

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held on line via Zoom Meeting on the 16th day of April, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz
City Council President James Anderson
City Council Member Matt Meyer
City Council Member Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Bruce Wischmann
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson
Zoning Administrator Bill Krejci

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on April 9, 2020. 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 Grauerholz 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. Mayor Grauerholz noted the Open Meetings Act would be conducted utilizing the Open Meetings Act as modified and authorized by the Governor of the State of Nebraska.

Motion by Anderson, second by Meyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Council Member Niemeyer spoke to the Council regarding sending out nuisance letters. He said that at a previous meeting there was a discussion about sending the letters out. City Administrator Quady said there had been discussion about waiting a month or so after some of the COVID 19 restrictions had passed. She added the letters can go out now and that is why this item is on the agenda.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Meyer to send out nuisance letters.

City Attorney Fahleson clarified the motion by asking if Niemeyer is deferring to the City Administration as to which properties had been previously identified and to who receives the letters. Niemeyer confirmed that was the intent. Discussion was held. Quady reviewed the process for notifying property owners of nuisances.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported on the negative effects of the pandemic on the City's budget. She said the biggest issue will be a decrease in revenue particularly sales tax and keno proceeds. She said that she sent an email to the department heads freezing spending without her approval except for necessary purchases. She said most major purchases and projects can be pushed back until this is over. She stated the City is tracking related COVID expenses and labor costs as disaster declarations were made and there is a possibility the City may be reimbursed for costs incurred.

Reviewed the March 2020 Keno Report.

Reviewed the Public Works Director's Report.

Reviewed Utility Superintendent's Report.

Reviewed Police Chief's Report.

Reviewed Building Official's Report. Building Official Krejci answered questions of the Council.

Reviewed Library Report.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the April 2, 2020 City Council meeting minutes and approval of April 3, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Meyer to approve the first half of April 2020 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve March 2020 Treasurer's Reports.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to enter into executive session for potential real estate transaction and to discuss possible litigation at 7:42 p.m.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to leave executive session at 8:52 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Meyer, second by Wischmann to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried



Richard Grauerholz, 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 April 16, 2020 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.