

THE BRIDGE



Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

Leadership Minute

Artificial Intelligence, Part 2

By Dan Wietecha

About a month ago, I wrote a bit about a 6-week class I was taking on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Since then, we've had a series of conversations about AI during our Management Team meetings. At one, there was a "deer in the headlights" Look, what are you guys talking about? So last week, IT Manager Dave Hokstad joined us with several examples of AI. This mini-demonstration helped to recognize some ways that AI might help us in our (and our department's) jobs.

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Is Your Information Up to Date?

Is the address on your paycheck accurate? Do you have an emergency contact on file? If you are unsure or need to update your information you can do so through BS&A. When you log in, go to Employee Self Service > My Information. From there you can update your address, view previous paychecks, see your W-4 withholdings, and even see what you have earned for the year. If you need any help, please reach out to Megan Schlei.

Kudos Korner

From Kelly Murtaugh - Kudos to Dave Hokstad, Quentin Nelson and Adam Schumacher (your local, trusted IT Team)! For the past two weeks, staff from Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)



have been working with our IT Team on potential vulnerabilities to the City's IT infrastructure. They found some areas that need attention and will share that information with the team to continue to enhance security. You may learn more about that in the near future. But they also gave high praise to the team for the work that has been done already that prevented them from being able to access much of our IT infrastructure. Great work, Dave, Quentin and Adam!



Management Team Notes

- The Police Department is interviewing officers for the second School Resource Officer position, recently supported by the ISD 200 Board.
- The bid opening for the Neighborhood project is at the end of this week.
- The Operations Committee of Council heard the presentation that was given at the Open House for residents near the water line and Central Water Treatment Plant areas.
- A preconstruction meeting was held this week for the Industrial Park Water Tower reconditioning project. The project is anticipated to start at the end of this month and conclude in July.
- Council participated in a workshop on Monday regarding the needed funding for the Central Water Treatment Plant. It is anticipated that water rates will increase again July 1. The proposed rate First Reading will go to Council on April 21.
- Levee Park summer schedule is out—about 50 events scheduled!
- The City is closing on the property for the Central Water Treatment Plant next week. Staff have been meeting with the current tenants regarding relocation. Current tenants (Carbones and Stacy's Stars) will need to vacate by the end of June.
- Two applications for Special Use Permits for cannabis retail operations have been received by Community Development. They will go to Planning Commission on April 28.
- Hydrant Flushing starts this week.
- MnDOT will be presenting to Council in the near future with an update on the timeline for the Hwy 61 construction schedule.
- Parks and Rec staff are preparing fields for recreational play to start in the near future.
- Work on the pool continues to prepare for the upcoming swim season. Registration for swim lessons just opened.
- Since approved at Council on Monday, work on Lake Rebecca park will

City Council Updates

April 7, 2025 Meeting

- Accepted a \$2,300 donation from the Hastings Rivertown Lions Club and a \$200 donation from Thomas and Barbara Greenslit to the Fire Department.
- Accepted a \$500 donation from the Hastings Rivertown Lions Club, a \$1,000 donation from Avionte LLC, a \$1,400 donation from the Rother family, and a \$1000 donation from the Niederkorn family to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Approved the designation of the IDEA Pride Festival as a special event to be held on June 14.
- Authorized signature of the lease agreement between the City and JoCor (1292 North Frontage Rd).
- Held a public hearing and adopted assessments for the 2025 Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Project.
- Approved sidewalk café and parklet license renewals.

[View the Council Packet for Details](#)

PFAS Update

Central Plant Moves Ahead; Water Rate Increases Planned for July

The City of Hastings continues to address PFAS contamination in its municipal wells. The City Council held a workshop prior to its April 7 Council meeting and the City Administrator provided an update on plans for the Central Water Treatment Plant, efforts to secure funding and proposed water billing rate increases for this summer.

- **Central Water Treatment Plant Progress:** The Central Water Treatment Plant to be located at 1292 N Frontage Road is on schedule to go out for bids in May and construction could start as early as July. Current businesses at that location - Carbone's and Stacy's Stars - plan to remain in Hastings. Stacy's Stars is finalizing a new location at 33rd Street next to Coborn's Grocery. A new location for Carbone's has not yet been determined, but the restaurant remains open at its current location until its lease ends June 30, or until they move, if it is sooner. The city has been working with both businesses to help them relocate in Hastings.
- **Central Water Treatment Plant Funding:** The City Council discussed financing the City's portion of construction through a low-interest loan through the Public Facilities Authority; this will save \$1 million in interest costs. The Council proposed removing the nitrates treatment equipment from the project, saving \$3.1 million. This equipment can be added in the future when needed. The city continues to advocate for grants and financial assistance.
- **Proposed Water Billing Rate Increases for July:** The city will raise water billing

rates and is recommending a 10 percent water billing rate increase to take effect with the July billing statements. A first reading of the ordinance will be on the Council's agenda for 4/21, with a second reading and adoption to be set for May 5.

[Watch the City Administrator's Update](#) (Watch at the 50:24 Minute Mark)
[Central Water Treatment Plant Project Page](#)

Wellness Spotlight

Mastering Money

[Build an Emergency Fund in 5 Steps](#)

[Budget-Friendly Meal Planning Tips](#)

[The Psychology of Spending](#)

[Activity - Building a Better Budget](#)

Let's Dish

[Lentil and Vegetable Stew](#)

[Honey Sriracha Ground Chicken and Broccoli Bowl](#)

[Gluten Free No Knead Focaccia](#)

Fun Dates

April

- April 11 - National Pet Day
- April 14 - National Gardening Day
- April 15 - World Art Day
- April 20 - Easter Sunday
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 23 - National Picnic Day

[City Event Calendar](#)

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