

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 20, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 20th day of February, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: City Council Member Matt Meyer

Others: Susan Cerny, Mike Lesley, Suzi Nelson, Bill Krejci and Dave Henke

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on February 13, 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 that is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing for a License to Sell Fireworks by Hometown Fireworks Inc. at 103 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at 7:02 p.m. City Administrator Quady noted that Hometown Fireworks has operated this stand in Ashland for a number of years without any issue. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing for a License to Sell Fireworks by Ka-Boomer's Enterprises, Inc. at 2242 Silver Street at 7:04 p.m. City Administrator Quady said Ka-Boomer's has not operated a stand in town the last few years but has applied to do so again in the same location. She said the Laune family will run the stand and there were no issues with Ka-Boomer's when they were here. With no further comment, Mayor

Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve Resolution 2020-1 – Signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent Form 2019.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2020-2 – Erect Certain Traffic and Road Signs at Specified Locations.

City Administrator Quady said stop signs will be put up to create a 4-way stop at 20<sup>th</sup> and Clay Streets and current stop signs will be removed at 18<sup>th</sup> and Clay Streets and new ones installed to stop the east-west traffic. Mayor Grauerholz asked for additional flags to be put up to draw attention to the changes.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1173 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING PORTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND SO AS TO PERMIT LIMITED DISCHARGE OF SLINGSHOTS, AIRGUNS, BB GUNS AND FIREARMS IN THE TA TRANSITIONAL AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1173.

Fahleson recommended adding wording “and a Conditional Use Permit.” to Section 6-306 and Section 6-307. City Administrator Quady said this allows those areas prior to the annexation but now in TA to be able to still shot firearms. She said this was a conversation during the annexation and was brought up by people who have chickens and farm animals and would like to be able to protect them from fox or other animals and to have target shooting. She said with the Conditional Use Permit they would have to apply to do this.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to amend Ordinance 1173 to add the words “and a Conditional Use Permit” to Section 1 Sub Section 6-306 and Section 2 Sub Section 6-307.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to introduce and approve Ordinance 1176 – To Establish Speed Limits on 30<sup>th</sup> Street within and adjacent to the Corporate Limits of the City.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1176.

City Administrator Quady said this will reduce the speed limit on 30<sup>th</sup> Street to 25 miles per hour.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Susan Cerny addressed the Council regarding vacant property at the intersection of Highways 6 and 66. Cerny presented an email from a professor at UNL's Architecture and Landscaping Department. She said she met with the professor last week and received an email regarding his thoughts on what might be done with the vacant property at this corner. She said she thought this would be a good community project. Council Member Anderson said he would like something low maintenance in the area to enhance the area and it would behoove the City to work with the students to come up with some possibilities. City Attorney Fahleson noted this property is owned by Ashland Salvage Inc. and this would require the City, as a lien holder, to file for foreclosure at which point the land would be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder. He said the City could not do this unless the City purchased the land. He added someone from the community could purchase the property to do this. Mayor Grauerholz said he would be concerned about what the property has been used for in the past and what is in the soil on the property. Fahleson said a Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies were completed on the property.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve License to Sell Fireworks by Hometown Fireworks Inc. at 103 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and License to Sell Fireworks by Ka-Boomers Enterprises, Inc. at 2242 Silver Street.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mike Lesley, owner of nuisance property at 2602 Adams Street, spoke to the Council regarding his future plans for the property. He said that he has bought another house and he has come to City Hall to get a demolition permit for the Adams Street house. He said as soon as the other house is livable, they will move, tear the old house down and put the lot up for sale. He said the new house should be livable in one month. He said he will need to find a contractor to tear the house down. Lesley was requested by the Council to keep the City Administrator informed of progress.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to authorize the Mayor to sign agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Professional Services on the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Alley's Project.

Dave Henke from JEO said a correction in the document is needed as the scope of the project goes from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Street, not 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Henke gave an explanation of the project and noted that the sewer mains are not suitable for relining. He said discussion has been held on how to better serve the homes in this area as several homes are attached to

private lines and probably attached to each other. Henke answered questions of the Council.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Reviewed the January 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.

Reviewed Library Report.

Reviewed Rescue Report.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the February 6, 2020 City Council meeting minutes; approval of Ron Pletcher as an alternate member for the Planning Commission; and approval of Brandon Gammel as a member of the Ashland Fire Department.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of February 2020 Claims.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

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

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported on a meeting with school officials regarding progress on a school building project. He said he attended a presentation on ground water mapping. He said he would be attending the Rural Fire Board meeting to discuss updating the contract with them. He noted the Ashland Area Economic Development Committee would be meeting next week and he asked Council Member Niemeyer to be the Council representative on the AAEDC. He said DARE graduation will be next week and a meeting with the Transportation Study Group will be held on February 27. He asked for workshop agenda items be submitted. He said the League of Nebraska Municipalities Conference is next week.

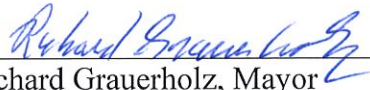
Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation at 7:57.

Roll Call:                    Ayes: All                    Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to leave executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 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 February 20, 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.