

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland Community Resource Center on the 4th day of February, 2021 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: Janece Mollhoff, Aiden Kerkman, Jarrod Nafzinger, Suzi Nelson, Susan Cerny, and Caleb Fjone

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on January 28, 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

Caleb Fjone, Ashland Area Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, spoke to the Council about a communication strategy for the City that he had been working on. He suggested forming a communication committee, using a master calendar and developing ways to funnel users to the city website.

Susan Cerny spoke to the Council giving her support to the formation of a Communication Committee.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve second reading of Ordinance 1190 - Final Plat Permit #20-252 for a Political Subdivision known as Whitetail Estate Second Addition being a Portion of the NW1/4 of Section 12, Township 12 North, Range 9 East,

located at approximately 1294 South 8th Street.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1190.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Janece Mollhoff appeared before the Council to present information regarding the AltEn Plant's environmental issues. She said it is very important to have an uncontaminated water source for Ashland that will support economic development and future growth. She noted that removing contaminants is very expensive. She said Mead has become a dumping ground for unused treated seed corn. She said Nebraska environmental officials have recorded levels of neonicotinoids at 427,000 ppb on AltEn's property. She noted problems with the stockpile of grain and the threat to the aquifer. She asked the Council to pass a resolution to the Governor and NDEE asking that they deny any request for extensions, immediately enforce correction of the violations, levy fines and take all measures available to them to remediate the toxic waste that has been stockpiled over our aquifer. Mollhoff answered questions of the Council and discussion followed.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment expressing concern with respect to the ethanol plant in Mead and environmental concerns relating to the disposition of contaminated distiller grains.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to approve the Arterial Street Improvement Program (ASIP).

City Administrator Quady said this would be a fee on new housing permits, new complexes, new mobile home parks, new multi-family construction, new civic centers and new office type construction. She said when they City was looking at other communities building fees, they found a lot of cities and counties had put similar programs into place to collect fees for future street improvement projects. She said as an example the average home being built in Whitetail Run is \$300,000; to calculate the ASIP fee take 0.75% of the home's value of \$300,000, the ASIP fee would be \$2,250.00. She said it doesn't have to be 0.75% but this is what Gretna has and it is the lowest of any other communities that were looked at. She added this would affect anyone that has to get a building permit for new construction with the City of Ashland. She said the fees would be put into a separate bank account and when the 1- and 6-year road plan is reviewed the Council could decide if these funds would be used for a project or earmarked for a street project in the future. Discussion followed.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve consent agenda which included approval of the January 21, 2020 City Council meeting minutes; approval of the January

26, 2021 Special Workshop minutes; and approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$6,118.75; for Sanitary Sewer Replacements - Alleys in the amount of \$4,297.50; for Wellhead Protection Planning in the amount of \$730.00; and for Public School Expansion in the amount of \$5,235.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Crnkovich to approve the second half of January 2021 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


Mayor Grauerholz reported that a meeting was held to discuss the school expansion project. He also said that he had attended and testified at a Legislative Hearing in opposition to LB3076 funding a study for flood control of the lower Platte River.

Council Member Crnkovich asked if the ASIP program would affect the school project. City Administrator Quady said it would not.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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 February 4, 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.