

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

April 20, 2023

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 20th day of April, 2023 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 Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Others: Ron Styskal, Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, Dan Linke, Ken Curry, Robin Curry, Andrew Collins, Dennis Krecklow, Curtis Koehler, Robin Fosbender, Rich Whitmarsh, Deb Whitmarsh, Suzi Nelson, Caleb Fjone and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on April 20, 2023. Notice of the meeting was posted at i3 Bank, Ashland Post Office and City Hall on April 13, 2023. 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 Libal, second by Lofberg to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

A special presentation about the Ashland Guard Camp was given by Colonel Andrew Collins briefly touching on the camp's history, reconstruction of the camp and buildings after the 2019 flood and what they do at the camp. He said the camp was established in 1908 and covers 1,200 square acres. He stated in over four years almost two million people utilized and trained at the camp. Mayor Anderson and AAEDC Executive Director Fjone presented a City flag to Guard Camp representatives,

Collins, Command Sergeant Major Krecklow and Command Sergeant Major Koehler. Anderson commented that the camp is an important part of the Ashland community.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #23-009 To Amend Ashland Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance 1220 changing the Future Land Use Map and Official Zoning Map from R-3 to B-1 on Pt Lot 11-12 Blk 15 Deans Addition in the City of Ashland located at approximately 843 Hwy 6, Ashland NE at 7:20 p.m. Zoning Official Krejci stated the Planning Commission recommended approval. He said the lots are being switched to B-1, a retail or professional services type of application. City Administrator Quady said the lot is currently empty. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #23-015 Public Street Vacation, Ordinance 1219 - Vacate part of Cedar Street East of 6th Street to 4th Street, all of 5th Street from Cedar Street to Dale Street, Vacate all of 4th Street from Birch to Grove Street, Vacate alley way in Block 6 Beetison's Addition at 7:25 p.m. Ron Styskal, 409 North 25th Street, stated he had a 1970 map of the streets and alleys in this area. D.R. Correll, 402 Grove Street, asked how the vacated property is distributed after the vacation. He reminded the Council about a 2-inch water line that runs along the eastside of his property where the vacation will take place. City Attorney Fahleson told him that the vacation will not impact any easements, that the vacated property is evenly split between the adjacent property owners and that the vacation will be filed with the Register of Deeds. Ken Curry, Columbus, said his son owns property effected by the vacation and this will solidify access to their property and for building. Zoning Official Krejci said the Planning Commission recommended approval conditioned on the notification of all property owners. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1219 – Vacate Parts of Cedar Street, 5th Street, 4th Street and alleys in Beetison Addition.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1219.

Council member Crnkovich noted that Elm Street from 5th Street to 4th Street has not been vacated. City Administrator Quady said the paving of this section is on the 1-and 6-year road plan.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to introduce and approve Ordinance 1220 – Amend the Comprehensive Plan changing the Future Land Use Map and Official Zoning Map approximately at 843 Highway 6.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1220.

Zoning Administrator Quady said access to the property will be off of Dale Street and all along the property is state right-of-way.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Robin Fosbender spoke to the Council regarding her son's recent rescue call that had a long wait time for an ambulance. She said something needs to be done and this was not acceptable. She said she is very concerned that the community is growing and asked how we are going to accommodate the residents. Mayor Anderson said there has been meetings on this issue including one on Tuesday. Council Member Niemeyer said they are very concerned about this but this is not a quick process. City Administrator Quady said that last year the City began paying a stipend to the volunteers that responded to calls and this worked well until one volunteer took a full-time job out of town in March. She added this is when Yutan began responding to calls mostly during daytime hours. She said they are meeting to discuss what the next steps will be to move to at least one full time paid responder. City Attorney Fahleson said this is a common problem in smaller cities. Council Members Crnkovich commented on all the questions that arise as the Council tries to determine how to fix this problem. Council Member Libal agreed this is a problem and it will be fixed. Mayor Anderson said budget meetings will be beginning and discussions will continue to solve this problem. Fosbender said if there is a way she can help, she would be glad to.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve Contractor's Application #5 for payment for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$86,976.30.

City Administrator Quady noted this is for M.E. Collins. She said the water line has now been bored under Lincoln's water line under Dennis Dean Road.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) with the Ashland Rural Fire District. City Administrator Quady said this is not an item that was budgeted for so it would not be paid for this fiscal year. She said these are to be worn into every structure fire, the current ones 15-year life cycle is expired and they were all purchased at once with a grant. She said there is an interlocal agreement with the Rural Fire Board which states both the City and Rural Fire pays half of the expenses to operate the fire department. She reminded the Council of the agreement made a few years ago for reimbursing the Rural Fire Board when new radios were purchased. She said half of the SCBAs purchase would be \$87,000 for 17 units and a few extra pieces and bags. She added they will have a 30-year life.

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg directing the City Administrator to work with the Rural Fire Board in a cooperative fashion to acquire the SCBAs with a contribution from the City to be determined at a later date.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports for Keno, Public Works Director's, Utility Superintendent's, Police Chief's, Building Official's and Library are available for council review and comment. AAEDC Director Fjone was present to give the AAEDC Report.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the April 6, 2023 City Council meeting minutes, approval of the March 30, 2023 Planning Commission meeting minutes and approval of the March 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve the first half of April 2023 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson reported that the City parking lot at the corner of 15th and Silver Street has been resurfaced. He said the City was named a 2022 Tree City USA recipient.

City Administrator Quady said the Sidewalk Program in the area between 19th and 30th will be starting.

Council Member Libal said there is a stop sign down at 31st and Boyd Streets.

City Administrator Quady said the City is looking for lifeguards. She said Clean Up Day will be May 6th.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to adjourn the meeting at 8:12p.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 April 20, 2023 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.