

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 15, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 15th day of August, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz
City Council President Paul Gossin
City Council Member James Anderson
City Council Member Bruce Wischmann
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Matt Meyer

Others: Suzi Nelson, Mike Lesley, Diane Rico, Brian McCurdy, Roberta Willard, Clyde Willard, Jill Wischmann, Lenora Isom and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on August 8, 2019. 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, second by Gossin to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Diane Rico gave public comment regarding sidewalks and the railroad underpass. She said there are no sidewalks along Furnas Street from 24th Street to 30th Street. She noted the brick sidewalk leading to the underpass could be uncovered to bring to historical view. She said we should consider having the tunnel under the railroad tracks inspected. She said she has had it confirmed by a specialist that the 3” of standing water in the tunnel is a breeding ground for West Nile virus and poses a public health safety concern. She added there was a pedestrian crossing on Highway 6 and some people remember a blinking yellow light.

She also asked why there are no sidewalks around Wiggernhorn Park. She listed eight reasons for a stop light at the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 66.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on Conditional Use Permit for Exterior Alterations at E 20' 9.5" Lot 8, Lot 9, and W 1' Lot 10, Block 24, Flora City Addition to Ashland NE, located at 1428/1430/1432 Silver Street at 7:06 p.m. Zoning Administrator Isom said this permit would be for three buildings including the Chamber building that share a portion of façade. She said there is historic metal trim on the buildings that is badly deteriorated and brick needing tuck pointing. She said there is a three-color paint scheme. She added both Historic Preservation and Planning Commission recommended approval with the #1 paint scheme and all three of the building's owners have approved the work to be done to their buildings. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on Modifying Conditional Use Permit for Exterior Alterations at Lot 3 & W 18' Lot 2, Block 31, Flora City Addition to Ashland NE, located at 1419 Silver Street at 7:10 p.m. Zoning Administrator Isom stated the original Glacial Till permit included reuse of the existing awning. She said the owner would like to not use the awning but instead install a metal back lite sign and paint the brick. She added the permit modification is recommended for approval by the Historic Preservation Committee and Planning Commission. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit for Domestic Dog Kennel at Lots 5&6 Block 14 Miller & Clark Addition to Ashland, located at 1941 Euclid Street at 7:12 p.m. Zoning Administrator Isom said this is a renewal of a permit that expired before it was renewed. She said the permit has to go back through the process again. She said the female dogs are now spade, all dogs are up to date on rabies shots and there have been no issues with the dogs. Roberta Willard spoke to the Council saying she overlooked renewing the permit due to a wedding and a graduation. She asked why there is a price difference for a kennel versus one or two dogs. City Administrator Quady said it is because of this process and the advertising in the paper. Clyde Willard said there is no advantage to having the kennel license except having the third dog. Isom said that is the advantage. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Motion by Gossin, second by Wischmann to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1167 – Adopt the 2019-2020 General Fund and Water Waste Water Budget Document.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1167.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Diane Rico spoke to the council regarding the need for a safe crosswalk for the east side of Ashland to the west side of town. She said Whitetail, the new campground and bike trails will bring more in and around town that will need access to a pedestrian crossing. Council Member Gossin asked if Iron Horse needed access to the same point. Rico said there is no safe cross walk for anyone on the east side. She said if the State doesn't allow a sidewalk over the new overpass the only option is the railroad tunnel. She asked if there is a plan for safe crossings over Highway 6 and Highway 66 and sidewalks. She provided pictures of the tunnel conditions and possible placement of crossings and sidewalks. City Administrator Quady noted the State Department of Transportation has said a traffic study will be completed after school starts. Mayor Grauerholz said he has had conversation on several occasions with representatives of the Department of Transportation regarding this and said there will be more conversations in the future. Rico said nice sidewalks would improve the look along the highway and there is a volunteer group that is willing to help. She suggested land owners clean up their weeds. She said the debris across from Iron Horse is an eyesore. Council Member Wischmann commented on the problems of getting the tunnel to drain and lack of headroom in the tunnel. Rico asked again to have the tunnel inspected. Discussion was held regarding an unsigned agreement with the railroad. Council Member Anderson commented on the tunnel, continuing improvements of the road and sidewalks from bridge to Highway 6 and the removal of trees and weeds from the entrances to the tunnel. Gossin said we need to determine ownership of the tunnel and who is responsible for maintenance. Grauerholz reported that the Public Works Director has one bid for replacing the sidewalk from the bridge to the tunnel and he is waiting on another.

Motion by Gossin, second by Wischmann to approve Conditional Use Permit for Exterior Alterations at 1428/1430/1432 Silver Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Gossin, second by Wischmann to approve modifying Conditional Use Permit for Exterior Alterations at 1419 Silver Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann second by Gossin to approve Conditional Use Permit for Domestic Dog Kennel at 1941 Euclid Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady stated that owner Jim Garman said he couldn't stay for the meeting. She provided photos taken about 3:45 p.m. of the property. Council Member Gossin said it doesn't look like there has been a lot of movement since the last meeting. Council Member Wischmann concurred. Quady said she has two bids with a load price for cleaning up the property. Council Member Anderson said the City has worked with this individual for five years and that he is not in favor of granting any additional extension. Gossin and Wischmann also said they are not in favor of an additional extension. Quady asked for parameters of what should be cleaned up. Discussion followed. Quady said

everything outside of the fence showed be cleared. She noted the trailers parked on the street full of junk.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Gossin to not grant an extension of completion date for nuisance property at 1909 Boyd Street and City staff is directed to proceed per City Ordinances.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mike Lesley addressed the Council regarding his nuisance property at 2602 Adams Street. City Administrator Quady said Lesley was in to talk with the Building Official about his house plans. Lesley said they are getting contractor bids. He said he has a trailer to remove the little trailer and the truck is ready to go. Council Member Gossin asked that more movement on the vehicles be done. Lesley said they are working on pre-approval for financing. Gossin confirmed with Lesley that he agreed to removing the truck cab, and getting down to three trucks and five bikes.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Gossin to grant extension of completion date for nuisance property at 2602 Adams Street until September 5, 2019.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion held regarding a proposed Traffic Analysis Scope of Services for Silver Street from JEO Consulting Group Inc. No action was taken.

Motion by Gossin, second by Wischmann to approve 1% Additional Budget Authority.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said Public Works Director Larsen had put together a map of suggested street repairs. She said on Silver Street the repairs are from the middle of block between 16th and 17th up to 20th Street. She said this is three and a half blocks of pavement. She said this, along with the paving work by the schools, would be bonded using Highway Allocation Funds and the estimated cost is \$584,000 and the work should be done by September 29th.

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve Silver Street Concrete Repairs.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Building Official Isom reviewed two bids for repairs on City Hall's exterior and doors. She said Brasch Enterprises is the lowest bid by \$550. She said there were three alternates for door upgrades and electrical work.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Gossin to approve bid from Brasch Enterprises for improvements for City Hall with all alternates.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Reviewed the July 2019 Keno Report.

Reviewed the Public Works Director's Report.

Reviewed Utility Superintendent's Report.

Reviewed Building Official's Report.

Reviewed Library Report.

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the August 1, 2019 City Council meeting minutes; approval of the July 25, 2019 Planning Commission meeting; and approval of the August 6, 2019 Budget Workshop minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Gossin to approve the first half of August 2019 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Gossin to approve July 2019 Treasurer's Reports.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz said he had looked at the tennis courts in Wiggernhorn Park and the concrete looks to be in good shape. He said one net is up and the other court could be divided off to be used for basketball. He reminded the Council about the League of Nebraska Municipalities conference next month.

City Administrator Quady said she met with DED about the Housing Grant. She said as soon as the contract is completed, they will be sending out full applications in the four participating communities. She said they anticipate beginning next spring.


Council Member Anderson noted weed and junk by a downtown business and a vehicle parked over the sidewalk near the elementary school.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Gossin to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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 August 15, 2019 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.