

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
September 20, 2023**

A special meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 20th day of September, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Jake Crnkovich
City Council Member Michelle Libal
City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on September 14, 2023. 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 Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. Mayor Anderson noted the Open Meetings Act that is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers.

Mayor Anderson opened Public Hearings on the 2023-2024 Budget Document/Property Tax Request and on the 1- & 6-Year Road Plan at 6:01 p.m.

City Administrator Quady highlighted several items contained within the budget and answered questions of the Council. She discussed police salaries, holiday pay and part-time hours. She said in the water/wastewater budget, improvements to the wastewater plant will be made through a bond and plans are started for changing out the bar screen. She said the waterline on Furnas Street connecting to 30th and Clay will be worked on and plans for a new well will also be made. She said the test well at 29th and Boyd will be pumped. She stated the budget includes the last payment on a rescue vehicle and that another vehicle has been ordered but it takes two years for delivery. She added grant moneys were received for this vehicle purchase. She said in the Public Works departments all requested items were included except for the crack sealer and the air compressor, as these items will be rented again this year, and the basketball court expansion at Wiggernhorn Park. She added there will need to be further conversation about the repairs to the pool. She reported that the Rural Fire Board voted to reimburse the City for 50% of rescue wages. She said the rescue staffing committee will meet again to discuss and make recommendations for future staffing of the department. Discussion was held regarding increasing rescue revenue with

ambulance transports and sending out of fundraising letters annually. Quady commented on the water/wastewater debt fund balances and bonds. She then reviewed the One and Six Year Road Plan. She noted that Blue Jay Way is in the one year plan and that Phase 1 of Ice House is no longer in the plan as it is completed. She said all of the gravel roads have been on the six year plan for many years. She said Dennis Dean Road remains on the one year plan as the project is being finished, Silver Street between 13th Street and Highway 6 engineering will begin this year. She stated Birch Street east of 6th Street is not in the budget this year but if the proposed Oxbow Crossing begins to build out, the City may begin engineering on it and that this project will be assessed to property owners. Mayor Anderson and Council Members commented on how much they liked the budget process this year. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearings at 6:28 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve Resolution 2023-8 – Setting the 2023-2024 Property Tax Request.

City Administrator Quady said the rates are the same as last year at \$0.45 in the General Fund and \$0.126 in the Bond Fund. She said the assessed value increased 16.91%. She said real growth was just over 9% with annexation and new houses.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to approve Resolution 2023-9 – One and Six Year Street Improvement Program.

Discussion was held regarding the gravel roads and future development on the east side.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1226 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE GENERAL FUND AND WATER AND WASTEWATER FUND BUDGET STATEMENTS TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; AND TO AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.


City Clerk Sliva read the Title of Ordinance 1226.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


James Anderson, 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 20, 2023 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.