

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (west entrance)

*The purpose of the Agenda is to assist the Council and interested citizens in the conduct of the public meeting. Careful review of the Agenda is encouraged. Testimony from the public will be solicited for any item or issue listed under the category of **Public Hearings**. Any individual who wishes to address the Council on any other subject should plan to speak when **Item 3- Public Comments** is identified by the Mayor. The Mayor will not normally allow audience participation at any other time. Idaho Law prohibits council action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance.*

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PRAYER OFFERED BY: Brett Pincock
PLEDGE LED BY: Matt Brady

Mayor Stronks welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Teddy Stronks, Councilwoman Linda Janssen, Councilman Brett Pincock, Councilman Richard Huntsman, Councilman Matt Brady, Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Deputy Clerk Jan Warnke, Tom Jacobsen, Dave Risenmay, Mieli Allen, Jaci Hill, Kera Clark, Zak Clark, Sara Carter, David Carter, Melissa Trafton, Connie Hansen,

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

Being considered routine by the City Council, these items will be enacted by one motion unless requested by a Councilman or a citizen that one or more items be removed for later discussion.

- A. **Minutes** – Approval of Regular Council Meeting August 8, 2007 and Special Council Meetings August 14, 21 & 29, 2007.
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As Submitted

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.)

- A. Mayor Stronks recognized Mieli Allen. Mieli Allen is asking the Council to open the Community Center for one day a week for citizens to walk. It will be an ice free and wind free place for them to go for walking in the winter. Council members were concerned about scheduling. The city doesn't have the personnel to be present while citizens are walking. Councilwoman Janssen asked Mieli and Melissa Trafton if they would serve on a committee to assist the council with the Community Center. Melissa Trafton explained that she thought that Mieli and her goals are different. Councilman Brady said that the committee would be to help with scheduling, etc so that there would be no duplication, etc. The committee would be working with Councilmen Brady & Huntsman who are the Mayor's appointed council members for the Community Center. Melissa and Mieli accepted the appointments and the Mayor thanked them.

4. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Liquor License Renewals

Councilman Pincock made a motion to approve the 2008 liquor licenses as applied for pending receipt of their State & County Licenses. Councilwoman Janssen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- A. Rodolfo Rivas – Mi Ranchito license. Mr. Rivas did not come to the meeting.
- B. Tom Jacobsen – High School Ag. Teacher. Mr. Jacobsen is asking the council for a variance to have some livestock on the school grounds. They will be using in their new livestock class. Mayor Stronks asked if Mr. Jacobsen had spoken to the neighbors. Mr. Jacobsen has spoken to some of the neighbors on the east and they have been indifferent. Councilman Brady asked Mr. Jacobsen if he had plans on when the animals would be there and how many animals. Mr. Jacobsen said that right now they are thinking of raising pigs, 2 gilts to breed. Mayor Stronks explained that the neighbors will have problems with noise, smell, etc. Councilwoman Janssen explained that the council will also have many citizens who will say 'then I want to keep my horse on my property'. City Attorney Lookabaugh explained that this is a Planning & Zoning issue. The Ashton Planning and Zoning Committee should hear this question, hold a public hearing if needed and then send it back to the Council. Mayor Stronks told Mr. Jacobsen to speak to Suzette Bollinger. Mayor Stronks expressed the council's appreciation for Mr. Jacobsen's involvement with the young people in our community.
- C. Jaci Hill – Ashton Elementary – use of alley. Jaci explains to the Council that she is looking for better ways for parents to drop off their children at the school. She is interested in using the alleyway between the Four Seasons Motel & the school. Councilman Pincock explained that the City has approved this in the past. City Clerk Stegelmeier had spoken to Chief Mattingly whose concern was that the traffic all be going one way. The city already plows the snow to allow for this. Jaci also wanted to know who owns the property to the west of the Four Seasons Motel, close to the school parking lot. Mayor Stronks told her that that information is available at the county assessor's office. Councilwoman Janssen expressed her concern that Jaci speak to the owners of the dental clinic also to avoid any conflicts.
- D. Tom Mattingly – Dispatch Money in police budget left over to help county with dispatch system. Chief Mattingly did not come to the meeting. Councilman Brady and Councilman Pincock explained to the Council that Chief Mattingly would like to use some of the budget to help out the County with a new dispatch system. Mayor Stronks explained that he feels that it might not be a good idea. It was decided that any decision will be put off until Chief Mattingly can come and give the Council more information. Mayor Stronks tabled this item until next council meeting.

6. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Melissa Trafton – Community Center. Melissa has turned in her grant application to Wal-Mart and spoken to the person over the grants. Wal-Mart's funding for these grants is on a quarterly basis, but everything looks great and grant money will most likely be received the first week in November. Melissa has also chosen dates and added them to the City's Community Center calendar.
- B. Paul Wynn – Utility Bill. Mr. Wynn did not come to the meeting and the council directed City Clerk Stegelmeier to turn the decision over to the court.

7. STAFF AND COMMITTEE/SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. MYAC Report – Luke Floyd. It is Luke's senior year and his goal is to have more attendance for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee. He thinks that the student council and the government class will help with getting more members. He will get out applications for committee members. He also would like to get recycling done in the school. Mayor Stronks expressed his appreciation and asked Luke when they could have their first meeting. The Mayor and Luke agreed on Monday October 17th at 11 am to get started. An opening social was discussed. Mayor Stronks asked Luke if he would attend the Community Center meeting on Thursday at 7 pm. Luke said he would. Mayor Stronks again thanked Luke for his participation in the Mayor's Youth Activity Committee.
- B. Del Jensen – Bunkers, Sewer Project, Disconnect/Reconnect Fees. Del explained that it would be nice to have bunkers to keep sand & gravel in during the winter. The sand is used at intersection, etc. He would also like some blow sand to pack with pipe repairs to make the pipe last longer. Councilwoman Janssen asked if he had any costs,

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

etc. Del said he didn't yet. The Council asked that Del come back with drawings and costs. Del also wanted to reiterate to the Council that they keep 100 feet on each side on the sewer project for a buffer zone. He explained that we can also use the area for burning the branches, etc. after the spring cleanup. Councilwoman Janssen said that in the negotiation the council will ask for buffer zones. Del then asked that the council set a fee for shutting water off for someone with leak on their side of the line. Councilman Brady questioned whether that was already in the ordinance that each house is required a shutoff as close to their side of the meter as possible. The Council asked City Attorney Lookabaugh who said is a legitimate fee and can be done by resolution. Mayor Stronks directed City Clerk Stegelmeier to ask other cities what their policy is and then tabled this discussion until next Council meeting. Del then expressed his appreciation to the council for approving the return of benefits to city employees.

- C. Cathy Stegelmeier – Cathy first spoke to the council about the progress at the Wye. The County Commissioners approved trucks for hauling gravel, but we don't know when they'll be available yet. City Clerk Stegelmeier then asked the City Council to approve her choice of the Council Room at the Ashton City Building for the polling place for City Elections on November 6, 2007. Approval was given. The city employee's insurance renewal was discussed. Cathy showed the council the completed plans for the Visitor Center. The council looked them over.

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to put construction on the Visitor Center out to bid. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cathy then asked about several stop signs that the city employees had been questioned about. The most serious problem has been at the County Sheds. Linda asked if there had been one there before. Cathy had spoken to Todd who said there has but it keeps getting knocked down during the winter. The council directed Cathy to ask Todd to put one up again. Another stop sign concern is at 1st and Cherry. The council directed Cathy to speak to Tom about it and get back to them. A bid had been received on the Community Center heating concerns. Cathy asked if the city could go ahead with the fan furnace and up to 4 heat controls. The council gave approval. Cathy then reminded the council about the Community Center meeting Thursday night and asked if they would attend.

8. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Teddy Stronks – Street Lights. Teddy explained that Steve Knapp was going to be here to explain to the council what the Urban Renewal Committee has planned. They are in the process of modernizing the city lighting system. It will be good for the community. Right now they are making sure to get the right lights to qualify for both the Rocky Mountain Power assistance and the State of Idaho approval. It will change the cost of the street lights to the city from \$14 per light per month to \$1.65. Many cities in the area are planning this project also because of the cost benefits. Steve will be here next month to show the council more information.
- B. Richard Huntsman – Visitor Center End of the Year Report. Richard reported that the number of visitors and amount of donations were both up for the summer of 2007. As usual, the Ashton Community Volunteers have been great. There are extremely dedicated. The number of volunteers was down; there were only 14 volunteers this summer. The Mayor and council expressed their appreciation for Richard and the others at the Visitor Center.
- C. Linda Janssen – DEQ Meeting. Linda gave a report on the meeting with Dick Dyer, Willy Tuescher and Tom Rachow. Willy and Tom looked over the project site. The city now has approval at that site. They urged the city to go ahead on plans. There were some absolute expectations. They were: no cattle on the application site, certified people running equipment at all times and a crop rotation approved by them. Linda explained that she was glad to be at this stage; it was interesting touring this site after 5 years – being able to get this close to getting the land application permit re-issued.

Councilman Janssen made a motion to enter executive session. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

I.C. 67-2345 *Certain City-related matters may need to be discussed confidentially as a matter of law (Acquisition of real property, personnel matters, attorney-client communications) subject to applicable legal requirements, the Council may enter executive session by roll call vote to discuss such matters.*

Acquisition of Real Property, Personnel Concerns

Councilman Pincock made a motion to exit executive session. Councilman Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Pincock made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, October 10, 2007 Council Chambers. Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meeting should be addressed to the Office of the City Clerk or call 208-652-3987.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest:

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Theo R. Stronks
Mayor