

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 4th day of April 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: City Council Member Jake Crnkovich

Others: Zachary Brown, Aiden Krumwiede, Robert Fricke Jr., Lowell Krueger, Mike Cerny, Susan Cerny, Caleb Fjone, Ron Styskal, Jim Pinkman, Dan Linke, Mary Roncka, Bill Krejci and others

Notice of meeting was advertised in the Ashland Gazette on March 29, 2024. 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

Tim Lens, Bergan KDV, presented the 2022-2023 Audit of Financial Statements to the Council.

Ron Styskal gave Public Comment regarding the sumac plantings proposed for the west bank of 9th Street as part of the Dennis Dean Road Improvement project. He said he contacted the USDA and he was told that it is illegal to plant an invasive plant by any individual or city in the city limits.

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Firework License Application for Hometown Fireworks located at 103 South 22nd Street at 7:09 p.m. City Clerk Sliva said the operator asked permission to apply late as he missed the January application period. City Administrator Quady

said the City has approved a late application in the past. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to approve second reading of Ordinance 1232 – To Vacate 8th Street between Dale Street and the Southern Boundary of the alley between Blocks 14 and 15 Deans Addition.

Mayor Anderson read the Title of Ordinance 1232.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve Firework License for Hometown Fireworks at 103 South 22nd Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to approve Change Order No. 7 for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$1,020.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve Contractor’s Application for Payment from M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. for 2022 Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$899.05.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Lowell Krueger spoke to the Council regarding the work he has been doing on the nuisance property at 106 South 16th Street. He noted there is an updated work schedule for the property which he reviewed with the Council. Building Official Krejci commented that he went over the schedule with Krueger.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to postpone consideration of recommendation for abatement of nuisance at 106 South 16th Street until May 2, 2024.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Bob Fricke and Caleb Fjone, members of the Creative District Committee gave an update on the committee’s capstone project, the Towers of History. He said a groundbreaking will be held next week. Fricke said estimated completion for the project is the end of July.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Niemeyer to approve consent agenda which included approval of the March 21, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; approval of pay requests from JEO Consulting Group for general engineering in the amounts of \$10,328.75, for Dennis Dean Road Improvements in the amount of \$11,354.65, for Public Works in the amount of \$7,269.00, for Water Distribution Hydraulic Model in the amount of \$2,111.25, for Silver Street Improvements in the amount of \$14,070.15 and for Water Main Furnas and 30th Streets in the amount of \$19,850.00; and approval of Shannon Adams and Heather Kennedy as members of the Ashland Fire Department.


Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried


Motion by Libal, second by Lofberg to approve the second half of the March 2024 Claims.
Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said that he will be attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for two Ashland youths. He reported that he is working on nuisance properties.

AAEDC Executive Director Fjone reported that on April 12 there will be a showing of Ashland's new tourism video at the performance art center.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Libal to adjourn at 7:33 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 April 4, 2024 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.