

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2017

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 7th day of September, 2017 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 Administrator Jessica Quady
City Clerk Kathleen Sliva
Assistant City Attorney Sheila Bentzen

Absent: City Council Member Janece Mollhoff

Others: Ron Styskal, Bob Luebbe, Amanda Roe, Chris Devillier, Gene Hull, Shirley Niemeyer, Kate Book, Mary Miners

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on August 31, 2017. 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 Anderson, seconded by DeVries to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Amanda Roe gave public comment stating that she was delivering an update to the TIF petition and an updated map. She said there were 75 new signatures most being within the city limits.

Chris Devillier gave public comment by sharing a passage by Jane Adams. She said that she was opposed to the TIF arrangement for the Whitetail development but this is not an opposition to progress as there is a true need for housing.

Mayor Grauerholz opened a Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Budget Document at 7:07 p.m.

City Administrator Quady spoke stating property valuations increased by 2.39% with tax revenue from this increase being approximately \$20,000. She said there is a significant decrease in insurance costs. She said the larger projects for this year include two paving projects at 27th and Silver and 28th and Clay, decorative lighting and the Silver Street Bridge. She added major projects in Water and Sewer include the Silver Street Water Main, finishing the well project, continuing the sewer lining projects and the Water Source Study. Quady answered questions of the Council. Ballfield improvements were discussed. Quady said the budget also includes getting rid of two Crown Vic cruisers and replacing them with one new one and an increase in rescue revenue of \$60,000 for donations to fund part of the cost for going from BLS to ALS squad. With no further comment, Mayor Grauerholz closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by DeVries, second by Gossin to approve Resolution 2017-8 – Setting 2017-2018 Property Tax.

City Administrator Quady said the levy is the same as the City has had for several years and the increase in taxes is the result of the assessed property tax valuation increase of 2.39%.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Gossin to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1139 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, ADOPTING THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL, BUILDING, ENERGY, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 5 OF THE ASHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; TO ORDER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Assistant City Attorney Bentzen read the Title of Ordinance 1139.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Gossin to approve second reading of Ordinance 1140 – Zoning Amendment regarding maximum square footage for detached accessory structures in Residential Districts.

Assistant City Attorney Sheila Bentzen read the Title of Ordinance 1140.

Council Member DeVries noted this ordinance will allow for more flexibility for accessory structures and allow people to store more items in rather than out. Mayor Grauerholz said he thinks this may not be large enough. Discussion was held. City Administrator Quady will obtain comparisons from other communities.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Gossin, second by DeVries to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 1142 – 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.

Assistant City Attorney Bentzen read the Title of Ordinance 1142.

Council Member Gossin thanked City Administrator Quady for her work on the budget.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Anderson to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. Silver Street Bridge Replacement in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Gossin, second by DeVries to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for New Well 2015 in the amount of \$2,193.75.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Gossin to approve pay request from JEO Consulting Group Inc. for Water 2017 Silver Street in the amount of \$715.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by DeVries, second by Gossin to approve Second Amendment to First Amendment to Memorandum of Option and Water Tower Lease Agreement and Second Amendment to Option and Water Tower Lease Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC.

City Administrator Quady stated that this is AT&T and this changes the rent from \$16,000 to \$14,500 and is a five year contract with five successive periods of five years.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Council Member Anderson addressed the Council regarding decorative lighting along 14th Street. He reminded the Council that eight decorative poles were removed during the highway project with just the conduit reinstalled. He said he would like to have the light poles reinstalled along with additional lights north by the city parking lots. City Administrator Quady estimated the cost to reinstall the existing poles at \$20,000. Quady said there would be double lighting in this area as the Department of Roads installed overhead lights. Discussion was held regarding extending decorative lights toward the Silver Street Bridge. Shirley Niemeyer spoke stating that she is in favor of moving forward with putting the lights back.

Council Member Anderson suggested that additional brackets be placed on light poles north on 14th Street to fly the American flag. City Administrator will obtain cost information.

Discussion was held regarding nuisance properties. Council Member Anderson said there is a listing of nuisance properties and some have been on for several years. He noted that the zoning and subdivision regulations were updated this past year and the need to be proactive in enforcing these regulations equally. Discussion followed as the Council reviewed the nuisance list. Shirley Niemeyer said in the recent housing survey there were several properties that were classified as problematic; expressed concern about recycling of electronics; and encouraged the sending out of letters to nuisance property owners. Council Member Gossin asked about financial programs to assist property owners. Council members requested copies of the final housing study. Ron Styskal spoke about a nuisance problem at 7th and Dale that he has filed a complaint on and has not been remedied and on the need to clean out a culvert in that area.

Motion by Gossin, second by DeVries to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the August 17, 2017 City Council meeting minutes and approval of Jeremy Poell as members of the Ashland Fire Department.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson, second by Gossin to approve the first half of August 2017 Claims.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

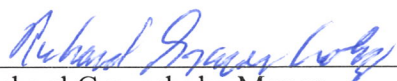
Mayor Grauerholz reported on a meeting with representatives of SENDD regarding grants for small projects and on a meeting with a property owner on a drainage issue at 12th and Birch.

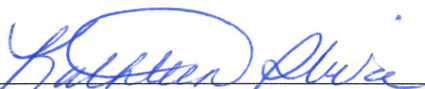
City Administrator Quady also reported on the SENDD meeting. She said she is hoping to find funding for a paving project on the east side. She added SENDD is working on a grant for a county wide household hazardous waste collection event.

Council Member DeVries said the AAEDC will be holding a board meeting on September 20, 2017.

Motion by Gossin, seconded by Anderson to adjourn at 8:42 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 7, 2017 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.