

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
May 20, 2021

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland Community Resource Center on the 20th day of May, 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 Administrator Jessica Quady  
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva  
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Bruce Wischmann

Others: Ronald Styskal, Richard Franks, Joe Baudler, Suzi Nelson, Bill Krejci

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on May 13, 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 7:02 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 Crnkovich to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Ron Styskal gave public comment stating he would like the Council to reconsider the removal of railroad ties due to their creosote treatment and the addition of treated lumber, this is in regards to Ordinance 1193. He said treated lumber is treated with arsenic and he doesn't want arsenic put in the ground.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1191 – To Modify in part Section 5.06 Subsection E, Section 5.07 Subsection E, Section 5.08 Subsection E and Section 5.09 Subsection E in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Ashland Nebraska.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1191.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to amend Section 3 of Ordinance 1191 by replacing 10,000 with 20,000 square foot maximum.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Discussion held regarding acreage sizes matching up from RE and TA.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to amend Ordinance 1191 Section 1 to a maximum of 20 acres.

Crnkovich said he does not like all the sizes not matching up between the districts. He said he is concerned there would be restrictions placed on land owners that have non-conforming acreages. Niemeyer said he would like more time to research this.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to postpone consideration of amended Ordinance 1191 until the June 3, 2021 Council meeting.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Crnkovich to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1193 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING PORTIONS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND: SECTIONS 8.02 STORAGE OR PARKING OF VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1193.

City Administrator Quady reviewed the changes made to Ordinance 1193. Discussion was held regarding B.2 and the prohibition of cooking in a recreational vehicle that is temporarily parked at a property. Discussion was held regarding the use of lumber in C.1e.

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to remove non-creosote lumber from C.1e.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz called for roll call vote on final reading of Ordinance 1193 as amended.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Anderson to postpone consideration of second reading of Ordinance 1194 and Ordinance 1195 to the June 3, 2021 Council meeting.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Ron Styskal spoke to the Council regarding weed nuisances. He showed the Council pictures of a property off of Highway 6. He said he has complained 6 times about this property since 2017. He showed pictures of multiple areas along the Highway 6 corridor with weeds, trash, tires and container storage units. He also discussed a property on Elm

Street that has been ticketed for weed nuisance that was recently purchased. He also noted the difficulty of seeing at intersections on the eastside due to vegetation and embankments. He noted other properties owned by the same person on the east side that have weeds and piles of dirt. Police Chief Baudler stated property owners have been cited. He added that some properties may not have been corrected or mowed or the properties were cleaned up but have since grown up again.

Richard Franks spoke to the Council regarding two weed nuisance citations he received for his property at 2102 Dawes Street. City Administrator Quady read from the Municipal Code 6-304 (4) the description of 'weed' nuisances. Franks said he didn't think the violation was valid. Chief Baudler said the property has been in violation multiple times through the years when Franks' brother owned it and liens have been placed on the property for these violations. He said it wasn't mowed at all by April 27 when the property was first ticketed and on May 13 it still had not been mowed so it was ticketed again. City Administrator Quady said she went by the property today and Franks could probably be cited again today. Council Member Anderson said he was not in favor of dismissing the tickets. Niemeyer and Crnkovich concurred.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve Pay Request from General Excavating for 2020 Sanitary Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$19,627.95.

City Administrator Quady said General Excavating is to start the project in mid-June in the bank's alley and this invoice is for stored material they have purchased for the project.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported on a meeting held to discuss alternative truck routes to move large vehicles off of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. He said they were told that the Nebraska Department of Transportation sometimes exchanges roads with counties and cities. He said they discussed making County Road A going east from Highway 66 to Highway 6 as a truck route in exchange for North 14<sup>th</sup> Street including the overpass and Highway 66 from City limits to County Road A. He added the way to start this process is to submit a letter to NDOT with this intent along with a letter from Saunders County. Council Member Niemeyer said the county road does not meet highway specifications at this point. He said they could also look at continuing west on County Road A around to Highway 6 south of the Ashland Golf Club or hooking into County Road 11. He added when the bridge by Parker's was abandoned the county was paid for it and that money is still sitting there to be used in the County. He suggested the City could make an application to get those dollars to be utilized for upgrading Guard Camp Road to make it a viable bypass. City Administrator Quady said she has a concern about the City taking over the overpass. She said since 2008 the State has put over \$3 million into the overpass. The Council agreed the Mayor should send an initial letter to the State requesting the State look at options for a bypass.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to place lien on 202 North 30<sup>th</sup> Street for unpaid mowing bill in the amount of \$320.00.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported that so far the City only has one manager and two lifeguards for the pool this summer. She said the City will be unable to run the pool at regular hours this summer with this staff. She said the manager will make out the schedule with hours of operation and this will be posted. She asked the Council to consider what to do with season passes. Discussion was held regarding pool operations, lifeguard availability and season pass prices.

Motion by Crnkovich, second Niemeyer to sell half-price pool season passes across the board this summer with day fee staying the same.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported on the redistricting requirements and deadlines and the difficulty the state and cities will have meeting them because of census delays due to the pandemic. She said a suggestion was made by a Secretary of State staff member to use digital redistricting. She said this is offered by gWorks through GIS mapping. She reviewed the three price packages they are offering. She said the Legislature voted to allow the waiving of three readings for the redistricting ordinance.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to approve purchase of gWorks Redistricting Services Standard Plan.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Reviewed the April 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 Niemeyer, second by Anderson to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the May 6, 2021 City Council meeting minutes.

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of May 2021 Claims.

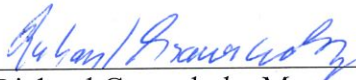
Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson second by Niemeyer to approve April 2021 Treasurer's Reports.  
Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported on the funds that will be coming to the City through the American Recovery Plan.

Police Chief Baudler reported the department will be receiving funds for defibrillator units through a Helmsley grant.

Motion by Anderson, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.  
Roll Call:           Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

  
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Richard Grauerholz, Mayor

  
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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 May 20, 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.