

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 7, 2024**

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

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

Absent: City Council President Chuck Niemeyer

Others: Susan Cerny, Bruce Lefler, Bryan York, Scott Howard, Julie Ogden, Caleb Fjone, Carol Clough, Ron Styskal, Jim Pinkman, Hayley Pfeiffer, Capri Niedbalski

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on March 1, 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 Crnkovich to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Council Member Libal arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Susan Cerny gave public comment stating she wanted to let the Council know that she has been approached at least three times and has taken a couple of phone calls from residents of Iron Horse wondering about annexation of Iron Horse.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Libal to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1231 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND NO PARKING REGULATIONS BY AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 4 OF THE ASHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE

REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT; AND TO AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1234 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION VARIOUS PURPOSE BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$970,000) TO PAY THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING PAVING AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN CERTAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS OF THE CITY; PRESCRIBING THE FORM OF SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR A SINKING FUND AND FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES TO PAY SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE DELIVERY OF THE BONDS TO THE PURCHASER; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE BOND PROCEEDS AND ORDERING THE ORDINANCE PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the title of Ordinance 1234.

Bruce Lefler, Piper Sandler, spoke to the Council regarding the bond issuance. He said the bonds will be used to pay off bond anticipation notes due April 1st. He said the ordinance is written out in parameters form with the principal amount not to exceed \$970,000 with the term of the bonds not over 15 years and the interest rate of the bonds will not exceed five percent. He said upon passage of the ordinance the bonds will be marketed next week and the Mayor will sign off on the final terms of the bonds. City Administrator Quady said this is for the City's portion of the Blue Jay Way project, paving and water. Julie Ogden, JEO Consulting Group, said the numbers are good for this phase but in the future there will be the construction and bonds for the turn lane on the highway. Lefler asked that the three readings of the ordinance be waived to allow for locking in the interest rate next week. Quady said in the future separate paperwork for the assessments will come before the Council.

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to suspend the rules of the statutory requirement of three separate readings.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson called the final vote for passage of Ordinance 1234.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Bryan York and Scott Howard spoke to the Council about their company's lease of land for their firework stand. York asked for consideration of a reduction in the cost of leasing the land. He said the rent is \$2,000 on top of the \$2,000 license fee. Discussion followed.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to postpone consideration of Firework Stand License Agreement with 1517 Midwest, LLC until March 21, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported on the abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street as the property owner, Lowell Krueger, was not able to attend the meeting. She said that Krueger and Building Official Krejci had come up with a new schedule with a completion date of July 15th. She said he has put up the bead board and lighting on the porch since the last meeting. She said the painting of the exterior and finishing the interior are left to complete.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Libal to postpone consideration of recommendation for abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street until April 4, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to approve Change Order #6 for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$7,905.24.

Julie Ogden, JEO Consulting Group Inc., spoke to the Council regarding the Change Order for landscaping for the slope on the east side of Dennis Dean Road. She said it is a two to one slope and they have been looking for different options for ground cover. She said they have chosen a lower growing bush that will not need mowing. She said there is a need for topsoil work to be done by M.E. Collins. She said the City will contract with the landscaping company for the bushes and City staff will have to mulch around the bushes. She said the property owners, the Styskal's, have been consulted about this, are accepting of this and have agreed to assist with watering the bushes. She added that substantial completion is planned for June. She said her recommendation is to approve the change order.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg second by Crnkovich to approve proposal for Material Testing Services for Dennis Dean Road Improvements from Thiele Geotech, Inc.

Julie Ogden, JEO Consulting Group Inc., said this is for compaction and concrete testing and she recommends approval of the agreement.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to approve consent agenda which included approval of the February 15, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; and approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group for general engineering in the amounts of \$6,381.25; for Public Works in the amount of \$2,423.00, for Water Distribution Hydraulic Model in the amount of \$137.50, and for Water Main Furnas and 30th Streets in the amount of \$14,820.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to approve the February 2024 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


Mayor Anderson stated he had issued a Proclamation in honor of Bev Ziegenbein.

AAEDC Director Caleb Fjone reported there will be groundbreaking for the Towers of History on April 11th at 1 p.m. and that the AAEDC has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the county. He said there were 500,000 people in the creative district last year.

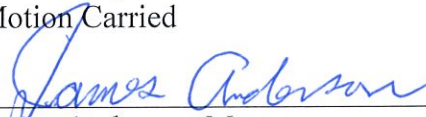
Ashland-Greenwood students Hayley Pfeiffer and Capri Niedbalski introduced themselves.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Libal to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried



Kathleen Sliva, City Clerk



James Anderson, Mayor



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 March 7, 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.