

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 2021

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 7th day of October, 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: Susan Cerny, Caleb Fjone, Suzi Nelson, Ron Styskal, Lowell Krueger, James Vossmer, Caden Bottorff, Jill Wischmann

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on September 30, 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 Anderson, second by Niemeyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

James Vossmer, 108 S 20th Street, gave public comment stating that on his walks he has noticed many yards with junk and not mowed. He said he would like people to take pride in their properties. He also commented he would like to see the police cruisers out on patrol.

Ron Styskal, 409 N 25th Street, gave public comment regarding the kids using the city park. He requested a greater police presence at the park by patrolling it more often. He also said people drag race by the park and do not stop at the stop signs on N 24th and N 25th.

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2021-19 – Signing of Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Caleb Fjone, AAEDC Executive Director, spoke to the Council regarding Ashland applying to become a Nebraska Arts Council Creative District. He said the Economic Development Committee and the Ashland Arts Council are working on this project and would like the involvement of the City of Ashland. He listed the benefits of applying for the program which would provide opportunities to beautify the community and highlight the arts in the community. He said the first steps will be to do an Asset Map and to create a committee appointed by the Mayor or Council. He said he thought the City would administer the program. He said a community initiative could be a competition to design a City flag. Mayor Grauerholz said he had attended a session on this topic at the recent League Conference and said the program was created by the State Legislature with the passing of LB 943 and \$1million was appropriated to fund the program. City Administrator Quady will work with Fjone to begin the process.

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding his nuisance property at 106 South 16th Street. He said Zoning Official Krejci and his engineer have been in contact with each other and he will be needing another building permit. Council Member Wischmann said Krueger will need the engineer's stamp on the plan and then he will be good to go on his project. Council Member Niemeyer said the Council will want a time frame as to when this gets done. Wischmann noted winter is coming and that Krueger will need to allow himself additional time because of that. Wischmann said that finishing the basement is paramount, to keep people from getting in there and getting hurt, but beyond that the house needs to be habitable including running water, sewer and heat. He said they would like to see the house habitable in a year to two years. City Administrator Quady said the engineer said they were finalizing the details but did not say when they would be done with the plan. Council Member Anderson said this has been going on for twenty years and something needs to get going. Krueger said he has put in new doors, replaced a whole section of roof, changed several windows and completed other work. Niemeyer said the place needs to be safe for what Krueger is doing under there.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve granting an extension of completion date for abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street to the October 21, 2021 Council meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Crnkovich, Niemeyer, Wischmann Nays: Anderson
Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Crnkovich to approve Pay Request #4 from General Excavating for 2020 Sanitary Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$151,566.25.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve consent agenda which included approval of the September 16, 2021 City Council meeting minutes; approval of the September 16, 2021 Special Workshop meeting minutes; approval of the August 26, 2021 Planning Commission meeting minutes; and approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for General Engineering in the amount of \$1,512.50; Sanitary Sewer Replacements-Alleys in the amount of

\$4,386.25; for Wellhead Protection Planning in the amount of \$900.00; and for Utility Rate Study in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to approve the second half of September 2021 Claims.

City Administrator Quady explained the claims for Eyman Plumbing Inc. and Joe/Hope McCampbell. Discussion was held on those and other claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz said there is an upcoming meeting with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. He said Clean Up Day will be October 23. He reported that the League Conference was very timely and worthwhile to attend.

City Administrator Quady reported on the procedure for placing a lien for abatement of a nuisance property. She noted that a property that has a lien placed on for abatement has recently sold.

AAEDC Director Fjone thanked those who attended the ground breaking on Tuesday. He said that a theme has been chosen for next year and it will be #ashlandcommunity.

Ashland-Greenwood student Caden Bottorff introduced himself.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Wischmann to enter into executive session to receive confidential legal advice regarding property acquisition at 7:52 p.m.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to leave executive session at 8:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Wischmann, second by Niemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 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 7, 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.