

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2024

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 15th day of August, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Jake Crnkovich
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Michelle Libal

Others: Mollie Sundermeier, Susan Cerny, David Dries, Bridget Dries, Jim Snyder, Lowell Krueger, Ron Styskal, Carol Clough, Jim Pinkman, Deb Pletcher, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on August 9, 2024. The Mayor and all Council Members received advance notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda as shown by the Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. Anderson noted the Open Meetings Act located on the south wall of the room.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Susan Cerny gave public comment requesting information on payments made the last two or three years to JEO Consulting Group. She also asked for information on the status of Iron Horse annexation. She said she would like to know what the projected yearly revenue will be for Iron Horse once it is annexed. City Attorney Fahleson said a public record request could be submitted.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #24-100 for a Conditional Use Permit for installing a wall sign on the building located at 101 South 14th Street at

7:06 p.m. Jim Snyder, Image 360, a sign company, spoke regarding the proposed sign for Bluejays Ice Cream & Candy store. He said the sign will have white dimensional letters with no back lighting. He added there will be sconce lighting above the sign and the letters will be permanently affixed. Zoning Administrator Krejci stated the Historic Preservation Committee and the Planning Commission approved the permit. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve Resolution 2024-5 – Signing of Programming Agreement BL2411 with the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

City Administrator Quady stated this agreement will allow for the flow of federal dollars through the Nebraska Department of Transportation for the pedestrian walkway project. She said the estimated City’s share is 20% of the project or about \$400,000.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1239 – Adopt the 2024 – 2025 General Fund and Water Wastewater Budget Document.

Mayor Anderson read the Title of Ordinance 1239.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Ron Styskal spoke to the Council regarding the construction project by his property at 843 Dale Street. He said he wanted to know who the go to person on the project is as there were several items that were not followed up on including a boring hole that was not filled in and the seeding of property’s north bank. City Administrator Quady said he can reach out to her. She said M.E. Collins, the contractor, will be working along Dale Street and the seeding will be done. She added a walk through will be done when the project is completed. Styskal continued stating there were trees removed from the bank that had created a wind break for his property. He said with the wind break removed, the recent storms caused more wind damage on his property then he has ever had before. Mayor Anderson said the items will be addressed and Styskal will be made aware when the punch list is completed.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve Application #24-100 for a Conditional Use Permit for installing a wall sign on the building at 101 South 14th Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Motion Carried.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve 1% Additional Budget Authority.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to recommend approval to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for a Special Designated Liquor License for St. Mary's Church Block Party at 1625 Adams Street from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on September 15, 2024.

Mollie Sundermeier stated the party is to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the founding of the church. She said there will be a band, games for the kids, and food. She said there will be blockades around the perimeter of the party.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services with JEO Consulting Group Inc. for Water Supply Improvements.

City Administrator Quady said this contract would be for the engineering for adding a fifth water well at 29th and Boyd Streets and for four or five blocks of upsized water mains to the blending well on 23rd Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding the nuisance at 407 North 15th Street. Zoning Administrator Krejci said he met with the owner who is going to have a survey of the property done. He said because of the age of the home and the neighborhood, there is the potential of putting on the garage addition like the owner wants. He said it would include paving to the street. City Administrator Quady said the vehicles are now licensed and operable. Krejci discussed the different setbacks in the different subdivisions and the Planning Commission will review the setbacks at their next meeting. He said changing the set back from ten feet to seven feet will allow the owner to build the size of garage he would like.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to postpone consideration of recommendation for abatement of nuisance at 407 North 15th Street to September 19, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding the nuisance at 106 South 16th Street. Property owner, Lowell Krueger, said that he has completed painting the house. City Administrator

Quady questioned if Krueger is going to put in the sidewalk this fall. Discussion about sidewalk requirements was held. Krueger said he would not be doing the sidewalk this fall. Discussion was then held regarding what else needs to be completed to remove the house from consideration of abatement. City Attorney Fahleson said he and City staff will meet to determine what compliance looks like to bring this to a conclusion.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to postpone consideration of abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street until September 19, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports for July 2024 are available for council review and comment. Reports include the Keno, Public Works Director's, Utility Superintendent's, Police Chief's, Building Official's and Library Reports.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the August 1, 2024 Council meeting minutes; approval of the July 30, 2024, August 6, 2024 and August 14, 2024 Budget Workshop minutes; approval of the July 25, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes; and approval of the July 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to approve the first half of August 2024 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson reported on the tub grinding of trees from recent storm. He said a piece of metal damaged the grinder, so it was taken in for repairs. He thanked the fire, rescue, police and city staff for all the work they did after the storm. He noted the Public Work Director worked on a Sunday to keep the tree pile pushed up. He commented that about three years ago the City invested in a Generac generator for City Hall so the police department and city staff could operate out of the building even though it was out of power. He said the Council has met for budget sessions.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


James Anderson, Mayor

Kathleen Sliva
Kathleen Sliva, City Clerk



I, the above signed City Clerk of Ashland, Saunders County, Nebraska hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the proceedings had and done by the Council on August 15, 2024; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty four hours prior to said meeting; that said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten business days or prior to the next convened meeting of said body.