

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 3, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 3rd day of March, 2022 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 Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Bruce Wischmann

Others: Jay Spearman, Dan Linke, Jodi Woodward, Karen Kasuske, Teresa Kresak, Gabe Hopp, Tom Danahy, Cindy Danahy, James Hawkins, Rhiannon Dillon, Jerry Lofberg, Suzi Nelson and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on February 24, 2022. 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 7:04 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 Anderson, second by Niemeyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Jodi Woodward, BerganKDV, gave a presentation on the City's Fiscal Year 2021 audit. She said everything was good as there were no issues or findings. She noted several audit highlights including that the governmental funds are done on a cash basis, revenues had increased and expenses had a small decrease. She said keno receipts were about the same as the previous year. She stated that the City complied with the budget. She said the Utility Fund is done on a full accrual basis with water and sewer fund combined. She said until the City is a Class 1 City this can be done. She said the City is not required to have separate bank accounts for the funds, that how the City is doing the funds is perfectly fine and that

this meets the regulations. Mayor Grauerholz commented that the audit is done every year as a protection of City funds and taxes. He noted the audit is forwarded to the State Auditor.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing to hear objections on the Resolution of Necessity for sewer improvements in Sewer Improvement District No. 2022-1 at 7:13 p.m. City Administrator Quady said this is for the City's share of the sewer portion of the school project. She said in order to bond out and to assess the project, the City has to go through this process. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve Resolution 2022-4 – Resolution of Necessity for Sewer Improvement District No. 2022-1.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1204 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2022-3 IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS IN SAID DISTRICT, AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1204.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to suspend the statutory rules and waive the three required readings.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said this ordinance will allow the City to bond out the City's portion of the paving and public improvements for the Ice House Ridge Development. Jay Spearman, Piper Sandler, said the waiving of the three readings is so they can go immediately for financing so funds are available for the start of the project. He said once the project is complete and costs are in, they will go out for permanent financing.

Mayor Grauerholz then called for a roll call vote asking if Ordinance 1204 be passed and adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Crnkovich to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1205 – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF STREET AND WATER IMPROVEMENT BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, SERIES 2022, IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$410,000) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION PAVING AND WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA AND NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO: PROVING FOR A PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR OF THE NOTES;

AGREEING TO ISSUE BONDS TO PAY THE NOTES AND ACCRUED INTEREST AT MATURITY; PRESCRIBING THE FORM OF THE NOTES; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE NOTES TO THE PURCHASER AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1205.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to suspend the statutory rules and waive the three required readings.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady said this is for the City's portion of public improvements agreed upon by contract in Ice House Ridge Development.

Mayor Grauerholz then called for a roll call vote asking if Ordinance 1205 be passed and adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Gabriel Hopp spoke to the Council as a member of the Ashland Farmer's Market organizing committee. She said the committee would like to return the market to Ashland this summer. She said the market supports families and farmers in the area by providing a place to sell their produce and it is a boon for the businesses of downtown Ashland. She said this year the committee is proposing a scaled back version with elimination of food trucks and live music. She said it would be held on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon running from Memorial Day to October and it would be located on 15th Street from Silver Street north to the alley. She said they are committed to following the Farmers Market guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. She said with the Councils approval of the street closure and timing, they will need to obtain insurance. She requested the Council consider covering the insurance for the event. Hopp answered questions of the Council. Discussion was held regarding parking and regarding funeral services that may be held on Saturday mornings during the Market. Hopp said she intended to speak with mortuary representatives. City Administrator Quady said she would get a quote for the insurance for Council consideration.

Discussion was held regarding utility rates. Council Member Niemeyer asked for a breakdown using different rates for small businesses and in-home daycares. Council Member Anderson said it may be beneficial to have the JEO representative who completed the study back to answer questions for the Council and public. He said the last time rates were raised was in 2007.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve consent agenda which included approval of the February 17, 2022 City Council meeting minutes; approval of the February 22, 2022 Council Special Meeting minutes; and approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$50.00, for Dennis Dean

Road Improvements in the amount of \$17,952.50, for Sanitary Sewer Replacements-Alleys in the amount of \$1,260.00, for Ashland Public School Expansion in the amount of \$323.75, for Utility Rate Study in the amount of \$500.00 and for Highway 6 Blight Study in the amount of \$287.50.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to approve the second half of February 2022 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz said on next Wednesday he will be meeting with representatives from Windstream to discuss expansion of and build out of their fiber system in town. He said he met with representatives of the Ashland Rural Fire District to discuss the ambulance service. He asked the Council to be thinking about the replacement of trees downtown. He said the Public Works Director is getting bids on tree replacement but the Council will need to decide at what rate and where to replace the trees. He said there is an opening in the Public Works Department due to a recent resignation. He added Public Work staff attended training on ballfield maintenance.

City Administrator Quady said she is looking at April 23rd for Clean-Up Day. Discussion was held on how volunteers could help. Suggestions were made of organizations to contact for volunteers.

Council Member Anderson and Council Member Niemeyer reported on sessions they attended at the recent League of Nebraska Municipalities conference.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to adjourn at 7:53 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 March 3, 2022 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.