

Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 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 Braucks, Folch, Fox, Leifeld, Lund and Vaughan

Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Wietecha
Assistant City Administrator Kelly Murtaugh
City Attorney Korine Land
Community Development Director John Hinzman
Finance Manager Chris Eitemiller

Presentation: Regina Hospital

Helen Strike, Regina Hospital President, spoke of the hospital's pandemic response and recovery and connecting with the community.

Council discussed the current rate of infection, hospitalizations and vaccinations, Dakota County's mask recommendation and the hospital's staffing needs.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Fasbender asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the City Council regular meeting on August 16, 2021.

Minutes were approved as presented.

Comments from the Audience

Mayor Fasbender stated comments received via email have been distributed to all councilmembers and are acknowledged.

Angela Zeyen, 1772 Dellridge Court, thanked the City for their notifications of the blasting and expressed her frustrations with the blasting at the Heritage Ridge development site and the affect blasting has on the homes.

Ben Spader, 1784 Dellridge Court, spoke about the possible decrease in home values and damage due to blasting.

Consent Agenda

1. Pay Bills as Audited
2. Declare Surplus Property and Authorize Sale: Police Department
3. Approve Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County Drug Task Force for Administrative Services
4. Designate The Longer Table Event as a Special Event
5. Designate The DBA Sidewalk Sale as a Special Event
6. Memoranda of Understanding: Mandatory Physical Fitness Test
 - a. Officers (LELS, Local 249)

- b. Sergeants (LELS, Local 462)
- 7. Memoranda of Understanding: Mental Health Program
 - a. Officers (LELS, Local 249)
 - b. Sergeants (LELS, Local 462)
- 8. Resolution No. 09-01-21: Liquor License Violation - Jake's Discount Liquor
- 9. Strategic Initiatives
- 10. Authorize Signature: Development Agreement - Vermillion Acres
- 11. Authorize Signature: License to Encroach - Ian Martin (1770 Greystone Rd)
- 12. 1st Reading\Order Public Hearing - Ordinance Amendment - City Charter - Administrative Citations
- 13. Resolution No. 09-02-21: Acceptance and Appreciation of a Donation From the Spool House for the GAR Flag
- 14. Resolution No. 09-03-21: Accept and Appreciation of Donations for the GAR Flag
- 15. Resolution No. 09-04-21: Acceptance and Appreciation of a Donation to the Parks and Recreation Department from the Krech Family
- 16. Resolution No. 09-05-21: Approve a Temporary Liquor License for Friends of Animal Adoptions d/b/a Animal Ark
- 17. Resolution No. 09-06-21: Limitation on Water Usage
- 18. Accept Permanent Utility Easement for Pioneer Park with HBC
- 19. Assessment Request for Water Services Lines Repair
- 20. Sculpture Display Proposal

Councilmember Fox pulled Items 4, 5, 8 and 16.

Councilmember Fox motioned to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 through 15 and 17 through 20 as presented, seconded by Councilmember Folch. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Councilmember Leifeld motioned to approve Items 4, 5, 8 and 16 as presented, seconded by Councilmember Lund. Ayes 6; Nays 0; Abstain 1 – Fox.

Heritage Ridge 3rd Addition

a. Resolution No. 09-07-21: Final Plat

b. Authorize Signature: Grading Agreement

Hinzman discussed the final plat and grading agreement for the Heritage Ridge 3rd Addition, summarized received comments and that the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the final plat.

Council discussed alternatives to blasting, vibration level differences between blasting and jackhammering, specific details related to blasting, the City's purview over blasting and seismic monitoring.

Mark Guenther, TC Land, addressed Council's concerns of blasting, detailed the location of rock and the utility construction status. He indicated his willingness to work with residents regarding blasting or jack hammering.

Council discussed a possible redesign of the site to reduce blasting.

Councilmember Vaughn motioned to approve the resolution with the addition that blasting cannot be used, seconded by Councilmember Braucks.

Council discussed how the lots are marketed and the stormwater ponds.

Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Councilmember Vaughan motioned to approve the grading agreement as presented, seconded by Councilmember Folch. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

City Welcome Signs

Councilmember Folch requested this topic be on the agenda and reviewed earlier sign discussion. She noted that the old sign on Highway 61 was removed; however, the old sign on Highway 55 was still standing.

Wietecha summarized previous sign replacement and explained the replacement options for the sign located on Highway 55.

Council discussed options for replacing and relocating sign, adding the new sign to the strategic communication plan, possibly have staff research potential property, previous Council discussions of sign replacement and maintenance to the sign.

Councilmember Folch motioned to have the sign on Highway 55 removed, seconded by Councilmember Fox.

Council discussed revisiting this topic in the future.

Ayes 5; Nays 2 – Braucks, Lund.

2021 Budget Amendments

Wietecha discussed the proposed budget amendments to the Fire Department and annual street project.

Councilmember Folch motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve as presented.

Council discussed if there was a way to obtain accurate estimates, when the last Fire Study was conducted, what the current RFP was based on and implementation of the study recommendations.

Ayes 7; Nays 0.

COVID-19 & Delta Variant

Councilmember Folch requested the topic be on the agenda and reviewed the current status of COVID in Dakota County and supported following County guidelines.

Council discussed how a City mask mandate for different City buildings would be enforced, only staff wearing masks with the suggestion that visitors wear a mask and whether staff was seeking direction and guidance from Council.

Wietecha summarized the current mask requirements for City employees and signage encouraging visitors to wear masks.

Councilmember Leifeld motion to require all staff to wear masks while in City buildings and encouraged visitors to wear masks, seconded by Councilmember Lund.

Council discussed suppling the front desks in all City buildings with disposable masks, who would monitor the COVID infection rates and implement or remove the mask mandate for City buildings and that this topic was brought before Council to determine if they wanted to implement more restrictions than what were already in place.

Councilmember Lund withdrew his second to the motion because currently City staff are required to wear masks and visitors are encouraged to wear masks.

Councilmember Leifeld withdrew her motion.

Council discussed visitors using discretion, requiring visitors to wear masks, School Board requirements and leadership role of the City.

Councilmember Folch motioned to require visitors to all City buildings wear a mask, follow county guidelines and adjust as the numbers fluctuate, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld.

Council discussed enforcement of visitors wearing masks, that they may discuss this again as the situation changes, staff's comfort level of asking visitors to wear masks and requirement of masks at the Ice Arena for visitors and athletes.

Councilmember Folch amended her motion that masks must be worn by the public except while participating in athletics.

Council discussed the School District's masking guidelines, staff to prepare a recommendation with supporting data for the next meeting and possibly tabling the discussion.

Councilmember Folch withdrew her motion and Councilmember Leifeld withdrew her second.

Resolution No. 09-08-21: Approve Preliminary 2022 City Property Tax Levy, Preliminary Budget and Setting Truth in Taxation Hearing

Wietecha discussed the proposed preliminary 2022 City property tax levy and budget and recommend the Truth in Taxation hearing be set for December 6, 2021.

Councilmember Folch motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Braucks. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Resolution No. 09-09-21: Approve Proposed 2022 HEDRA – HRA Special Tax Levy

Wietecha discussed the proposed 2022 HEDRA HRA Special Tax Levy.

Councilmember Vaughan motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Braucks. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Mayor Fasbender and Councilmembers made the following announcements:

Announcements

- Councilmember Vaughan noted that the Great River Rails Commission was awarded \$10M for the rails project and that Dakota County decided to no longer be a part of the Commission
- Dakota County has given notice to leave the Great River Rail Commission.

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- Happy Birthday last week to Councilmember Jen Fox.
- We will have a dedication of the mural “Our Growing Diversity, Welcoming the Future” at 7 pm on Thursday, September 9. And thank you to artist Dani Bianchini for this beautiful addition to our community.
- The Fire Relief Association’s Booya is Saturday, September 11.
- Rotary’s Rivertown Live Concert is Saturday, September 11.
- The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a Day of Remembrance Ceremony at the state capital on Saturday, September 11. In addition to memorializing the events of that day and honoring those impacted, this event is focused on bringing the community together through a message of hope, unity and resilience.
- Summer Programs at Levee Park...
 - Tuesday, September 14, Performance in the Park with Lumin Theater Lab. Sponsored by Smead Manufacturing Company and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.
 - Saturday, September 18, Bike with a Ranger. Pre-registration is required.
- The City is partnering with Tennis Sanitation and Certified Recycling for a fall clean-up event September 20 through October 1.

Meetings

- Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:30 am
- HEDRA meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm
- Planning Commission meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- Parks & Rec Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm
- City Council Workshop on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm
- City Council meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Councilmember Vaughan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Braucks. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Mary Fasbender, Mayor

Kelly Murtaugh, City Clerk