

# **ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES August 21, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson  
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer  
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg  
City Council Member Michelle Libal  
City Council Member Jim Pinkman  
City Administrator Jessica Quady  
City Clerk Kristina Stoki  
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Others: Bill Krejci, Caleb Fjone, Tanya McVay, and others.

Notice of the meeting was posted in the Ashland Gazette on August 15th, 2025. 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Anderson 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. Anderson noted the Open Meetings Act located on the south wall of the room.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Public comment opportunity given. No comments made.

Mayor Anderson opened the Public Hearing on Conditional Use Permit #25-046 for painted mural north side of building at 7:02 p.m. The property is located at 101 N 14th Street, Ashland NE. Caleb Fjone of 1603 Boyd Street and Chair of the Creative District, stated one of their to-do's this year was to draw down all their grants if possible. Fjone stated they are working on their third grant, which is part of the Downtown Enhancement project, which is a portfolio of different things to do to the downtown, and one of them is a mural project. Fjone displayed photos of the proposed mural and noted this mural will be 1 of 3 and will be placed above Flutterby Finds on the north wall to beautify that space. Fjone stated he worked with Denise [from Flutterby Finds] and one of her employees for the design and they felt it was a good fit for town. Fjone stated the paint for the

mural will be purchased in town to keep the money local for this grant. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Pinkman to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance 1249 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; AND TO AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.  
City Attorney Fahleson read the title in full.

City Administrator Quady noted it has been over 15 years since the compensation has changed. Mayor Anderson stated this [compensation] is the same as the City of Wahoo.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Pinkman to approve Conditional Use Permit #25-086 for placing a temporary Con-ex on property. The property is located at 1700 Furnas Street, Ashland NE.

Quady stated she still hasn't heard from the care center and recommended this item be tabled again. Quady stated they may not be checking their emails and restated the requirements given to the applicant to paint, clean up weeds, put up a privacy fence, and move it to meet the setback requirements in order to continue to store items in the Con-Ex box. Quady stated the care center is owned by an out-of-state company and Zoning Administrator Krejci will be visiting in-person to ensure contact is made. Quady stated this is the third time this has been on the agenda and the public hearing was two meetings ago.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Pinkman to postpone this item to the first meeting in September.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Pinkman, second by Lofberg to approve Conditional Use Permit #25-046 for painted mural north side of building. The property is located at 101 N 14th Street, Ashland NE.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Pinkman, second by Niemeyer to approve recommendation to the Nebraska Liquor Commission for a Special Designated Liquor License for St. Mary's Church Block Party at 1625 Adams Street from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on September 14, 2025.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Pinkman to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign Memorandum of Understanding between the Ashland Police Department and The Nebraska Army National Guard for combined training opportunities.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Administrative reports were reviewed as a standard item. Mayor Anderson summarized the Building Permit report. Niemeyer and others noted the decrease Keno revenues and made commentary about the current overall gambling environment in Nebraska.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Pinkman to approve consent agenda which included approval of the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes, approval of the August 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting minutes, and approval of the July 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Pinkman to approve the first half of the August 2025 Claims.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Mayors report and Communications given. Mayor Anderson stated an explanation for the painting of the water tower has been posted on Facebook, which hasn't been painted since the 90's. Quady stated the annual maintenance fee we pay to Viking is for the painting but spreads the cost out over several years, and is around \$65,000 per year. City Attorney Fahleson suggested holding a public workshop for education. Discussion by all was had with commentary made regarding watering schedules, sprinkler systems, etc. Photos of the concrete road leading to and around the Whitetail lift station were displayed. Mayor Anderson discussed the improved access to the lift station now that the site has been paved, which will make pump maintenance access easier for the Utility department staff. Mayor Anderson noted the work was done by Schroder Concrete out of Omaha, who does a lot of work for the City. Caleb Fjone stated the Community Center planning is going well and is getting through each of the eight silo leaders to focus on the budget aspect. Fjone noted the Summit at the brewery next week, Wednesday, which will highlight the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Anderson noted 22 more lots in Whitetail, which is not yet in the city limits but will be, as stated by Quady. Niemeyer noted they have broken ground on the last phase in Iron Horse, which is 46 lots. Niemeyer and others on the Council noted the police report is lengthy this month as the police have been very busy.

Motion by Pinkman, second by Niemeyer to adjourn into executive session to receive attorney-client advice at 7:24 p.m.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Pinkman to adjourn from executive session at 7:40 p.m.

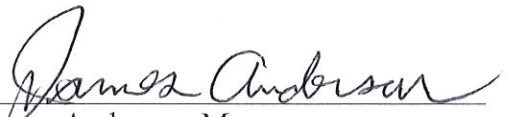
Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Niemeyer to adjourn from regular session at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: All

Motion Carried

  
James Anderson, Mayor

  
Kristina Stoki, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 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.