

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 16, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 16th day of December, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: City Council Member Jake Crnkovich

Others: Caleb Fjone, Susan Cerny, Bill Krejci, Suzi Nelson, Scott Nabity, Marilyn Boston, Mike Meyer, Brandon VanderMey, John Snodgrass, Ronald Styskal, Chad Hart, Tylor Kennedy, Dan Linke, Pat Danahy, Bryan York, Scott Howard, Cadence Minnick, Lowell Krueger, Patty Warsocki, Scott Monzon, Darren Hill and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on December 9, 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 Wischmann to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on Application #21-186 for Conditional Use Permit located at 1412 Silver Street, City of Ashland Nebraska at 7:04 p.m. Steve Nabity, owner of Turtle Creek Gallery, spoke stating he is proposing to put new signage on his building for the gallery. He said he is proposing to put a wooden sign across the top of the building and lettering on the front of the existing canopy. He showed the Council the lettering font. Zoning Administrator Krejci said both the Historical Preservation

Committee and the Planning Commission recommended approval. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2021-23 – Signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to amend Resolution 2021-23 by changing December 2, 2021 to December 16, 2021.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz called for the vote on Resolution 2021-23 as amended.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Patty Warsocki spoke to the Council regarding ambulance service in Ashland. She said on December 3, 2021 she made three calls to 911 with Mead responding in 40 minutes and no response from Ashland's squad. She proposed that the City hire a full-time professional EMT team. Council Member Anderson said Ashland has good volunteers and this has been talked about. He said they could hire a fulltime person but still have volunteers. He said during an emergency there is mutual aid from surrounding communities. He said Warsocki's comments are very important and increase the urgency of this happening. Mayor Grauerholz commented that since 1971 rescue services have been handled by volunteers from the community and surrounding areas. Warsocki said she is not saying anything toward the volunteers and she appreciates them and that she is not able to volunteer. She said she wants a fulltime EMS crew. Marilyn Boston spoke saying that when Marcy Ambulance Service went out of business, a decision was made to start the rescue squad with volunteers. She said a schedule was set up for covering the days and hours. She added after a time people were off their jobs too long on calls, especially those that worked downtown, and there started to be problems. She said she had the experience of calling the rescue squad and having to wait, as she had to when her husband was injured. She mentioned another experience in which the squad was there in a few minutes for her. She asked the Council to find a way to hire a couple of paramedics. She asked if there are grants for this. Chad Hart provided EMS statistics including run totals and response rates as of Sunday.

Scott Monzon, 642 Whitetail Run Circle, spoke to the Council regarding engine braking by trucks as they enter into town along Highway 66 from the south. He said there is an ordinance on engine braking but enforcement is a problem. He said the latest he has heard engine brakes being used was 1:30 a.m. and the earliest was 4:30 a.m. He said the majority of the trucks are rock haulers. He requested assistance with getting the engine braking under control. He asked for an increase in the fine, for a decrease in the speed limit on the highway by the water tower and to get an extra police officer. Council Member Wischmann said there needs to be a progressive fine schedule. City Administrator Quady said there is a sign on the highway regarding engine brakes. She said she has asked the State to do a speed limit study. Wischmann said the roundabout to be put in next year will slow the

trucks down. Quady said an email has been sent out by the Police Chief to the officers telling them to have zero tolerance and to issue tickets for use of engine brakes. Darren Hill spoke stating that a \$100 fine would be good and to have it go up incrementally. City Attorney Fahleson said that state statutes limit the amount that can be fined.

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to approve Conditional Use Permit #21-186 for wall sign at 1412 Silver Street.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding his nuisance property at 106 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street. He showed a diagram of the house foundation outlining the areas and walls he has been working on. He answered questions of the Council regarding his progress. Building Official Krejci said he was in the building about three weeks ago.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to grant an extension of completion date for abatement of nuisance to the second meeting in January on January 20, 2022.

Council Member Anderson commented that Krueger has been working on this house for over twenty years and it should have been done.

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

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to authorize the Mayor to sign Firework Stand License Agreement.

Scott Howard and Bryan York were present to answer questions about their proposed firework stand. City Attorney Fahleson noted the term of the agreement is 14 days with a charge of \$200 per day or \$2,800.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to amend the fee schedule to \$200 per sales day or \$2,000.

Wischmann said this would be ten days and would not include the days for set-up or tear-down.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz suggested that the funds be assigned half to Fire and half to Parks.

Mayor Grauerholz called for the vote to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement as amended.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mike Meyer, Rescue Squad Captain, spoke to the Council regarding billing services for the squad. He said he would like to change to One Billing Solutions. He gave some statistical information. He said to date there have been 21 unanswered calls needing mutual aid and there were 11 calls that were missed that needed Advance Life Support. He added 81% of the missed calls were between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. He said the squad probably responds to 8 to 9 mutual aid calls. He said there needs to be a driver and an EMT on each call. City Attorney Fahleson said this is a common multifaceted problem in second class cities. City Administrator Quady said she will contact other communities regarding mutual aid. Meyer said the new billing contract is for the same fee percentage as the old contract. Council Member Niemeyer questioned if the City could do their own rescue billing. Discussion followed. Meyer said Plattsmouth has hired three individuals recently for EMS coverage using covid funds. Meyer said there should be more of a priority for fire and rescue.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign Billing Services Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with One Billing Solutions.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to approve Contractor's Application for Payment #6 from General Excavating Company for 2020 Sanitary Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$99,854.07.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said the Council discussed the painting of the water tower during budget time and they budgeted enough to pay for the tower painting outright or to pay for a maintenance plan. She said there were two painting proposals, one from Maguire Iron and one from Viking Industrial Painting. She said Maguire Iron painted the booster tower when it was built. Brandon VanderMey, Viking Industrial Painting, spoke to the Council regarding his company, the maintenance plan and related fees and tower painting only costs. John Snodgrass, co-owner of Viking, also spoke noting the company is close as they are located in LaVista. Quady said the bid amounts between the two companies is similar. Council Member Wischmann said workmanship and responsiveness is important and that he would like to give the maintenance plan more thought. Anderson said he liked the closeness to the community of Viking.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve bid by Viking Industrial Painting for painting the water tower.

VanderMey said the work will be done this summer.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to authorize the Mayor to sign Maintenance Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Reviewed the November 2021 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 Anderson, second by Wischmann to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the December 2, 2021 City Council meeting minutes; the approval of the November 23, 2021 Planning Commission meeting minutes; and approval of the Tim Rudd as a member of the Ashland Rescue Department.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

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

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve November 2021 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported on the strong winds yesterday and said the street department crew was out doing tree limb and other clean-up quickly. He noted the tree at the library was blown over.

City Administrator Quady said letters regarding Ordinance 1193 and RV and trailer parking will be sent out soon.

Pat Danahy said that construction site trash and conditions at Whitetail Run has improved.

Caleb Fjone, AAEDC Executive Director, said the Creative District Committee has met. He said they decided on district border lines and the district name will be the Flora District. He added that Steve Nabity is the Committee Chair.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to enter into executive session of protect the public interest for negation strategy and personnel issues at 8:55 p.m.

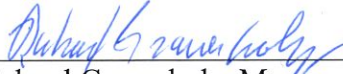
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to leave executive session at 9:38 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 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 December 16, 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.