

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
December 17, 2015

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 17th day of December, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz  
City Council President Russell DeVries  
City Council Member James Anderson  
City Council Member Kyle Vest  
City Council Member Janece Mollhoff  
City Administrator Jessica Quady  
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva  
Assistant City Attorney Sheila Bentzen

Others present: James Garman, Shirley Niemeyer, Bob Luebbe, and Heather St. Clair

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on December 10, 2015. 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 Vest, seconded by Anderson to adopt the regular agenda.  
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Shirley Niemeyer gave public comment about gateway signs. She said she wanted to encourage the gateway feature committee to consider electronic signs that move slowly for displaying notices of events as a monument sign doesn't tell about Ashland. She suggested upgrading the current signs adding six bullet points, to use lighting and to place a small sign on Melia Hill.

Bob Luebbe of Linoma Software gave public comment expressing his thanks to the Council for exploring water/sewer rates. He stated that he noticed in the full report that there were three different options for water/sewer rates and noted that water rate schedule 2 and sewer schedule 3 begins to equalize the commercial and residential rates over a period of time. He requested the Council consider one of the schedules that brings equalization of rates.

Motion by Vest, seconded by DeVries to recommend to the Nebraska Liquor Commission approval of Lonnie G. Eggers as the new manager of No Frills Supermarket #787.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Vest, seconded by Mollhoff to approve Gateway Entrance Features agreement.

Council Member DeVries excused himself from voting as he has a conflict of interest. City Administrator Quady stated this firm was picked because they had designed the Gretna signs and Council Member DeVries had put her in contact with HDR. She said that a representative has met with her showing her proposals of other projects the firm has done and she felt they did a great job. She said he will also meet with the entrance sign committee. She said that this was a project from the ECAP group and it is in the Comp Plan. She said the firm will help with the location and the design. Council Member Vest expressed that it is important to have a professional involved with this process. Quady confirmed that keno funds will be used to pay for the project. Discussion followed.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Anderson, Mollhoff, Vest   Abstain: DeVries  
Motion Carried

Motion by Vest, seconded by DeVries to approve Pay Requests from Lacey Construction, Inc. for Ball Park Concessions and Restrooms in the amount of \$33,812.39.

City Administrator Quady stated the a punch list has been made, the contractor is about 80% done with the list and the City won't pay the retainage until the work is completed. She said that they will probably have to do some dirt work in the spring. She reported that the cost to build up the stand was an extra \$50,000. She said they are working on signage for the building and for the park. Discussion was held regarding planning a ribbon cutting ceremony or a similar event in the spring.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Mollhoff to consider Site Specific Design of Downtown ADA Parking.

The Council reviewed and discussed the design report from JEO Engineering Group. City Administrator Quady noted that when the 14<sup>th</sup> Street project is completed there will be no handicap parking on Highway 66 and when the parking lots are completed there will be ADA van accessible parking spots in them. She said that the estimated design cost per

site is between \$750 and \$1000. The Council recommended that sites 19 and 7 on the south side of Silver Street be studied first.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Heather St. Clair, Library Director, addressed the Council regarding hiring an additional part-time employee for the Library. She said that additional personnel were budgeted for but the Council had requested that no one be hired until she could see how things were going at the library. She said that she is now asking for permission to use those funds to hire an additional staff member as there are consistently larger number of individuals coming in to the library, there are about 17 hours in the schedule that are staffed with her and one other person and that the building is too large for one person to cover. She requested permission to hire an additional staff member to work 10 hours per week at \$9.50/hour. She cited her annual report statistics which showed an increase in attendance of 3½ times, computer use up 9 times and the doubling of new card accounts compared to last year. She said that staff needs to attend continuing education events because of accreditation with the Nebraska Library Association. She stated that library assistants check out materials, assist with technology, answer questions and the phone, run programs and process new and donated materials. She added she works with the City Administrator for the hiring process and that the Library Board approves of the addition as long as it fits in the budget. She said the library is open 54 hours each week and people have asked for longer hours. She said the library is staffed with her and four part-time staff members.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by Vest to approve the addition of a library employee for 10 hours per week as requested.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

James Garman spoke regarding the cleanup of his property at 1909 Boyd Street. He stated that he has completed the clean up except for the moving of the dumpster and that he is no longer doing recycling on the property. Council members reviewed photos taken in the afternoon of the property. Council Member Vest stated that he is good with what has been done and DeVries concurred. No further action on the property was taken by the Council.

Discussion was held regarding utility rates. Council Member Vest asked for information on the impact of apartment buildings. City Administrator Quady stated that additional information had been provided about how the communities of Crete, Lincoln and Waverly handle multi-unit buildings. She said Ashland would have approximately 200 additional users in multi-unit buildings. She said that the Council would need to discuss how to handle charging the assisted living and the care center as they are currently paying an institutional minimum. She said that Golden Apartments has one meter and pays the commercial rate. Vest clarified that he was only asking for outside city limits to pay one

and half the minimum not one and half times the usage fee. Quady said the Council would also need to discuss the handling of buildings with multiple users such as downtown businesses with apartments or two businesses in the same building. Quady reported on projected income reduction if a category for low usage commercial is made. Quady will continue gathering information on proposed rate structures.

Reviewed the November 2015 Keno report.

Reviewed the Public Works Director's Report.

Reviewed the Utility Superintendent's Report.

Reviewed the Police Chief's Report.

Reviewed Building Inspector's Report.

Reviewed the Library Report.

Motion by Vest, seconded by Anderson to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the December 3, 2015 City Council meeting minutes and the November 19, 2015 Planning Commission meeting.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Vest, seconded by DeVries to approve the first half of December 2015 Claims.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to approve November 2015 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported that the Nebraska Department of Roads is holding four meetings across the state for input on future road projects with one on January 22 at SAC Museum. He reminded the Council of the upcoming League of Nebraska Municipalities conference. He told the Council about other meetings he has attended that require the public to sign in with name, address and topic prior to giving public comment. He suggested the holding of a planning workshop in January or February. City Administrator Quady asked that suggestions on topics for the workshop agenda to be given to her.

City Administrator Quady stated that Highway 66 should be open on Monday. She stated that pot holes are filled with cold patch and done at various times throughout the year. Council Member DeVries suggested that the website be set up to report things like pot holes.

Council Member Vest stated that a citizen had spoken to him about a large hole in the cemetery that needs to be filled.

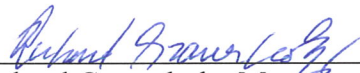
The Council reported there have been a lot of good comments about the downtown lights.

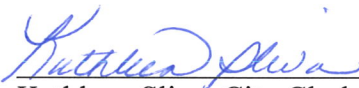
Council Member Anderson stated one of the items he would like on the list for the workshop is the ongoing problem of rock washing off the railroad right of way and plugging the storm sewer.

City Administrator Quady stated the street department has been working on the eastside ditches as the heavy rains have caused road damage. Council Member Vest noted that the ditches have narrowed some streets. She said that she did have a surveyor come out to mark the streets prior to the work being done. She said many of the streets are not where they are supposed to be. She said she will be working with SENDD on completing income surveys for residents in that area to apply for assistance for the homeowners with paving the east side streets. Quady said she would add paving the South 24<sup>th</sup> Street area to the One and Six year Road Plan for consideration next year.

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Vest to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 December 17, 2015 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.