

**Hastings, Minnesota**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 4, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

Mayor Fasbender explained why and referenced various city, state and federal declarations and guidelines that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Members Present:** Mayor Fasbender, Councilmembers Braucks, Folch, Leifeld, Lund and Vaughan

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Dan Wietecha  
Administrative Services Director Julie Flaten  
City Attorney Dan Fluegel  
Community Development Director John Hinzman  
Finance Manager Melanie Lammers  
Public Works Director Nick Egger

**Moment of Silence:** Bert Goderstad

Mayor Fasbender remarked that Goderstad was an active volunteer with the City and recognized his passing with a moment of silence

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Fasbender asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council on April 20, 2020.

Minutes were approved as presented.

**Comments from the Audience**

Mayor Fasbender stated comments received about items not on the agenda have been distributed to all Councilmembers and are acknowledged.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Pay Bills as Audited
2. Declare sale of Surplus Property for the Police Department
3. Resolution No. 05-01-20: Approve a Massage Establishment License for Prime Chiropractic
4. Resolution No. 05-02-20: Approve a Massage Therapy License for Narate Keys
5. Resolution No. 05-03-20: Approve an In-Store Fireworks Sales License for Coborn's
6. Resolution No. 05-04-20: Special Use Permit - Neighborhood Commercial Use - Kisby Ventures (201 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street)
7. Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-08 for Pro-Rated Refund and Deferral of License Fees
8. Accept a Donation to the Parks & Recreation Department for Performance in the Parks Series from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
9. Accept a Donation to the Parks & Recreation Department for Music in the Parks Series from the Doffing Charitable Fund

Councilmember Braucks motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Vaughan.  
Roll Call: Ayes 6; Nays 0; Absent Balsanek.

**Impact of Pandemic on City's 2020 Budget**

Wietecha discussed how the recently extended due date for property taxes and the possible loss of

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Local Government Aid may potentially impact cash flow and the 2020 budget and how this relates to City projects. He explained the measures the City were implementing to help mitigate these potential effects.

Council clarified the reasons for delinquent taxes during Great Recession, indicators for 2020 property tax collections, the County's handling of late property tax payments and potential property tax revenue loss, milestone dates for decision making, prioritization of budgeted items/projects not yet purchased, 2020 Mill and Overlay/Northridge Drive/Trail/15<sup>th</sup> Street projects, hiring freeze, property assessment options, additional abatement funds offered through the City, stimulus road funding, practices of previous State Administration in creating rainy day fund, Federal assistance through CARES Act and importance of advocating for local government.

Councilmember Balsanek joined the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

### **Bonding and Construction Projects Update**

Lammers provided financing and special assessment options for the 2020 street construction project and implications of each.

Council discussed abatement utilization rates, drawbacks of taking out debt due to the uncertainty of the economic future, staff recommendation of preferred debt option and concerns about adding financial stress to citizens through assessments.

### **Expansion Area for Downtown Businesses**

Councilmembers Folch and Lund discussed how the City may consider assisting downtown businesses in re-opening; including the Downtown Business Association (DBA) request to close 2<sup>nd</sup> Street so only pedestrian traffic will be allowed and the footprint of businesses can be expanded.

Council discussed the City Council's role and policy making in assisting businesses in re-opening, willingness to listen to creative ideas and to possibly relaxing regulations, not all businesses are located in the downtown area nor are they members of the DBA, examine more than restaurants and bars, encourage residents to shop locally, asked businesses to develop a plan and bring forward to gain staff input, needs of the residents and the greater community and it was suggested that Council meet and examine the overall needs of community to treat all equitable.

Tatia Nelson, President of the Downtown Business Association, spoke to plans being worked on with the DBA.

Councilmember Folch motioned to approve the request for a discussion with the Downtown Business Association and other appropriate entities about creative solutions for potential business relief, seconded by Councilmember Balsanek.

Councilmember Vaughan amended the motion to include all businesses in the City, not to those just located in the downtown area, seconded by Councilmember Lund. Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays

Roll Call Vote on the original motion as amended: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays

Mayor Fasbender and Councilmembers made the following announcements:

- HEDRA will conduct a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m.

- Planning Commission will meet on Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 12 is cancelled.
- HEDRA will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- City Council will conduct a workshop on the 2021 Budget on Monday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Braucks motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Balsanek. Roll Call: Ayes 7; Nays 0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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Mary Fasbender, Mayor

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Julie Flaten, City Clerk