

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 1, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland Community Resource Center on the 1st day of April, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Others: Suzi Nelson, Susan Cerny, Caleb Fjone, Shawn Washburn, Dalton Smith and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on March 25, 2021. 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 located on the south wall of the room.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported that the owner of 2217 Ash Street, Tom Johnson, canceled the appointment with the Building Official and that his Counsel has told him that he does not need to let us in or onto the property. She said he is requesting a date to come into compliance. He said he has power-washed and is painting this weekend then replacing the windows, cleaning up around the property and trimming trees. She said he does not need to pull a permit for the windows as long as he doesn't change the size. Quady reviewed pictures she took of the exterior of the property earlier in the day. Discussion held regarding date for the resolution.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2021-6 – Declaring the Findings of the City Council regarding a nuisance at 2217 Ash Street with an abatement

date of May 5, 2021.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve second reading of Ordinance 1192 – Vacating all of Dale Street (570') between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Beetison's Addition. City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1192.

City Administrator Quady said the City of Lincoln is working on easements through the public way and JEO is working on legal descriptions for the easements.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: Anderson, Niemeyer, Wischmann   Abstain: Crnkovich  
Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said Mr. Snodgrass, the owner of 2359 Boyd Street, was unable to attend the meeting tonight. She said he is working on licensing two vehicles and a boat and starting the spring clean-up. Council Member Anderson commented that the vehicles have to be operable.

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to postpone consideration of granting an extension of completion date for abatement of nuisance at 2359 Boyd Street to April 15, 2021.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz said the Fire Department would like to build a training facility on City property south of the dog park along the railroad tracks. He said department members hope to solicit for grants and donations to build a facility where they can train with aerial ladders, hose and nozzle practice, and do live fire attack practices. He said their proposal is to use shipping containers to build the structure. Dalton Smith said the property is not in the flood plain. City Administrator Quady said she would verify this with the Flood Plain Administrator Krejci. Grauerholz reviewed pictures of training structures in other communities. City Attorney Fahleson said he was concerned if the railroad would have an issue with a structure near their tracks and he will check into this. Grauerholz said there would be very little smoke with what would be burned. Smith said there wouldn't be any issue with access to the dog park. Fahleson said the land is zoned Public. Council Member Anderson said the department needs a training facility but one of his concerns is how the structure will look after a few trainings in this area of town. Council Member Crnkovich mentioned the residence nearby. Grauerholz said he would recommend they plant trees around the facility and the City will still own the property. Smith said depending on the layout of the property, the property will be covered and graveled, so there shouldn't be a lot of maintenance. The Council expressed general support for the concept and asked that a formal proposal be brought back with the concerns addressed for Council consideration.

City Administrator Quady showed an aerial photo of 2701 Furnas Street including the back

yard. Council Member Anderson said the Council needs to move forward with nuisance proceedings as it needs to comply with City regulations. Council Member Wischmann noted there are old cars and a tractor.

Motion by Anderson, second by Crnkovich to approve beginning formal nuisance proceedings at 2701 Furnas Street.

Quady said the owner plans to put in shop and he needs a permit for the fence. Susan Cerny reminded the Council that a neighbor had complained about the property at an earlier Council meeting.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said the claim from the owner of A Coin Shop is for damage the owner claims was caused by the Public Works Department piling snow from the alley behind her building. Quady reviewed photos of the building. She noted that a bid to repair a small section of the building was \$300.00. She said there are existing issues with the building that may have contributed to the buildings damage including a hole in the stucco filled with a plastic bag. She said Building Official Krejci thinks the damage occurred over a longer time and may be caused by moisture getting into the building in several places and getting behind the wall. Council Member Wischmann noted that this type of damage doesn't occur with snow from one snow but rather over time. Wischmann said he does not want to get a bid and have the work done on behalf of the City. Quady recommended if the Council chooses to, a direct payment to the owner could be made. Council Member Anderson said the back of the building is iffy and if the City did place the snow next to the building it may have hastened the damage.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve paying claim by the A Coin Shop for building repair in the amount of \$300.00 conditioned upon execution of a release.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said it has been six years since a utility rate study has been completed and it is time to do another study.

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to authorize the Mayor to sign agreement with JEO Consulting Group Inc. for a Utility Rate Study.

Quady said utility rates have not changed in fourteen years. She said after going through last year's budget and with the upcoming projects, the rates will need to change. She said when the rates were last raised, the City was building a new wastewater treatment facility, a new well and a new water tower. Council Member Anderson said the utility department is to be self-supporting. Quady said there are higher maintenance expenses on the wastewater treatment plant after 14 years. Mayor Grauerholz said some of the

infrastructure is 80 to 90 years old. Council Member Wischmann noted the additional income coming in now from Sandy Point. Council Member Niemeyer expressed concern for the small business owners in downtown being charged the commercial rate. Discussion followed. Council Members Crnkovich and Niemeyer agreed to be members on the Utility Rate Study Committee.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to approve consent agenda which included approval of the March 18, 2021 City Council meeting minutes; approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$3,837.50; Sanitary Sewer Replacements-Alleys in the amount of \$388.75; and for Public School Expansion in the amount of \$855.00; and approval of Jake McCord as a member of the Ashland Fire Department.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve the second half of March 2021 Claims.


Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz said Clean Up Day will be held on April 17 and a tire amnesty event will be held in May. He noted that rubber mulch has been purchased for the Girl Scout playground. He said he and others have been discussing permanent signage for the Jack Anderson Ball Park. He added the City of Ashland has a new phone app available. He mentioned a letter requesting a stop sign on 29<sup>th</sup> Street that will be forwarded to the Police Chief. He said he has requested additional information on annexation.

Council Member Anderson commented that scrap metal in the shop yard could be gotten rid of at Clean Up Day.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 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 April 1, 2021 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.