

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
September 24, 2025

A special meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 24th day of September, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Anderson
City Council President Chuck Niemeyer
City Council Member Michelle Libal
City Council Member Jim Pinkman
City Administrator Jessica Quady

Absent: City Council Member Jerry Lofberg
City Clerk Kristina Stoki

Others: Richard Hilske and Tanya McVay

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on September 19, 2025. 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 2025-2026 Budget Document/Property Tax Request and the 1- & 6-Year Road Plan at 6:02 p.m.

City Administrator Quady stated the City's property tax request is \$1,736,885, with \$389,302 for the City's debt and \$1,347,583 for the general fund to support the general fund departments, with a high percentage used for public safety purposes. Quady noted what the tax bill would be for homes of varying assessed values. Quady noted other sources of revenue for the general fund are sales tax, building permit fees, sale of cemetery lots, municipal equalization, highway allocations and various other sources of local revenue. Quady then highlighted several items contained within the budget - the Creative District's Towers of History project; an additional police officer; the approved purchase of new in-car and body cameras for the police department, these are being purchased on a 0% interest payment plan; continued funding for paying 60% of rescue staff; the rescue squad is expecting to take possession of a new rescue unit that was ordered a year or so ago, there will be grant funding for \$75,000 of this squad; fire department leadership stipends as well as an amount for end-of-year incentives for those that answered the most calls for the fire

department; the planning department will finish up with the new Comprehensive Plan update; continued funding for the ADA sidewalk ramp program; continued funding for street improvement projects; larger street projects, Silver Street, Birch Street and 8th Street; engineering costs to pave Dale and Elm Streets; engineering costs for the first part of the Railroad Underpass project; repair and seal coat 30th and Furnas Street; painting of the downtown light poles; mapping of the City's storm sewer lines; pave a new row of cement bases in the cemetery, replacement of the Wiggernhorn basketball court; if the City is able to secure a state grant for a new wood chipper, the City will cover the cost of 25% of this equipment and the grant will cover the other 75% cost; 416 additional paid staff hours were added to the library budget; rehab the pump in Well #2A; complete a utility rate study and a corrosion control plan required by the State; engineering fees to design water and wastewater lines under Dale and Elm Street; build the new production well at 29th and Boyd Street; the second vac truck payment; finish the preliminary engineering report for the wastewater trunk system and the wastewater treatment facility; engineering bidding and procurement of the new belt screen for the WWTF; replace worn out valves at the WWTF; lining project of wastewater lines; and replace manholes in town that have deteriorated. Quady reviewed the One and Six Year Road Plan and map. She noted that all the blue lines on the map are for the Six Year plan. She said all of the gravel roads in town are on the Six Year Plan as well as Furnas Street and North 30th Street tying into Blue Jay Way. She added the One Year Plan includes Silver Street from the Silver Street bridge east to Highway 6, Birch Street where the new apartments are being built and 8th Street where a new business will be opening by the Burlington Northern lot. She noted that a developer funded project in Whitetail is also included. Library Director, Tanya McVay, spoke to the City Council regarding raising wages for the other members of the library staff and taking those funds from her proposed wage and the programming line item. McVay noted that the Library Foundation plans to do a silent auction this year and that will offset the \$500 she's asking to be removed from programming for additional wages. McVay went over the wage request for the staff at the library. With no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearings at 6:32 p.m.

Motion by Libal, second by Pinkman to approve Resolution 2025-10 – Setting the 2025-2026 Property Tax Request.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to approve Resolution 2025-11 – One and Six Year Street Improvement Program.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Pinkman to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1252 to incorporate the library line item changes to personnel expenses and programming - 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.

Mayor Anderson read the Title of Ordinance 1252.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Pinkman to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


James Anderson, Mayor


Jessica Quady, Deputy City Clerk



I, the above signed Deputy 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 24, 2025 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.