

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 2nd day of February, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Jake Crnkovich
City Council Member Michelle Libal
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
Assistant City Attorney Sarah Meier

Others: Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, Paul Carlson, Dan Linke, Ron Styskal, Caleb Fjone, Suzi Nelson, Susan Cerny and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on January 26, 2023. 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 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 Libal, second by Niemeyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Caleb Fjone spoke to the Council regarding an additional grant that is being made available by the Nebraska Arts Council and the State Economic Development Department for Creative Districts. He said an additional \$250,000 grant is available to apply for but the grant application process and approval must be completed within 60 days. He encouraged the Council Members to take turns attending the Creative District meetings. He said they have not heard back on the first \$250,000 grant and that there are now five communities in Nebraska with Creative Districts.

Paul Carlson spoke to the Council expressing his concern that there is not more concern shown for the loss of housing for 25 families in the community due to the sale of the trailer court.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance

1216 – 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 OFFICIAL ZONING MAP; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Assistant City Attorney Meier read the Title to Ordinance 1216.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve change Order No. 1 for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$213,860.00.

City Administrator Quady the City was planning to redo three blocks of water line near the First Christian Church in this year’s budget. She said when the water tower on the east side was emptied to paint it, there were two water line breaks near 7th Street and Elm. She said instead of doing the line by the church they will be redoing this line. She said it is being added onto the existing project by M.E. Collins. She said this is their change order for this project addition. She the line being replaced is probably an original 2-inch line.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding removal and replacement of the locust trees downtown. City Administrator Quady said these trees have been in the downtown area for 25 to 30 years. She said there is an extra \$10,000 in Community Forestry budget for the tree project and Public Works Director Larsen has been working on getting a bid from Ashland Tree Service for the tree removal, stump grinding and the moving of three existing Honey Locusts behind the library to the downtown locations. Council Member Libal asked if this could be part of the Creative District grant. Fjone said it is a possibility that the committee would have to approve. Council Member Niemeyer said that the Rotary Club could possibly apply for a grant for this use. Ron Styskal said the American Legion replaced the trees on their corner and by the Post Office. Quady said she did not believe this should be charged back to the businesses because of the collection of sales tax for Downtown Improvement. Quady said the Public Works staff will regularly water the newly planted trees. She said she will come back with the bids.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve consent agenda which included approval of the January 19, 2023 City Council meeting minutes; approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$2,615.00, for Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$10,466.50, for Public Works Programming and Preliminary Design in the amount of \$1,275.00 and for Water Distribution Hydraulic Model in the amount of \$581.25; and approval of Caleb Bohlen and Zachary Homolka as members of the Ashland Fire Department.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to approve the second half of January 2023 Claims.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said he attended an Open House for retiring County Sheriff Stukenholtz. He stated that a new Public Works employee started on Monday but the department is needing two more. He said there are two openings in the police department.

Council Member Niemeyer stated he attended a presentation regarding the AltEN clean-up. He discussed the concerns regarding ground water and aquifer contamination.

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


James Anderson, 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 February 2, 2023 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.