

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 2nd day of May 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
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 Member Jake Crnkovich

Others: Lowell Krueger, Caleb Fjone, Ron Styskal, Jim Pinkman, Carol Clough, Jared Hiscock, Melissa Stump, Travis Stump, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on April 26, 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 Niemeyer, second by Libal to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Carol Clough gave public comment stating that today was the National Day of Prayer. She gave some historical background and commented on the current governance of Ashland. She read portions of Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of Prayer and Fasting from March 30, 1863.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Salt Creek Farm Table LLC's Application for a Class C Liquor License at 7:07 p.m. Jared Hiscock, co-owner of Salt Creek Farm Table, stated that he and his wife were brought to Ashland by Fariner Bakery, so that his wife could be their baker. He said it has been overwhelmingly positive for their family and now they had the opportunity to purchase the bakery. He said when more than 25 percent of the membership of an LLC changes the Liquor Commission requires a new application for liquor license be made. He said the bakery

has had a liquor license since it opened, and they want to continue with the wine market and wine tasting dinners. He said they have been awarded a temporary license and have passed the Fire Marshall's and State Patrol's inspections. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing to determine existence of public nuisance regarding property at 407 North 15th Street at 7:10 p.m. City Administrator Quady said the property owner has been working with Police Chief Brady to resolve the issue. She said there are two inoperable vehicles, one is being worked on by the owner's son for a shop class and is to be completed by the end of the school year. She added the owner has parts on order for the other one and it is to be finished up shortly. She said the owner is doing some work on the house foundation. Mayor Anderson said the vehicles have been there for quite some time. Quady said the two items on tonight's agenda for recommendation for abatement of nuisances will not be considered but that resolutions regarding these items will be placed on the next agenda. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing to determine existence of public nuisance regarding property at 102 South 22nd Street at 7:14 p.m. Travis Stump spoke stating they are planning to get rid of most of the junk during Ashland Clean Up Days, and they got a storage unit to store the boat and other items sitting in the yard. He said the yard should be picked up this weekend. Melissa Stump said the vehicles are all licensed. She said the trailer is licensed in Iowa. City Administrator Quady said that parking must be on a permeable surface. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to recommend approval to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for a Class C Liquor License for Salt Creek Farm Table LLC doing business as Fariner Bakery.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the recommendations for abatement of nuisances will not be considered tonight.

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding the work he has been doing on the nuisance property at 106 South 16th Street. He said the exterior steps are done, the sidewalk will be done this month, and the interior items will be worked on according to the weather. Building Official Krejci mentioned that there are items on the project schedule such as the floor that Krueger needs work on and that nothing on the schedule is high risk. When asked, Krueger said he knew that he has three months to get the schedule done. Mayor Anderson reminded Krueger that it has to be habitable. Council Member Libal asked if he had someone to help him with the project and stated she will not be voting to extend the nuisance past the July date. He said that it will probably be an Airbnb. City Attorney Fahleson stated the City can go in and abate the nuisance and assess it to the value of the property. Mayor Anderson said he wants to get this issue taken care of so future Council's don't have to.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to postpone consideration of recommendation for abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street until June 6, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve consent agenda which included approval of the April 18, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; and approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group for general engineering in the amount of \$1,866.25, for Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$15,169.35, for Silver Street Improvements in the amount of \$12,373.25 and for Water Main Furnas and 30th Streets in the amount of \$24,105.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Niemeyer to approve the second half of April 2024 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Council Member Niemeyer commented that National Fireman Day is this week.


Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to enter into executive session to discuss negotiation strategy for purchase of property to protect the public interest at 7:29 p.m.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to leave executive session at 8:14 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


James Anderson, Mayor


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 May 2, 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.