

Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Hastings City Hall, 101 East 4th Street, Hastings, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Fasbender, Councilmembers Fox, Haus, Lawrence, Leifeld, Pemble, and Vihrachoff

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Wietecha
Assistant City Administrator Kelly Murtaugh
City Attorney Kori Land
Community Development Director John Hinzman
Finance Manager Chris Eitemiller
Assistant Fire Chief Chris Paulson
Police Chief David Wilske

Oath of Office

DawnMarie Vihrachoff, Ward 1 Councilmember

Promotions and New Employees

Joseph Neuman
Elliott Kann
Zachary Knochenmus
Michael Running
Jojo Zhang

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Fasbender asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the City Council workshop and regular meeting on March 4, 2024.
Minutes were approved as presented.

Comments from the Audience

Bruce Karnick, 1908 Pine Street, on behalf of Hastings Hawks calling Vets Field a hidden gem of the City. With over 100 events per year, the baseball field gets a lot of use. Hawks reinvest their revenue in field improvements. With other community partners on board, they would like to expand the concession stand, add ADA-compliant access and stands, add a controlled entrance, repair the backstop, improve the dugouts, update the field lights, and fix the fencing in foul territory. Karnick expressed appreciation for the Parks Department staff. Investment can bring tournaments to the City to add to the revenue. Karnick spoke to the Community Investment Fund proposal on the Council agenda.

Nick Haltvick, 902 36th St. West, Cub Scout Troop #9444, supporting the scouts in one of their adventures to continue to advance in scouts. Scouts presented popcorn to Council as part of their Home Town Heroes recognition and introduced themselves: Josiah, Caden, Harrison, Patrick.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Lawrence motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld.

7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

1. Pay Bills as Audited
2. Resolution No. 03-05-24: Accept Donation from the Markey Family to the Parks and Recreation Department
3. Resolution No. 03-06-24: Accept Donation from the Fort Snelling Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to the Parks and Recreation Department
4. Resolution No. 03-07-24: Accept Donation from Dakota Electric Association to the Parks and Recreation Department
5. Accept SMEAD Manufacturing Company Sponsorship for 2024 Summer Programming at Levee Park
6. Approve Special Event Designation: Gobble Gait
7. Accept Proposal from Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. – Three Rivers Trail Project
8. Approve Committee Appointments
9. Resolution No. 03-08-24: Approve Pay Estimate No. 3 (Final) for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Lining Program – Musson Brothers, Inc. (\$25,696.76)
10. Authorize Signature: Metropolitan Council 2024 Private Property I/I Grant Agreement No. SG-20604
11. Approve Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County: Opioid Settlement Funds - Correction: Clarification language makes the contracting process easier in the future.
12. Approve 2023 Budget Carry-Forwards
13. Authorize Signature: Lease Agreement (213 Ramsey Street)

Resolution No. 03-09-24: Issuance of Sale of GO Bonds, 2024A

Tammy Omdal, Northland Securities, presented the results of the bond issue earlier in the day. The bonds are being issued for infrastructure improvements including the 2024 Neighborhood Project, Civic Arena upgrades and to complete the financing for the City Hall Dome and HVAC repair and upgrade projects. The City's rating was affirmed at AA+. There were 12 bids received, with only 8 sales nationwide and Hastings was the highest rated. The final rate was 2.86% (original estimate of 3.15%). The bonds were bid with premium and was used to reduce the principle. All of this contributes to lower debt service for the City. Service payments will be due 2026 – 2035 with the amounts depending on debt structure and interest amount pending the sale. A portion of the bonds would be repaid through special assessments on benefitting properties.

Council discussion on clarifying the rating and attraction to Hastings bond sale.

Councilmember Pemble motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Haus.
7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Resolution No. 03-10-24: Site Plan – Storage Werks (2489 Spiral Blvd)

Hinzman reviewed the property location and provided an overview of the request to approve the site plan proposed by Legacy Crossing LLC for a storage rental facility at 2489 Spiral Blvd. Hinzman provided the history of the property, reviewed previous Council approvals, and shared Planning Commission

discussion. Hinzman indicated the applicant recently developed two City owned industrial park lots with similar self-storage units.

Council discussion on the potential difficulties of winter access in the proposed location and consideration of Glendale access or a different point on Spiral Blvd. Chad Smurawa and Joe Haselman, Legacy Crossing, LLC, indicated that alternate access introduces several additional conflicts (culvert, powerlines, slope/water run-off). The elevation of the property is much higher than the road, where a higher entrance would impact the stormwater drainage. Council discussion on daily visits and impact on walking path. Owners do not anticipate more than 4-5 visits per day at this site. Hinzman indicated this project would not impact the walking path and plantings would not impact visibility. Council expressed appreciation for the thorough review of the request.

Councilmember Fox motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld. 6 Ayes, 1 Nay (Pemble).

Community Investment Fund

Wietecha reviewed the recommendations for Community Investment Funding. As part of the 2024 Budget, the City Council continued the Community Investment Fund and allocated \$50,712.25 in funding for 2024. The CIF is focused on partnerships and civic engagement with a goal of creating and supporting vibrant, community-supported, public projects and efforts. Wietecha indicated a review of applications was completed with the Finance Committee of Council. The Committee and staff unanimously recommend funding for 5 of the 6 applications received. Wietecha reviewed the projects that were recommended for funding. Wietecha further reviewed the financial impact and additional discussion regarding the applications.

Council discussion on the enjoyment of the Finance Committee in being able to respond to community requests for investment. Council encouraged others to apply for consideration. Council expressed appreciation for the presentation by the Hastings Hawks and their investment within the community.

Councilmember Fox motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Vihrachoff. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Announcements

- Coffee with a Cop is Tuesday, March 19, from 10 – noon at Froth & Cork. Join the police to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know one another.
- The Friends of Pleasant Hill Library used book sale is March 21 to 24.
- Hastings Tastings is March 25. Hastings area restaurants provide samples of their specialty menu items to guests. There is a silent auction and raffles. Hastings Tastings occurs during the MN FoodShare campaign, therefore all proceeds raised at the event are proportionately matched by MN FoodShare. Tickets available through Hastings Family Service.

Meetings

- Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. - Cancelled
- Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- City Council Regular Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Pemble motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Kelly Murtaugh, City Clerk

Mary D. Fasbender, Mayor