

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 15, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 15th day of September, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Grauerholz  
City Council President Russell DeVries  
City Council Member James Anderson  
City Council Member Paul Gossin  
City Council Member Janece Mollhoff  
City Administrator Jessica Quady  
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva  
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Others: Karen Stille, Ginger Rist, John Craven, Shirley Niemeyer and Lenora Isom

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on September 8, 2016. 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 that is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to adopt the regular agenda.  
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Shirley Niemeyer gave public comment stating the 'star' downtown looks nice. She made the suggestion that the City have a fall clean-up in conjunction with other organizations in town. She said that Nebraska will be celebrating 150 years of statehood next year and that there is a Commission supporting projects for the celebration. She suggested that the Towers of History by artist Gene Roncka could be a project that the City and organizations could do as one big group. She said that she is checking on a grant. She added that \$14,200 has been raised for the project. She suggested locating the project in the 13<sup>th</sup> and Silver Street parking lot.

Karen Stille of Midwest Physical Therapy gave public comment. She said that she wanted to reiterate that there is a need for handicap accessible or more user friendly

parking in the downtown and encouraged the use of handrails to get up onto the sidewalk and to do a curb cut out even if in the middle of block.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a public hearing on a Special Use Permit for a Domestic Dog Kennel in the R-2 Medium Density Residential District at North 77' Of West 37' Of Lot 5 & North 77' Of Lot 6 Block 15 Flora City located at 1541 Clay Street at 7:08 p.m. Zoning Official Isom stated that the Planning Commission has recommended approval and that there are no complaints on record for the animals or the owners. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a public hearing on a the 2016-2017 Budget Document at 7:10 p.m. City Administrator Quady spoke noting some of the larger budget items including the purchase of a new rescue squad vehicle and down payment; repairing the intersections at 27<sup>th</sup> and Silver Streets and 28<sup>th</sup> and Clay Streets; two new parking lots; Silver Street Bridge replacement budgeted at 2.9 million with the bulk of funding from the Department of Roads; construction of the splash pad which will be built with donated funds; downtown holiday decorations budgeted for in Keno; and a new well and a water source study. Quady answered questions of the Council. Shirley Niemeyer asked the Council to consider funding for the Towers, lighting along 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the Ashland Area Economic Development Corporation. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Mollhoff to approve Resolution 2016-10 – Resolution setting 2016-2017 Property Tax.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, seconded by DeVries to approve on third and final reading Ordinance 1133 – 2016-2017 Budget Document.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1133.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to approve Special Use Permit for a Domestic Dog Kennel in the R-2 Medium Density Residential District at 1541 Clay Street.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding downtown handicap parking. City Administrator Quady stated she had spoken with Troy Johnston of JEO Consulting Group about the project and he said that it is possible to put a cutout in the sidewalk curb as long as the slop meets handicap accessibility; it would be about 20 foot wide; and would work best somewhere between Glacial Till and Willow Point Gallery. She said the estimated cost is \$3,000. She said hand rails can be installed. She said that the spot where the curb cut is located can be striped off but would not be designated as handicapped parking.

Discussion was held regarding the status of nuisance property at 601 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Council Member Anderson stated that the owner, Richene Perkins, was unable to attend the meeting due to health issues. He reported that Perkins has two local realtors' cards for listing the property and that next week an ad will be placed in the Gazette. City Administrator Quady said that one of the potential buyers of the property was not contacted by Perkins and that she has not heard from Perkins. Council Member Mollhoff noted that at last meeting Perkins was given five items to have completed before the Council would consider another extension and that she doesn't believe that Perkins checked off any of them. Quady said that the next step in the abatement process is tearing the structure down. City Attorney Fahleson added that demolition cost would be placed as a lien against the property. Quady noted that she has one bid for \$25,000 and hopes to get one more from a local person. Anderson suggested that the work be contracted for in the winter as the cost may be lower.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by Gossin to proceed with abatement for nuisance property at 601 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

City Administrator said that she could tell the contractor that the work would not be done until after January 1 so that would give Perkins three months to remove her items or sell the property. Discussion was held. Gossin said that he thinks the Council needs to go ahead with the abatement but layout a timeline with step by step instructions giving Perkins an opportunity to get her stuff out and that she can still go ahead with contacting realtors to sell it. Quady will send a letter to Perkins.

Roll Call:                    Ayes: All                    Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Gossin to approve placing a lien for unpaid mowing bill on 307 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$85.00.

Roll Call:                    Ayes: All                    Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to authorize the Mayor to sign contract with Lower Platte South NRD for a temporary easement for the bridge.

City Administrator Quady stated that this is to allow the City to use the land by the Silver Street Bridge for staging during bridge construction. City Attorney Fahleson noted that there will be no money exchanged.

Roll Call:                    Ayes: All                    Motion Carried

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by DeVries to suspend the rules to move item G6 to the last item of the agenda.

Roll Call:                    Ayes: All                    Motion Carried

Reviewed the August 2016 Keno Report.

Reviewed the Public Works Director's Report.

Reviewed the Utility Superintendent's Report.

Reviewed Police Chief's Report.

Reviewed Building Inspector's Report.

Reviewed Library Report.

Motion by Mollhoff, seconded by Anderson to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the September 1, 2016 City Council meeting minutes, approval of the August 25, 2016 Planning Commission meeting minutes and approval of Nathan Jones as a new member of the Ashland Fire Department and the Ashland Rescue Squad.

Nathan Jones introduced himself stating that he had moved to Ashland in August and is joining the fire department and the rescue squad. He said he has been doing fire and rescue since he was 18 and is happy to serve and be a valuable member of the community.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Mollhoff to approve the first half of September 2016 Claims.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Gossin to approve August 2016 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Mayor Grauerholz gave his Mayor's Report. He said that he met with the Nebraska Department of Roads Director in Ashland and showed him a number of highway concerns in the area. He said he would be attending the Nebraska League of Municipalities Conference in Kearney on September 21, 22 and 23. He noted that there will be a dedication ceremony for the Saunders County Veteran Memorial on September 25 at 3 p.m.

City Administrator Quady reminded the Council about the Special Meeting and Public Hearing on September 28 for the Silver Street Bridge.

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Gossin to enter into executive session to protect the public interest to discuss potential real estate acquisition at 8:05 p.m.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Gossin, seconded by DeVries to come out of executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

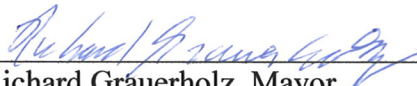
Motion by DeVries, seconded by Mollhoff to postpone indefinitely consideration of the purchase of property at 120 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

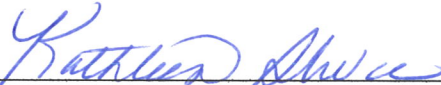
John Craven, owner of the property, asked about the status of the adjoining Buckmaster property. City Attorney Fahleson told him that the City owns the property by tax deed.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 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 September 15, 2016 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.