

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 21, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 21st day of September, 2023 at 7:00 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  
Assistant City Attorney Sarah Meier

Others: Ron Styskal, Amy Anderson, Dan Linke, Jerry Johnson, Susan Cerny, Caleb Fjone, and others

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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. Anderson noted the Open Meetings Act located on the south wall of the room.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing for a new Class I Liquor License for Luna Azul Mexican Restaurant LLC dba Luna Azul Mexican Restaurant at 222 Highway 6 at 7:02 p.m. With no comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #23-108 for a Conditional Use Permit at 1408 Silver Street, Ashland Nebraska at 7:03 p.m.

City Administrator Quady said this is for a new awning for the Raikes Building.

With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Council Member Crnkovich arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #23-109 for Conditional Use Permit located at 101 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street Ashland, Nebraska at 7:04 p.m. City Administrator Quady said that the Historic Preservation Committee and the Planning Commission both recommended approval. Denise Craft, owner of the building, spoke to the Council regarding signage she wants to put on the building. She said she is requesting to put a directional sign listing the building occupants and two business signs for Blackwell's Fine Supply Company. She said the signs on the windows for Blackwell's will be removed. She added a sign saying 'lofts' will be placed over the stairwell door leading to the upstairs businesses. Council Member Niemeyer suggested an awning be placed over the brown door on the side. Craft said they plan to clean up and red wash the brick in the future. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing to determine existence of public nuisance regarding property at 1526 Ash Street at 7:09 p.m. City Administrator Quady showed pictures of the property. Mayor Anderson commented that the property has improved a little. Quady said one of the property owners has updated her several times on the progress of removing items. Anderson said the unlicensed vehicles need to be licensed. He added at one time the property was zoned business and was then changed to residential. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve Resolution 2023-10 – Adoption of Employee Handbook.

City Administrator Quady said the City Attorney's staff reviewed it and added a few technical items to reflect current legislation. She said the holiday and bereavement policies were updated.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to table consideration of Resolution 2023-22 – Declaring the Findings of the City Council regarding Nuisance at 1526 Ash Street until the October 5, 2023 meeting.

Council Member Niemeyer said that he would like the property owner to appear to discuss the progress on the property and to answer questions.

Roll Call:                      Ayes: All                      Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to approve Resolution 2023-12 – Amending Resolution 2022-16 – Redevelopment Plan for Oxbow Crossing.

City Administrator Quady said the amendment was needed to correct the date for when the taxes would begin accruing from January 2023 to January 2024.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve the third reading and final reading of Ordinance 1218 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING PORTIONS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND: AMEND REGULATIONS IN TA, RE R1, R2, R3 AND RT DISTRICTS SUBSECTIONS D & E OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, AS PROVIDED IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance 1227 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS ON NEBRASKA HIGHWAY N-66 AND ON HIGHWAY US-6; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HERewith AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve second reading of Ordinance 1228 – Dog Adoption Fee Schedule.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to recommend approval to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for a Class I Liquor License for Luna Azul Mexican Restaurant LLC dba Luna Azul Mexican Restaurant at 222 Highway 6.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve Conditional Use Permit at 1408 Silver Street.

City Administrator Quady said that Historic Preservation Committee and the Planning Commission both recommended approval of the awning replacement.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to approve Conditional Use Permit at 101 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to approve Change Order #3 for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements for a net increase of \$27,300.00.

City Administrator Quady said this is for cleaning out concrete and scrub trees on the junk yard area. She added this is something that could be bid out with the building of the shop but it will make the removal of the dirt for this project more efficient, the dirt won't be placed on the old concrete and eventually the City will need this removed for the building of the shop.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports are available for council review and comment. Reports include the Keno, Public Works Director's, Utility Superintendent's, Police Chief's, Building Official's, Library and AAEDC Reports.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the September 7, 2023 Council meeting minutes, approval of the September 20, 2023 Special Council meeting minutes, approval of the August 31, 2023 Planning Commission meeting minutes, approval of the August 2023 Treasurer's Report and approval of Noah Wilhite as a member of the Ashland Fire Department.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of September 2023 Claims.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson reported that the maintenance building at the cemetery has a new roof along with soffits, gutters and down spouts. He said the bathroom also has new fixtures and has been painted.

Mayor Anderson introduced Jerry Johnson, the Mayor of Wahoo. Johnson spoke briefly about the mandatory tax hearing held on Monday. He said the Saunders County Extension Board is looking for a new board member.

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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 21, 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.