

Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:05 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
Public Works Director Ryan Stempki

Mayor Fasbender requested that a resolution declaring a local public health emergency be added to the agenda. All councilmembers approved adding the resolution.

Resolution No. 01-11-22 Declaration of a Local Public Health Emergency

Mayor Fasbender called for discussion on the resolution. Councilmember discussion on moving meeting to virtual in light of the current situation. Discussion about clarification on timeframe of the declaration and what meetings it covers.

Councilmember Vaughan motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Folch. Ayes 6; Nays 0.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Fasbender asked if there were any additions or corrections to the City Council workshop and regular meetings on January 3, 2022.

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.

Donald King, 4146 Shannon Drive, posed a question about assessment for the new street and curbing with the Best development of the property at Hwy 316 and Michael Avenue.

Dan King, 17150 Red Wing Boulevard, requested a privacy fence at a prior meeting. He indicated that he did not get a certified letter about the development and the hearing and requested to get all future mailings about the development.

Hinzman, Community Development Director, indicated that other comments about the proposed annexation could be heard during the public hearing.

Consent Agenda

1. Pay Bills as Audited
2. Approve Financial Services Advisor Contract
3. Approve Work Order Contract with Primary Diagnostics

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4. Strategic Priorities 4th Quarter Report
5. Authorize Signature: Joint Powers Agreement – Dakota County CSAH 47 - Vermillion Acres
6. 1st Reading\Order Public Hearing: City Code Chapter 34 - Fees
7. 1st Reading\Order Public Hearing: City Code Chapter 70 – Micromobility Vehicles
8. Resolution No. 01-12-22 Order Public Hearing for CIP Bonds Planned for Public Works Facility
9. Water Service Repair Assessment Waiver – 3440 Cory Lane
10. Approve Fire Department Submission of Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant
11. Approve 2022-2023 LELS Police Officer Union Contract
12. Resolution No. 01-13-22 Approve Gambling Premise Permit for Climb, Inc at Pub 55
13. Resolution No. 01-14-22 Acceptance and Appreciation for Donation to the Fire Department from the Fire Relief Association
14. Resolution No. 01-15-22 Approval of the 2022 Massage License Renewal for Natalie Briones
15. Resolution No. 01-16-22 Acceptance and Appreciation for a Donation to the Fire Department from James and Janice Webber

Councilmember Leifeld motioned to approve as amended, seconded by Councilmember Braucks. Ayes 6; Nays 0.

Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment – Annexation – Best Development (TH 316 and Michael Avenue)

Hinzman explained the amendment request requires a public hearing, which was ordered in December. At the time, there was a concept plan and development agreement. The development agreement has since ceased. Best Properties (owner) would like to keep annexation moving and is in discussion with another developer. Hinzman indicated that movement on this annexation is premature at this time. Since the Public Hearing is scheduled tonight, he recommended not closing the hearing and table it until the next meeting February.

Mayor Fasbender opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Chris Reuter, 4134 Shannon Drive, expressed concerns about the annexation in relation to displacement of wildlife, roundabout impact, noise from construction and asked that a fence be considered between the existing homes and new development.

Jason Angerman, 4130 Shannon Drive, expressed concerns about the development as he has seen kids get hit by cars near the park, is concerned about increased usage of roundabout because of the Michael Ave/316 intersection. He asked if backyard gates will be replaced. He is concerned about the impact of this development on property values.

Katie Wiertsema, 581 Tuttle, is disappointed to hear of the development. She chose the home location to be near the countryside with wildlife. She expressed concerns about how people will cut through the neighborhood during construction and asked if it were possible to purchase land adjacent to her property.

Steve Engstrom, 17162 Red Wing Boulevard, encourage a focus on the traffic study from that area. He indicated points of concern include increasing vehicle traffic at the intersection of Hwy 61 and TH 316 and wants a plan for a park in the new neighborhood.

Council discussion on emails serving as public hearing comments until the public hearing closes.
Council discussion on the concerns about TH 316 access and communication with MnDOT.

Councilmember Lund arrived at the meeting.

Councilmember Folch motioned to table the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld. Ayes 7;
Nays 0.

Resolution No. 01-17-22: Approve Amendments to Resolution No. 8-09-08 Prevailing Wage on City Projects

Stempski explained that there are two amendments that he will be addressing. The first is the prevailing wage amendment and that the increase to \$175,000 per project aligns with State competitive bidding laws and the current policy allows no exceptions. This was recommended by the Finance and Operations Committees.

Council discussion of support for the increase and questions about when exceptions arise. Stempski explained that projects that utilize specialized labor or equipment is where prevailing wage does not come into play. Council discussion on determination of unique or specialized and how this is documented.

Councilmember Lund motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Resolution No. 01-18-22 Approve 4th Street Water Tower Reconditioning Plans with Exception to Prevailing Wage Policy and Authorize Advertisement for Bids

Stempski transitioned to describe the unique reconditioning project that the City is working with a consultant on. The packet resolution delineates the unique nature of the project. They do not typically see prevailing wage language on this kind of project because of the unique/specialized nature of the project. There are only 4-5 contractors who can handle a project of this size. Adding that language would add about \$200,000 to the cost of the project. The Operations Committee recommended seeking exception to the prevailing wage policy. The City is seeking to get the work done this summer.

Council discussion on the length of project, partnership with the school district, and tasks that reconditioning entails for a water tower.

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

Resolution No. 01-19-22 Special Assessment Deferral Policy

Wietecha explained that state law allows deferral of special assessments senior citizens, disabled or military persons for whom assessments would create a hardship, but also requires a written policy. Affects new assessments going forward and the City is paid when the property changes hands.

Council discussion on potential impact to those who purchase the property and support for offering this program.

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

Approve Interim Wage Adjustments

Wietecha explained that while completing the Compensation and Classification Study is the goal, there are five positions that are further outside the majority of the many positions that are underpaid for the market. It is proposed that those outliers be brought closer to the other positions prior to the study. This was discussed at Administration Committee in December and January.

Council discussion on the work of the consultant, salary adjustments that have been made to date, and exploring retroactive pay when the study is complete. The Administration Committee supported addressing the outlier salaries ahead of the study.

Councilmember Fox motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilmember Leifeld. Ayes 2; Nays 5 – Braucks, Folch, Leifeld, Lund, Vaughan

Mayor Fasbender and Councilmembers made the following announcements:

Announcements

- Recycle your old lights with the Hastings Holiday Lights Drop Off Collection. Residents can drop-off their unwanted light strands at the Joint Maintenance Facility, 920 – 10th Street West, during the holiday season through February 1.
- We will have a virtual kickoff meeting about the new Community Investment Fund on Monday, January 24, for an overview of the program and to answer questions from local partner organizations.
- Snowshoe Guided Hike on Sunday, January 30, at Jaycee Park. Registration is required. Snowshoes, poles, and instruction will be provided. The event is free and offered in partnership with Dakota County Parks.
- The State of the City will be presented virtually again this year on Wednesday, February 2.

Meetings

- Arts Task Force on Wednesday, January 19 at 6:00 pm
- Public Safety Advisory Commission on Thursday January 20 at 6:30 pm via Zoom
- City Council Workshop – Police Department on Monday February 7 at 5:30 pm
- City Council meeting on Monday, February 7 at 7:00 pm

Councilmember Leifeld motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Vaughan. Ayes 7; Nays 0.

Mary Fasbender, Mayor

Kelly Murtaugh, City Clerk