

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

October 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland Community Resource Center on the 15th day of October, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz
City Council President James Anderson
City Council Member Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Bruce Wischmann
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Absent: City Council Member Jake Crnkovich

Others: Jeanne LeBron, Michael Meyer and Bill Krejci

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on October 8, 2020. 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 end of the room.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Michael Meyer, Fire Chief, spoke to the Council regarding the need for new radios for the fire department to improve communications. He said the current radio system is outdated and no longer supported. He said members have communication issues when out on calls and at fires. He said he is asking for 20 new radios to go into the rigs. He said county wide they are changing to a new radio system using Motorola radios and they are currently available at a sale price. He added the Rural Fire Board has agreed to funding the purchase and he is wondering what the City's contribution would be.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on Conditional Use Permit #20-115 for Domestic Dog Kennel at W1/2 of Tract 2-part NW, NW Section 2-12-9, located at 2701

Furnas Street, Ashland NE at 7:07 p.m. Zoning Administrator Krejci stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the permit. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on Public Ways Vacation Application Ordinance 1186 for vacating all of 5th Street (293') between Dale & Elm Street, vacating all (252') of alley way thru Block 7 Beetison's Addition, vacate all of the East (126') of alley way Block 8 Beetison's Addition, Ashland NE at 7:08 p.m. Zoning Administrator Krejci said there has been a request to abandon the streets and alleys in that location and no sewer or water is shown in this area. He said the area has ditches and is wooded and is backed by the golf course. He said one block will be combined for a single house with private access to it. He added 5th Street has been vacated to the south already. He said the water line will be tapped off of 6th Street and it will be hooked up to a septic system. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2020-15 – Convey Real Property to PB Investments, L.L.C.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve Resolution 2020-16 – Adopt Housing Rehabilitation Program Guidelines for the 2019 County-Wide Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2020-17 – Adopt the Program Income Reuse Plan for 2019 County-Wide Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1185 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND SECTION 6-318 OF THE ASHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF UNLICENSED AND INOPERABLE VEHICLES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1185.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1186 – Public Ways Vacation for 5th Street between Dale and Elm Streets.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1186.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Conditional Use Permit #20-115 for Domestic Dog Kennel at 2701 Furnas Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign First Amendment to Water Tower and Ground Space Agreement with USCOC of Greater Iowa, LLC.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

City Administrator Quady reported that Public Works Director Larsen had received one bid for a concrete apron for the alley entrance by the Carnegie Library in the amount of \$1800. She said he will try to get another bid before the next meeting.

Reviewed the September 2020 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 Wischmann to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the October 1, 2020 City Council meeting minutes; and approval of the September 24, 2020 Planning Commission meeting minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of October 2020 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve August 2020 (Revised), September 2020 and FY 2020 Year End Treasurer's Reports.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz reported on nuisance property on North 26th Street saying there is equipment on the property as they are getting ready for the demolition and clean up. City Administrator Quady said the gas line will be abandoned on Friday and the water and sewer lines will be abandoned on Monday or Tuesday. Grauerholz said that Windstream did receive a grant for broadband in Ashland. He said there has been a request for reserved

customer parking in the downtown area. He said the Chamber President will discuss downtown parking with Chamber members and come back with input.

City Administrator Quady provided a handout with information on the Motorola radios and the radio funding will be on the next agenda. She said on the fire budget wish list were the radios in the amount of \$160,000. She said during the budget planning, the Council talked about evaluating the fire, rescue and police communications next budget year and potentially doing the public service tax. She said Matt Meyer has applied for grants but the department has never gotten one for this. She stated the list price for a radio is about \$11,000 but they are on sale now for \$7,600 apiece; and 20 of them will be about \$170,000. She said the Rural Fire Board will purchase the radios and they want the City's agreement to pay for half. She said a payment option could be for the Rural Fire to forgo their contribution to the City two years or the City could implement the public safety tax. She added it will be on the next agenda.

Council Member Anderson asked for an update on the Nebraska Department of Transportation response to repairing sidewalks along 14th Street.

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 October 15, 2020 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.