

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 21st day of March, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Jake Crnkovich
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: Council Member Michelle Libal

Others: Susan Cerny, Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, Bryan York, Scott Howard, Emma Williams, Sierra Riecken, Ron Garner, Jim Pinkman, Jen Haschenburger, Carol Clough, Ron Styskal, Ryan Kennedy, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on March 15, 2024. 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 and lead by Ashland-Greenwood High School students Sierra Riecken and Emma Williams. 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 Crnkovich to adopt the regular agenda.
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #24-005 for Dog Kennel Application located at 2441 Boyd Street at 7:02 p.m. Zoning Administrator Krejci stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and that the applicant had

submitted documentation for all the required shots. With no comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #24-010 for Street Vacation Ordinance 1232 vacation 140' of 8th Street north of Dale Street to alleyway at 7:04 p.m. Susan Cerny, owner of lot adjacent to alleyway, spoke. She said this used to be a street, but it was never paved. She showed on a map the area she is requesting to be vacated as they are not requesting the vacation go all the way to the highway but stop at the end of their lot. She said Jerry Otto owns the property on the other side of the street and that he and her husband have come to an agreement once the area is vacated. She said they are requesting the vacation to make a parking lot for the building they are putting on their property. She said there are utilities in the street and OPPD is considering moving the overhead electric lines closer to fence line. She said they need ten parking spaces, seven will be in this area. She said they also purchased ground from the State for the real estate office. She added that she wants to landscape the property. She said the retaining wall to the north runs almost on the property line. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1232 – To Vacate 8th Street between Dale Street and the Southern Boundary of the alley between Blocks 14 and 15 Deans Addition.
Mayor Anderson read the Title of Ordinance 1232.

City Administrator Quady said the City typically does not vacate when City utilities are under it, but it has been done when a business has a need. She added the ordinance will state that the City will keep all their easements and if anything has to be torn out for work on the utilities the property owner will have to put it back.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve Dog Kennel located at 2441 Boyd Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve renewal of Conditional Use Permit for use of Conex Box for storage at 157 South 22nd Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve Firework Stand Agreement with 1517 Midwest, LLC.

Discussion followed regarding the rental fee.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to amend rental fee to \$50 per day for fourteen days.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson then called for a vote on the Firework Stand Agreement as amended.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve extension of contract date to April 18, 2024 for the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grant.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to approve payment of invoice for shared costs for the Ashland-Greenwood Public School Project in the amount of \$433,273.00.

City Administrator Quady said this is the second request for the City's portion of Bluejay Way and the water and sewer utilities.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady spoke to the Council regarding the Chamber of Commerce proposal for parking in the downtown area. She said Brad Pfeiffer, Chamber President, said he discussed this with people downtown, specifically between 14th and 15th Streets, and they said the drop-off/pick-up signs work better than the 10-minute parking signs. She said he proposed two to three signs for each side and that 6 signs would use approximately 10 percent of the parking area. She added he suggested the City decided on the sign terminology. Quady said one sign could be put on each end of the block and one in the middle. She added the Chamber may cost share the price of the signs with approval from the Chamber Board.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to approve Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce proposal for two to three short term parking signs on each side of Silver Street between 14th and 15th Streets.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding parking on Birch Street on the east side of town. City Administrator Quady said there is diagonal parking on the south side of the street by the East Side Park. She said on every other street in town parking is not allowed on the north side of the street. She said at some point parking was allowed on the northside of the street and there are no 'No Parking' signs. She said the concern is that when cars are parked on both sides of the street, it is hard for two lanes of traffic and for

emergency vehicles to get through. Council Member Lofberg said the big concerns have come from the fire and rescue departments especially with the apartments going in on the end of the street. KC's East Side Saloon owner Ryan Kennedy spoke about parking for his business. Kennedy said when there is parking on both sides of the street it is easily one lane and no different than going down Clay Street or other streets in town. Council Member Crnkovich said it is a question of consistency.

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports for February 2024 are available for council review and comment. Reports include the Keno, Public Works Director's, Utility Superintendent's, Police Chief's, Building Official's, Library and AAEDC Reports.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the March 7, 2024 Council meeting minutes, approval of the February 29, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes and approval of the February 2024 Treasurer's Reports.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve the first half of March 2024 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

AAEDC Executive Director Fjone shared a new tourism video for Ashland. He said this is part of the state's Good Life is Calling Campaign. He added that the data in the Council packet was created by the software purchased with the recently received \$15,000 grant.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to enter into executive session to protect the public interest to discuss negotiation strategy at 8:00 p.m.

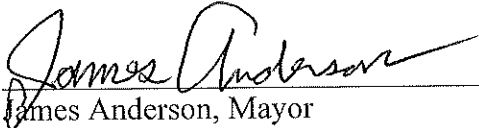
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to exit executive session at 8:29 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 March 21, 2024 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.