

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 15, 2025

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 15th day of May, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Council Member Jim Pinkman
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kristina Stoki
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Michelle Libal

Others: Carol Clough, Ronald Styskal, Dan Linke, Brad Slaughter, and Caleb Fjone

Notice of the meeting was posted in the three designated public places on May 2nd, 2025: i3 Bank, Ashland Post Office, City Hall. 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 shown hereafter 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 Pinkman, second by Lofberg to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Public comment opportunity given. No comments made.

Motion by Pinkman, second by Lofberg to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1246 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance by the City of Ashland of its General Obligation Various Purpose Bonds in the Aggregate Principal Amount of not to exceed \$1,600,000 to Pay the Costs of Constructing Certain Streets & Related Improvements of the City.

City Attorney Fahleson read the title of Ordinance 1246. Brad Slaughter, representing Northland Securities, stated this is 20-year funding and rates are currently 4.9-4.95% tax-exempt financing with a PAR amount of \$1,530,000, with an average payment just under \$120,000 per year.

Slaughter noted we are not able to waive the 3-reading requirement as a $\frac{3}{4}$ council presence is required. Fahleson stated agreement. It was discussed by all and agreed upon that the 2nd reading and waiving of the 3rd reading will be moved to the currently scheduled special meeting on Monday May 19th, in order to lock in interest rates. City Administrator Quady stated this is for permanent financing for Dennis Dean Road and the City's portion of the Icehouse Ridge intersections, which were initially financed through anticipation notes and short-term financing with i3 bank. Quady stated this is for paving, water, and sewer minus the ARPA funds that were also used.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Pinkman, second by Lofberg to approve Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Lincoln regarding the Waterway and Silver Street Improvements.

Quady stated the City of Lincoln did agree to go to a maximum of \$70,000 in additional funds to push back the Silver Street project, and the City of Lincoln will also do the drainage way work after their lagoons are done in 2027. Quady stated the City of Lincoln will not tear up the street as part of the project, as they will just be using it for trucks.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Pinkman, second by Lofberg to approve Utility Billing & Financials Software Change to PowerManager.

City Clerk Stoki summarized the four vendors that were vetted and the vetting process used. Stoki noted the first-year cost and the ten-year cost for each vendor as documented in the packet handout, as well as other key items, features, and considerations of each vendor. Stoki stated PowerManager makes the most sense financially, noted a few drawbacks, stated positive feedback from other communities using PowerManager, and gave assurance it is better than what we have today and will suffice. Stoki noted the City will be able go live with PowerManager at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. Quady stated the City is currently on Gworks, which is moving from our current system to a different cloud system, and the deadline they have given us is by the end of this calendar year, requiring us to either move to a different company's system or to their cloud-based system in that timeframe. She stated neither primary user [Utility Billing Clerk, City Clerk] is interested in that system. Stoki stated the Gworks option is also the most expensive of the four options vetted, and is not something that would meet our needs. Stoki iterated that PowerManager will be a good solution for three to five years and then it might be a good time to evaluate another vendor/system that can be budgeted for, such as BS&A (documented as one of the four vendors vetted). Stoki noted key capabilities and features of the BS&A vendor/system and stated why it may be a good long-term choice in the future as our population and needs expand and evolve.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Administrative reports were reviewed as a standard item. Mayor Anderson noted five permits issued for new homes.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Pinkman to approve consent agenda which included approval of the May 1st, 2025 City Council meeting minutes, and approval of the April 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Pinkman, second by Lofberg to approve the first half of the May 2025 Claims.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

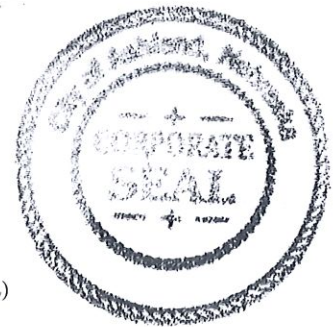
Communications Given: Ashland Community Development Corporation Director Fjone mentioned the tunnel painting project is coming up in about 2 weeks.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Pinkman to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


Kristina Stoki, City Clerk


James Anderson, Mayor



(SEAL)

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 May 15th, 2025 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.