

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
August 18, 2022

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 18th day of August, 2022 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: Ron Styskal, Dave Cavaliere, Lowell Krueger, Karen Kasuske, Heather Kennedy, Jerry Lofberg, Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, Amanda Roe, Maureen Freeman-Caddy, Susan Cerny, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on August 11, 2022. 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 Anderson to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Dave Cavaliere gave public comment listing a number of items for the Council to think about including the need for the removal of a tree hanging over power lines, the need for additional officers in the Police Department, the need to ticket individuals fishing on Salt Creek without a fishing license, the need to address speeding on Adams Street, and the need of better planning for the repair of the compass and for traffic flow during the street closure.

Susan Cerny gave public comment regarding a meeting discussing a revitalization grant for Silver Street. She reported the City would not qualify for this type of grant.

She said she contacted a representative with Burlington Northern, Mr. Wagner, to discuss the underpass on Silver Street. She read portions of an email she sent him and his responses to her including that according to a March 1, 1978 agreement the county is responsible for maintaining the pedestrian walkway through the underpass; in addressing the height of the underpass, the low clearance and the angle of entry into the underpass, Wagner said BSNF does not have any capital work planned at this location and any changes to the bridge would need to be approved and meet BSNF guidelines. She said there may be some interest on the part of BNSF for decreasing the number of strikes on the bridge as this stops train traffic for inspection.

Ron Styskal gave public comment regarding the response time for an injured person during a recent truck show. He said a first responder did arrive in ten minutes but the ambulance didn't arrive for 22 minutes. He said there needs to be two people available to answer calls. He would like something done as Ashland is growing and to improve communication between dispatch and the squad.

Heather Kennedy gave public comment regarding utility rates and day cares. She would like the rate for in-home day cares to be set at the residential rate or on a tiered rate system.

Karen Kasuske gave public comment regarding utility rates and day cares. She would like a residential rate for licensed in home day cares. She suggested that rates for all in home businesses in town be looked at.

Motion by Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1206 - 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.  
City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1206.

Zoning change for this property will be from PUB to B-1 General Commercial for property at the intersections of 7<sup>th</sup> & Silver Streets and 8<sup>th</sup> & Ash Streets. Zoning Administrator Krejci said the property once had a concrete plant on it. He said a new business will relocate here and the property has not flooded. Council Member Anderson said this will be a nice addition to the community.

Council Member Crnkovich recused himself from voting as he has a potential conflict of interest.

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

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to introduce and approve the first reading of Ordinance 1209 – Adopt the 2022-2023 General Fund and Water Wastewater Budget document.

Mayor Grauerholz read the Title of 1209.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding his nuisance property at 106 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Krueger discussed the construction schedule that was developed after a meeting with the Zoning Administrator and Council Member Wischmann. Zoning Administrator Krejci said the biggest concern for the city is completing the exterior of the house. He suggested exterior projects be moved up on the schedule especially those that would make the house water tight. City Administrator Quady said the initial letter regarding the nuisance was mailed in the fall of 2020 and the official process started in the spring of 2021. Wischmann asked Krueger to move the wrap around porch out of 2024 into 2023. Council Member Niemeyer said he would like to see the project be ahead of schedule. Council Member Anderson said the project has been going on for over 20 years and that it is time for the project to stop. Wischmann reminded Krueger that it needs to be to an insurable standard. Krueger said he could put in steps instead of the wrap around porch. Niemeyer said he would not include the wrap around porch into the project but rather install steps with a railing. Krejci said this area needs to be weather tight. Council Member Crnkovich told Krueger to get the structure sealed up and structurally sound as fast as possible and by the end of the year. Anderson said each month Krejci needs to review the progress and bring a report to the Council. Krueger said he thinks he can get though the August and September tasks by the end of September.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to extend abatement of nuisance to September 15, 2022.

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

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to approve placing a lien for unpaid mowing bill on 202 North 30<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$120.00.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

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

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Reviewed the July 2022 Keno Report.

Reviewed the Public Works Director's Report.

Reviewed Utility Superintendent's Report.

Reviewed Police Chief's Report.

Reviewed Building Official's Report.

Reviewed Library Report.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the July 21, 2022 City Council meeting minutes; the approval of the July 20, 2022 and July 25, 2022 Budget Workshops minutes; the approval of the August 11, 2022 Special Council meeting minutes; the approval of Pay Request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$2,300.00, for Public Works Programming and Preliminary Design in the amount of \$1,275.00, and for Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$1,891.25; and the approval of Matt Flynn as a member of the Creative District Committee.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of August 2022 Claims.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve July 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz stated school is back in session and the police officers will be concentrating around the schools for the children's safety.

He said the State Highway Commission will be holding an upcoming meeting in Nebraska City.

City Administrator Quady said she had been contacted by the Department of Transportation regarding the roundabout. They informed her that the materials for the temporary roundabout are now available so they are proceeding with bidding the project out and the roundabout should be installed this year.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 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 18, 2022 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.