

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 2, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 2nd day of June, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Bob Edgerton, Kathy McFarlane, Karna Loewenstein, Richene Perkins, Christy Franks, Stephanie Huggins, Anita Hollier, Alice West, Sam Gilmore, DJ Ginsberg, Mickey Stubbs and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on May 26, 2016. 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 DeVries, seconded by Anderson to adopt the regular agenda.  
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz opened a public hearing to determine existence of a public nuisance regarding property at NW ¼, Block 21, Dean's Addition more commonly known as 601 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:02 p.m. Richene Perkins, owner of the property, requested a list of items that the City would like done so that the property would pass. City Administrator Quady gave Perkins a copy of the letter sent to her. Council Member Vest said the property needs to meet code. Quady noted that this property was first brought up as a nuisance in 2012 and at that time the City Council wanted the building inspector to go through it with Perkins, the inspector made several attempts to go through it but it never happened and it was left at that spot. Council Member Mollhoff stated that the building inspector could inspect the property to tell Perkins what needs to be done to meet

code and that Perkins would then need to do everything to make it meet code. Council Member Anderson stated that this first came up in 2012 and that nothing has been done to the house, it continues to deteriorate and is blight on the neighborhood. He continued stating the Council needs to move ahead with this item. Perkins said that she has circumstances as to why nothing has been done and that she is very sorry for that. Perkins said she hasn't been there for awhile and that she would like to see the inside. She added she has possessions there that she wants to remove. Mollhoff said that by the next meeting they would like Perkins to have a timeline of how long it will take her to clear the property to meet code or to have it torn down. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Motion by Vest, seconded by DeVries to postpone consideration of Resolution 2016-7 – Declaring the Findings of the City Council regarding property at NW ¼, Block 21, Dean's Addition more commonly known as 601 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street until the next meeting.

Council Member Devries reiterated that the Council's expectation is that Perkins will have a plan in two weeks. City Administrator Quady told Perkins that if she wants the Building Inspector to go through the house, she would need to call and set up a time with the inspector. Council Member Anderson stated that what could ultimately happen if nothing is done by Perkins, the Council would take care of the problem, clear the property of the old house and place a lien on the property for whatever it costs the City to clean it up.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Karna Loewenstein with Metro Area Planning Agency (MAPA) gave a special presentation on Heartland 2050. She said they are asking the City of Ashland to support the Heartland 2050 project. She said the project is a regional planning effort that includes five counties in Nebraska and three counties in Iowa that includes the metropolitan statistical area for Omaha and Council Bluffs. She gave a brief history about MAPA and spoke on MAPA's vision, projects and implementation. She said a Summer Summit will be held in August and invited the Council to attend. City Administrator Quady said that the MAPA financial support request will be about \$200. Loewenstein answered questions of the Council.

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Vest to approve on third and final reading of Ordinance 1126 – AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, AS PROVIDED IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE; TO AMEND THE CITY'S FUTURE LAND USE MAP; TO AMEND THE CITY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Assistant City Attorney Bentzen read the title of Ordinance 1126.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to approve second reading of Ordinance 1127 – Zoning Amendment regarding alley-side setbacks for detached accessory buildings. Assistant City Attorney Bentzen read the title of Ordinance 1127.

City Administrator Quady said that the ordinance as written only affects existing buildings and the ordinance would need to be amended to include new structures.

Motion by Vest, seconded by Mollhoff to amend Ordinance 1127 to include new and existing structures with an alley.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Bob Edgerton of 1741 Clay Street and Kathy McFarland addressed the Council regarding water in their basements. He said that he is wondering if there is a broken storm sewer running between the houses. City Administrator Quady said that the Utility Superintendent Torpy would like to meet with Edgerton to look at the situation with him. She said that both Torpy and Public Works Director Larsen have looked at the situation and they are 90% sure there is not a storm sewer running between those houses. Discussion was held regarding previous work that was done at the property on a sewer line. McFarland said that after the work was completed last year the curb was never repaired. Quady said that the contractor and the property owner are responsible for doing that repair.

Sam Gilmore spoke to the Council regarding the care of the cemetery. He said that he has noticed a great deal of disparity in the level of maintenance and mowing between the east side and the west side of the cemetery. He distributed pictures taken on Memorial Day of the two sides. Council Member Anderson said that he agrees with Gilmore’s comments. He said it is a labor intensive job and that he thinks it needs a person working fulltime with the other workers helping out. City Administrator Quady said that on the Monday prior to Memorial Day the entire cemetery was mowed. She added that because of Memorial Day the mowing company was going to mow again on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; however it rained all night Thursday. She added that City workers mowed the big area in front of the graves on Friday before the Legion came out to put up the crosses. She said next year if the mowing is contracted out, there will be a better discussion about Memorial Day. She said the entire cemetery has been done three times this year. Council Member Mollhoff said the Legion couldn’t even put up the flags this year because it was so wet.

Motion by Vest, seconded by Mollhoff to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for New Well 2015 in the amount of \$3,535.00.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

DJ Ginsberg addressed the Council regarding a Poker Run sponsored by the United States ATV Search & Rescue Team to be held on September 24, 2016 in conjunction with other events at I-

80 Speedway. Ginsberg requested permission to hold a portion of the run in Ashland. She described the proposed cruise. She said that they will not be requesting any road closures. She said they expect 800 to 1200 participants that will be released in groups and that they are to be back at the speedway by 4 p.m. Parking downtown was discussed. Discussion was held regarding where to distribute the cards as there is no one place large enough. Mayor Grauerholz read the mission statement of the organization. Discussion was held regarding supervision of the event and riders. Ginsberg stated that drivers will have driver's licenses, wear helmets and follow traffic laws. Mickey Stubbs said there will be a member or volunteer with each group that will be sent out. Ginsberg said that she will work with law enforcement. City Administrator Quady said she would speak to the Chamber about the event.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by Vest to approve the United States ATV Search & Rescue Poker Run in Ashland with the caveat that there are at least two or three businesses that agree to participate.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Eric Obert of JEO Consulting Group introduced engineering interns Blake Eisenmann and Bryan Brunson who will be working on the splash pad project. Discussion was held about the splash pad project.

Eric Obert of JEO Consulting Group presented to the Council a plan for a downtown handicap parking spot at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Silver that will comply with ADA regulations. The plan eliminates the first parking stall, requires concrete removal in current parking spots and re-pouring to get 2% cross slope, rebuilding the curb with a height up to 16", installation of railing for safety and installing a ramp to the sidewalk. Obert said the estimated cost of the spot is \$35,000.

Motion by Vest, seconded by DeVries to approve placing lien for unpaid mowing bill on 407 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$190.00.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by Anderson to approve placing lien for unpaid mowing bill on 307 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$190.00.

Motion by Vest, seconded by Mollhoff to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the May 19, 2016 City Council meeting minutes with noted corrections.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Mollhoff to approve the second half of May 2016 Claims.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Mayoral Grauerholz reported on a musical event held downtown over the weekend and on a thank-you given to a police officer.

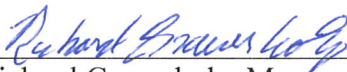
City Administrator Quady reported that the highway project should be completed by July 1.

Quady reported that the Public Works Director said that they will not have time to demolish the house on South 13<sup>th</sup> Street and he will be seeking out a company to give a bid for this along with demolition of the old concession stand at the ball fields.

Council Member Anderson reported on an erosion problem on the old railroad right-of-way near South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 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 June 2, 2016 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.