

**Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Minutes
April 18, 2011**

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Hastings City Hall, 101 East 4th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

Members Present: Mayor Hicks, City Councilmembers Balsanek, Hollenbeck, Nelson, Schultz and Slavik

Staff Present: City Administrator Dave Osberg
City Attorney Dan Fluegel
Assistant City Administrator Melanie Mesko Lee
Police Chief Paul Schnell

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Hicks asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on April 4, 2011. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Councilmember Slavik, seconded by Councilmember Nelson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

7 Ayes; Nays, None.

1. Pay Bills as Audited
2. Declare Excess Items
3. Fourth Quarter Financial Report
4. Resolution—Approve Full License: Keeping of Chickens at LeDuc Historic Estate
5. Approve Agent of Record Designation
6. Pay Estimate #8—Project 2010 Infrastructure Improvements: Hardrives, Inc. (\$25,031.99)
7. First Reading/Order Public Hearing—Fee Ordinance Revisions: Annual Utility Rate and Connection Fee Review
8. Approve Joint Power Agreement with Dakota County for GIS Elevation Data Upgrade
9. Budget Adjustment—Storm Water Utility: Vermillion River Levee Certification
10. Resolution—Accept \$66.23 Donation from Anonymous for Parks & Recreation Youth First Program
11. Resolution—Approve Fireworks License for TNT Fireworks at Wal-Mart Parking Lot (1752 North Frontage Road)
12. Declare as Excess and Authorize Sale at Auction on May 7, 2011
13. Approve Joint Powers Agreement—MICAC Task Force
14. Approve Addendum to Joint Powers Agreement—Dakota County Drug Task Force
15. Approve DARE Fund Budget Adjustment
16. Approve Lawful Gambling Premise Permit for AmVets Post 1 of Mendota Heights at the future Me & Julio's

Public Hearing—City Code Amendment Chapters 150 & 155: Accessory Buildings and Fences

Hinzman introduced the item and noted that the changes are clarification among two sections of the code.

Mayor Hicks opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Hicks closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Second Reading/Ordinance Amendment—City Code Amendment Chapters 150 & 155: Accessory Buildings and Fences

Moved by Councilmember Alongi, seconded by Councilmember Schultz to approve the ordinance amendment as presented.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Public Hearing on Ordinance Amendment— False Alarm Registration

Osberg introduced the item and provided background on the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Hicks opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Tony Berens, 209 East 2nd Street, inquired what the fee will be when the cost of the registration outstrips the revenue. Mayor Hicks noted that it is not the Council's intent to consider a registration fee for this ordinance. The proposed penalty fees will be considered at the May 2 Council meeting.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Hicks closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Second Reading/Ordinance Amendment— False Alarm Registration

There was discussion about the purpose of registering an alarm system. Osberg and Schnell noted that registration provides the most accurate information to public safety. It was also noted that false alarms consume limited public safety resources and there is currently no incentive to address faulty alarm systems. There was discussion about the kinds of alarm systems that would be required to register; Schnell noted that monitored systems would register. There was also discussion over what public safety response occurs in the case of a false alarm; it was noted that alarms are considered "in progress" emergencies, so two squads and/or fire personnel are dispatched to respond to the alarm.

Moved by Councilmember Alongi, seconded by Councilmember Nelson to approve the ordinance amendment as presented.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Vacant Housing Registration Ordinance

Osberg introduced the item and noted that staff would support canceling the public hearing and sending this item back to committee for further discussion.

Councilmember Hollenbeck, chair of the Administrative Committee, noted that the version as written has some unintended consequences and she would support review of what tools are currently in place to better recover staff costs related to vacant housing issues.

Councilmember Slavik noted that there were legitimate properties that drove this discussion and it's a community issue to try to address those poorly maintained properties.

Councilmember Schultz noted that she supports continued discussion about addressing problem properties. Mayor Hicks concurred, and noted that there may be existing language that would permit the City to address problem properties.

Moved by Councilmember Hollenbeck, seconded by Councilmember Slavik to cancel the public hearing and second reading and refer this item back to committee for future further discussion.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Update—Senior Center Relocation to Tilden

Superintendent Collins provided background on a proposal to realign some existing services, including relocating the senior center to the remodeled Tilden. Councilmembers Nelson and Slavik, members of the Joint Powers Board, spoke in support of the concept as outlined.

Moved by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Balsanek to approve the concept as proposed.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Update—LeDuc Historic Estate

Jessica Bierbauer from LeDuc provided an overview of proposed events and activities scheduled for the LeDuc in 2011. The Council thanked Ms. Bierbauer for the information.

Hastings Hockey Booster Training Facility

Osberg introduced the item and outlined some of the elements of a proposed agreement, including proof of financial viability before the project can commence and some allowance for "city" hours at the facility. Osberg noted that the Boosters are requesting further consideration about being able to bid the project as well as consideration of not having to comply with the Council's prevailing wage policy.

Mark Chorney from the Hastings Hockey Boosters was present.

There was discussion about both of the questions raised by the boosters. The Council resolution of July 2010, supporting the project in concept, included both provisions. There was discussion about the price of the project, use of in-kind labor to reduce the cost of the project, and the impact of the prevailing wage policy.

Moved by Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Schultz to support the proposed agreement concepts and reaffirming that the City will oversee the bid process and that the City's prevailing wage policy must be complied with.

Roll call vote was taken.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Approve 2011/2012 Police Supervisors Labor Contract

Moved by Councilmember Slavik, seconded by Councilmember Nelson to approve contract as presented.

7 Ayes; Nays, none.

Comments from the Audience

Tim Figge, 15950 190th Street East, spoke in favor of some government action with respect to vacant properties to help avoid associated issues such as burst pipes, black mold, and other consequences and to help preserve a community's property values.

Updates:

- There will be a Cari Park neighborhood park meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. workshop in the Community Room.
- There will be a Westwood Park neighborhood park meeting on Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. workshop in the Community Room.

Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Alongi, seconded by Councilmember Slavik to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

7 Ayes; Nays, None.

Paul J. Hicks
Mayor



Melanie Mesko Lee
City Clerk

