

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 19, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 19th day of January, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Michelle Libal
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Jake Crnkovich
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva

Others: Sarah Spears, Candace Spears, Gracey Earnest, Mary Roncka, Lowell Krueger, Steve Nabity, Ron Styskal, William Styskal, Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, Shirley Niemeyer, Caleb Fjone, Suzi Nelson, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on January 12, 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 Niemeyer, second by Libal to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve second reading of Ordinance 1216 – Zoning Change from R-2 to TA.

City Administrator Quady stated this was the parcel of land west of Sabre Heights.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Steve Nabity with the Ashland Creative District Committee and Turtle Creek Gallery addressed the Council regarding the proposed creative district project – Towers of History. He stated that the creative district committee would like to use the City owned property at 13th and Silver to install the towers of history and create a park. He noted the grant paperwork was submitted that would help fund the project. The grant is for \$250,000 and the committee has \$17,000 from another grant received years ago. He said they would like the City’s approval that this space could be used for the project. City Administrator Quady asked if the additional parking lot on the original plans was still going to be included. Nabity noted that they didn’t plan to include that parking lot but he thought the City could add parking along 13th Street and Silver Street in the ROW. Libal asked if the \$267,000 was going to cover the entire cost. Nabity stated that he felt that was adequate budget and that items could be removed if the costs were higher. Lofberg asked who was going to cover the ongoing maintenance costs for this towers of history. City Attorney Fahleson stated this would be on City property and would be a City cost in the future unless other arrangements were made. Nabity mentioned that the maintenance of the project would be a continuation of the Creative District Committee, whoever is involved in it at that time.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to authorize the occupation of municipal real property for the purposes of the Towers of History project, subject to City staff approval and the use of private funds for the construction.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding his progress on abating the nuisance on his property at 106 South 16th Street. Krueger stated that the wall that is left open, covered by wood, will have to wait until it gets warm to finish. Krueger noted that Krejci told him that he needs to add more reinforcement to the floor joists in the kitchen. Krueger stated he has started framing the bathroom. He noted that he is not done with January and started on February. Niemeyer noted there is still some work that was anticipated to be finished in October/November 2022 according to the schedule. Niemeyer stated that his assumption would be that at the second City Council meeting in February, Krueger would have finished the items from October and November on his schedule. Krueger agreed with the exception of the subfloor. The subfloor will be finished after the walls are finished due to how he wants to finish the flooring.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to postpone abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street to February 16, 2023.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports are available for council review and comment. Reports include the Keno, Public Works Director’s, Utility Superintendent’s, Police Chief’s, Building Official’s, Library and AAEDC Reports.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the January 5, 2023 City Council meeting minutes and approval of the December 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

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


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried



James Anderson, Mayor



Jessica Quady, Deputy City Clerk



I, the above signed Deputy 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 January 19, 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.