

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 5, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 5th day of April, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz  
City Council Member James Anderson  
City Council Member Russell DeVries  
City Council Member Janece Mollhoff  
City Administrator Jessica Quady  
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva  
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council President Paul Gossin

Others: Jim Sanders, James A. Garmin, Shirley Niemeyer, Sue Brauckmuller, Cathy Watson, Ron Styskal, Steve Arens and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on March 29, 2018. 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, seconded by DeVries to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Shirley Niemeyer gave public comment thanking the Mayor and Council Members for their attendance at the disaster training sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. She suggested the disaster plan be put on the website. She requested the street maintenance staff check the storm drains on 14<sup>th</sup> Street as there is a lot of sand and gravel near the drains. She expressed support for the Council's efforts to make the new bridge as attractive as possible and for reinstalling the decorative lighting.

Motion by Mollhoff, second by DeVries to suspend the rules to move agenda item E.1. to follow agenda item I.7.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Mollhoff to approve Resolution 2018-5 – Fee Schedule.

City Administrator Quady noted the last time the fee schedule was changed was in 2011. She said the changes on the new schedule include the addition of a \$50 permit fee for poultry, an increase in the water and sewer connection fees, an increase in the water meter fee and the addition of a \$5.00 late fee for dog licensing. Quady answered questions of the Council and will post the fee schedule on the website.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Sue Brauckmuller, representing the Cemetery Improvement Committee, updated the Council on the Committee’s history and activities. She said the committee was created to raise funds for building the cemetery directory. She said the committee continues to raise funds for repair of damaged or dangerous stones and for special projects. She added they annually update the directory and have a fundraising plant sale. She commented the committee would welcome new volunteers. She said that Jerry Johnson will be applying a coat of preservative on the directory. She said that she does a cemetery tour annually for the Ashland Historical Society. She noted that there is a rodent problem in the cemetery that needs to be addressed. She said the Cemetery Committee recommended that the City put down the continuous base for stones to reduce weed-eating. Committee Member Cathy Watson told the Council how she typed all the burials into a computerized spreadsheet that was then verified by committee members walking the cemetery and comparing every headstone, name, dates and location. She said there are over 6,000 burials and close to 600 military burials. The Council thanked the Committee for their work. Ron Styskal said he is concerned about pets in the cemetery and he would like the Council to consider a ‘no dogs allowed’ or ‘service dogs only’ rule and the posting of this rule on the gates. He mentioned the military graves are marked with medallions and in the new area he suggested a hole be drilled in the concrete for the medallion stakes.

Mayor Grauerholz stated that the City needs a policy regarding pets in the cemetery. He said in his opinion the cemetery is a place where our parents, grandparents and other family members, friends, heroes and military people are buried; if people are allowing their pets to run and utilize it as an exercise area and leaving waste from their pets this is very disrespectful and this is not a way to honor and respect those who cared for us. He said the City has a dog park and he doesn’t see a need for pets in this area. He said a service dog is not considered a pet. He said he would like a policy on the matter. Council Member Anderson concurred. Brauckmuller said this would be a recommendation of the Cemetery Committee. She noted that the City has a leash law so running at large is already prohibited in the City.

Council Member Anderson, the liaison for the committee, shared photos of cemetery roads, poles

and stones. He said he would like more funds to be budgeted for these items. He added there is a retaining wall by the shop that is needing repair.

Motion by Mollhoff, second by Anderson to approve Well Permit to Parcel 003221505 Saunders County.

City Administrator Quady said the parcel doesn't have an address yet and this is the land for Bob Luebbe's future home. She said he drilled a test well with good water so he is now requesting a permit for a production well.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by Anderson to approve Option No. 2 to Rebid the Rail/Fence and Electric Work for the Silver Street Bridge Aesthetics.

Steve Arens, JEO, gave an overview of the project to match the bridge lighting to the downtown lights and update to the black railing. He said the updated plans were sent to the contractor with a change order to get pricing. He shared handouts that showed JEO's estimated cost at \$101,000 and the change orders total net cost to the City of \$195,799 almost double the estimate. He said one option to save money is to use a lighter rail and to get rid of the galvanizing but he added he doesn't recommend this. Arens said that one option is to go out for rebid of the rail/fence and electrical work but this doesn't guarantee a lower bid. Discussion was held.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by Anderson to suspend the rules by postponing consideration of Agenda Item G.5. until after Agenda Item I.7.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by DeVries to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for Professional Services on the Water 2017 Silver Street Project in the amount of \$5,052.50.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Anderson to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for Professional Services on the Ashland Whitetail Estates Project in the amount of \$17,055.75.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by DeVries to approve pay request from Olsson Associates for Professional Services on the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Paving Project in the amount of \$17,654.43.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by DeVries to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the March 15, 2018 City Council meeting minutes; approval of Lakota Pehrson as a member of the Ashland Fire Department; and approval of Yong Hansen as a member of the Library Board.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, second by Anderson to approve the second half of March 2018 Claims.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported that the Fire Department is recruiting additional membership. He said he attended the preconstruction meeting for the Silver Street waterline which will have a May 1<sup>st</sup> starting date. He said Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> and AYBA Clean Up at the ballfields is Saturday at 8 a.m. He noted Building Official Isom was elected Vice-Chair of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects. He added he attended the Chamber's disaster training.

Motion by Mollhoff, second by Anderson to enter into closed session to protect the public interest to discuss real estate negotiation strategy at 8:24 p.m.


Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Mollhoff to come out of closed session at 8:57 p.m.

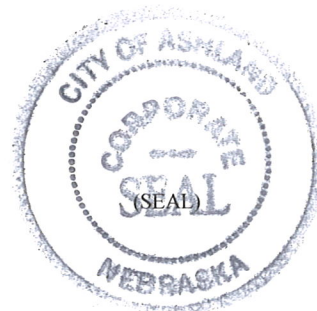
Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Mollhoff to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

  
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Richard Grauerholz, Mayor

  
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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 5, 2018 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.