19 years. The new fittings that were put on have an epoxy coating on them which will stand up better to the environment.



Moving council chambers is not a quick or easy process.

Dealing with material shortages, contractor availability and existing responsibilities of city staff members, the exact timeline for moving council chambers to the Hastings Municipal Airport terminal at 3106 W. 12th St. remains in flux. Moving council chambers temporarily to the terminal is being done as the Hastings City Council looks at the future of the Hastings City Council.

First, renovations to the building had to occur.

Renovations included updating the HVAC system, improving the foundation, replacing the carpet and painting the walls. Those renovations had to be made to correct infrastructure or environmental conditions, but also updating a building constructed in the 1960s.

So far, those building costs have amounted to \$343,000.

New striping at the terminal parking lot has established 45 parking spaces, plus two handicapped spaces right in front of the building.

Erik Nielsen, Information Technology Director for the City of Hastings, said the city is working with an electrician on the networking, installing camera run cables and tv cables into their proper locations.

Nielsen hopes the airport terminal will be ready in time for the first Hastings City Council meeting in September, on Sept. 11, but that timeline is not guaranteed.

Even after the council begins holding meetings there, installation of the audio/video equipment won't be complete due to equipment delay and vendor availability. However, the terminal will be functional for meetings as work continues.

The first few council meetings may not initially be livestreamed, but the functionality will be similar to meetings held in the Hastings Public Library. Currently video recording of council meetings are available on cityofhastings.org typically the day after a meeting.

Nielsen hopes the space will be fully functional, with livestreaming meetings, within a couple months after council meetings start there. This is due to the network needs to allow for livestreaming and connection to Charter.

Moving equipment from 220 N. Hastings Ave. takes time and is done by city employees among their other tasks.

The council chambers set up at the terminal will include the existing dais, speaker podium and clerk's table.

The camera system also needs to be taken down from 220 N. Hastings Ave. and set up at the airport terminal.

The dais will be on the west wall, facing east.

Department heads who traditionally sat at desks with microphones during council meetings will sit at folding tables with the same portable microphones currently used in the council meeting arrangement at the Hastings



Public Library.

Four 85-inch televisions will be displayed around the chambers to show PowerPoint presentations and CivicClerk voting results.

The space will be narrower, but longer than the council chambers at 220 N. Hastings Ave., and overall include a larger capacity, 176 occupants at 3106 W. 12th St., compared to 104 at 220 N. Hastings Ave.

The administration side of the building at 3505 Yost Ave., had been used as a training site by multiple city departments on a weekly basis.

With the Development Services Department temporarily relocated into the administration side of the building at 3505 Yost Ave., the airport terminal will also fill that training site need.

There are more than 80 cable drops for the televisions, cameras, microphones and speakers to be used in the council chambers. Those drops need to be completed before the space is used, even as a training site for city departments.

"It's taking some time and we're trying to do it right," Nielsen said.

LANDFILL

Notes from the Solid Waste Department

Traffic here at the landfill has remained steady. We are still seeing a significant amount of shingles being brought in. Construction throughout our six-county radius we serve is in full swing!

In the landfill, we are slowly creeping up to be ground level in our final phase here with the sixth cell. All of the staff are working diligently to keep the litter on our property to a minimum. I would say the wind has been rather friendly to us so far. A good tip, do your best to always have garbage bagged. This will significantly reduce the amount of litter that is being blown around starting at garbage pick-up from your home or business, all the way to when they unload here at the Landfill.

Waste Inventory Summary

For the month of June, we have served a total of 2,477 customers. Of that number, 5,479.75 tons were received as Solid Waste and 241.84 tons of Wood/Green Waste.

New Staff Alert

This department was able to find a seasonal worker to assist us with our Grounds Maintenance. Such a tremendous help for us!

Trevor Campbell has been an excellent addition to our staff for this summer. To say he is a hard worker would be an understatement. Every single staff member will miss his help when he leaves us to attend College in August.

Looking Ahead

We double ground about 60 cubic yards of wood chips in mid-July for Adams County Fairfest at the Adams County Fairgrounds. This is an in-kind service that we provide every year for them! We all enjoy being able to help out in some way!

In other news, we are waiting to receive a few items to complete our “fire suppression” set-up here. This will be of great assistance in case of a fire and to help keep the dust at a minimum during dry weather. We will be able to quickly hook up to our tank, pull it onto our Hook Truck,



and proceed to the area of attention!

One more item to add, we are in the process of applying for a Tire Recycling Grant through Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy. Grant funds are to be awarded in December of this year. We are looking to host this event here at the Landfill for all of Adams County Residents! Keep your eyes on the City of Hastings “Behind the Scenes” for updates for when this will take place if we are awarded these funds! I have heard and seen many requests for another Tire Recycling Event to take place. I am hoping to be able to bring that to the community again.

Notes from the Environmental Director – Marty Stange

Groundwater has been a major topic for our department. **Please note the municipal drinking water supplied to the city and its wholesale customers is safe and meets all state and federal standards.** The water is safe due to the efforts of water department and engineering to addressing threats to our water quality.

A representative from The Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute with the University of Nebraska visited Hastings in June. The representative is doing a study on the cost of water treatment. Hastings is a case study. This is not just the cost of treating water, but the economic costs to the community. I was encouraged they are looking into the question as to who should pay for the water treatment when pollution of the groundwater is caused by activities outside the city of Hastings.

We recently assisted the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the University of Mississippi on the study of Nitrates in our groundwater. We are happy to announce a paper on the issues titled “Interplay of Legacy Irrigation and Nitrogen Fertilizer Inputs to Spatial Variability of Arsenic and Uranium within Deep Vadose Zone” was accepted and being published in the Journal: Science of the Total Environment.

With regards to looking into the threats to the water system I was happy to receive on behalf of the city the EPA 2022 George F. Ames Pisces Recognition Award for Excellence in Creative Solutions for the development of our Aquifer Storage and Restoration Project (ASR). This award recognized our efforts to find an innovative system to restore and protect our groundwater. The ASR System is helping to manage the threat of nitrates and uranium entering the Hastings Municipal Well Field.

We also had an inspection by EPA of our water department regarding compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. I am pleased to report that our efforts to study the causes of lead and copper corrosion in our water system was well received by EPA. During the inspection, EPA noted most water systems have not been as diligent as we have and



Marty Stange (center), Environmental Director for the City of Hastings, speaks on June 22 to members of Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Environmental Quality Council about Hastings' Aquifer Storage and Restoration Project.

continue to be to address lead and copper issues. Lead and copper enters the water due to corrosion of privately owned water service lines and internal plumbing. Our work involved taking material samples of household plumbing which confirmed that microbial induced corrosion was occurring. We also arranged to have the Center for Disease Control come to Hastings and conducted an epidemiological study as it relates to copper ingestion. We have also completed preliminary testing using proposed water collection standards yet to be implemented by EPA. This allows us to understand any future impacts which the testing protocol may have on our sampling results.

We have had a pre-construction meeting with EPA to start the last phase of the groundwater and soil cleanup activities. This work will address the contamination by the old coal gasification plant located at Second Street and Minnesota Avenue. The work involves the construction of 180 wells which will be used to heat the soil to 300 Deg. C. This heat will be used to break down the coal tars found in the soil.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Heartwell Renewables

The Heartwell Renewable biodiesel fuel plant's construction is progressing. The project construction crews continue to do site grading for the various buildings on the site, stormwater, and the new rail line to service the diesel production facility. Three storage tanks are also going vertical, which is an exciting sign of the construction progress.

As production progresses, nearly 800 construction workers of various trades will be on site by February 2024 and work through the end of next year. The anticipated completion date for the project is the winter of 2024 when the plant will begin processes and market this renewable diesel.

When it opens, Heartwell Renewables is anticipated to be the city utility department's second largest electric customer and top five for both water and sewer.

3505 Yost Ave.

The Development Services Department temporarily relocated in June to the administrative side of the city-owned building at 3505 Yost Ave., as the mayor and council look at the future of city hall.

The Theatre District

The apartment unit at The Theatre District continues to be under construction. The building is largely enclosed, and interior work is ongoing for the 78 units. Also, the off-street parking lot has been completed. Additionally, the multi-tenant commercial building nearest 12th Street is near completion and is getting ready for tenant finishes for new businesses that will locate in the building, as they come.

The Garage Flats

The builders for the Garage Flats at 403 W. Third Street have broken ground and foundation construction has begun. This development will construct four dwelling units in two separate buildings at the corner of West Third Street and North Kansas Avenue.

The Lark Apartments Completed

The apartments above The Lark, at 809 W. 2nd Street has been completed and are the latest upper floor residential uses in Downtown Hastings. The project created three new apartments, two for monthly rent and a third for guests of The Lark.



Monthly Permits Issued



	June 2023	Year to Date
Total Issued	28	139
Total Payment	\$9,656	\$158,476
Permit Valuation	\$2,196,235	\$31,475,937



Residential	
New Builds	5
Additions, Remodels or Repairs	17
Accessory Structures and Fences	0



Non-Residential	
New Builds/ Tenant Finishes	5
Additions, Remodels or Repairs	1
Signs and Accessory Structures	0