

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
November 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Ashland City Council was held at the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers on the 21st day of November, 2024 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  
City Attorney Mark Fahleson

Others: Denise Craft, Dan Linke, Jim Pinkman, Carol Clough, Maddox Ferguson, Archer Ferguson, Caleb Fjone, Bill Krejci, and others

Notice of meeting was posted in three places, i3 Bank, Ashland Post Office and Ashland City Hall on November 8, 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 Libal, second by Niemeyer to adopt the regular agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: All Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson opened a Public Hearing on Application #24-156 for a Conditional Use Permit to change trim color on store front located at 103 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:02 p.m. Zoning Administrator Krejci stated the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Committee both approved of the color for the store front. With no further comment, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1241 - AN ORDINANCE CREATING STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2024-1 AND STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2024-2;

DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR PAVING, GRADING, CURBING, GUTTERING, AND OTHER NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL WORK; PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE COSTS OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS AGAINST THE PROPERTY SPECIALLY BENEFITED THEREBY AND THE LEVY OF GENERAL TAXES; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1241.

City Administrator Quady stated this is for creating the street improvement district for 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Birch Street in the area of the dog park.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson called for the vote on passing and adopting Ordinance 1241.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Libal, second by Crnkovich to introduce and approve first reading of Ordinance 1242 - AN ORDINANCE CREATING STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2024-1 IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS IN SAID DISTRICT, AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1242.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson called for the vote on passing and adopting Ordinance 1242.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Lofberg to introduce and approve Ordinance 1243 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM A BANK TO THE CITY, EVIDENCED BY A PROMISSORY NOTE, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,370,000) TO REFINANCE EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STREET, WATER, AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE CITY; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND FORM OF SUCH LOAN AND PROMISSORY NOTE; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST ON AND PRINCIPAL OF SUCH LOAN

AND PROMISSORY NOTE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

City Attorney Fahleson read the Title of Ordinance 1243.

City Administrator Quady said the Bond Anticipation Notes for the Dennis Dean Road and Ice House Ridge projects are due on December 15<sup>th</sup>, but the projects are not completed so the City is not able to do the permanent financing in a bond. She said doing the interim financing through i3 Bank will be cheaper than obtaining new BANS.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson called for the vote on passing and adopting Ordinance 1243.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Crnkovich to introduce and approve Resolution 2024-14 – Setting Public Hearing Date for Creation of Street Improvement District No. 2024-1 on December 19, 2024.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to approve Application #24-156 for a Conditional Use Permit to change trim color on store front located at 103 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal to recommend approval to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for a Special Designated Liquor License for Flutterby Finds, LLC for Hometown Christmas Event-Beer Garden at 14<sup>th</sup> and Silver Streets on December 14, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Denise Craft, owner of Flutterby Finds, stated they are planning to have fire pits, hot totties and food trucks in the parking spots. She said the parade will pass by going toward the west.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding the nuisance at 407 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Zoning Administrator Krejci said he reached out to the property owner but did not hear back from him. Mayor Anderson said he drove by and there were three vehicles parked on

the lawn. Discussion was held on how the nuisance could be abated including possibly towing the vehicles. Krejci will attempt to make contact with the property owner again.

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to postpone consideration of abatement of nuisance at 407 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street until January 2, 2025.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Discussion was held regarding nuisance at 612 Elm Street. City Administrator Quady said she had spoken with the property owner who said all the vehicles but one are licensed. Council Member Lofberg said the owner told him that he can't find the title for this vehicle. Quady said this vehicle is on City right-of-way. Quady requested that the owner bring the vehicle paperwork to City Hall to be verified. Quady said he told her the vehicles are operable.

Motion by Libal, second by Niemeyer to postpone consideration of abatement of nuisance at 612 Elm Street until January 2, 2025.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Lofberg to purchase a Bobcat Track Machine from Hamilton Equipment Company for cash price of \$57,788.50.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Mayor Anderson said the administrative reports for October 2024 are available for council review and comment. Reports included the Keno, Public Works Director's, Utility Superintendent's, Police Chief's, Building Official's, Library and AAEDC Reports.

Motion by Lofberg, second by Crnkovich to approve the consent agenda which included the approval of the November 7, 2024 Council meeting minutes; approval of the October 28, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes; and approval of the October 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

Motion by Crnkovich, second by Niemeyer to approve the first half of November 2024 Claims.


Roll Call:                   Ayes: All                   Motion Carried

AAEDC Director Fjone reported that a grant application for the sign project has been made. He said there may be a capital campaign to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the project.

Mayor Anderson reported that the quick charge unit for electric vehicles has not been working and he would like to get it fixed and operable. He said they are looking for grant funds to replace it. He reported that interviews have been held with candidates for the City Clerk position. He said he went on a tour of the Ashland Brewery building. He stated that the Public Works staff have completed two horseshoe pits near the sand volleyball court. He noted the October building report showed over \$620,000 in computed construction costs. He said the City will be able to recoup some of the storm damage costs through reimbursement from the State. He said there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner provided by a family in town for anyone who would like to come.

Motion by Niemeyer, second by Libal 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 November 21, 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.