

# MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2007

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (west entrance)

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*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.*

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### CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

**PRAYER OFFERED BY: Richard Huntsman**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: Brett Pincock**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Teddy Stronks, Councilwoman Linda Janssen, Councilman Brett Pincock, Councilman Richard Huntsman, Councilman Matt Brady.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Rick Paskett, Sheri Poulson, Dick Dyer, Emma Powell, Laiken Richardson, Jordon Dye, Joyce Edlefsen, Sara Reinke, Dean Kent, Shyla Rankin, Laurie Hossner and Todd Hossner.

### 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 December 12, 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

Councilman Brady made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Oath of Office - Administered by City Clerk Stegelmeier. The oath was administered to Mayor Stronks, Councilman Pincock and Councilwoman Janssen by City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier. The Mayor then opened up the election for the City Council President. Secret ballots were marked and counted by the city clerk. Linda Janssen won the Ashton City Council President seat.
- B. Certificates of Election – Mayor Stronks. The certificates of election were signed and given to each newly elected official.

### 3. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

### 4. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

- A. City Audit – Sheri Poulson. Sheri Poulson from Jensen & Poulson gave a short report on the audit completed by her firm for the City of Ashton. Sheri went through each fund and gave each fund balance. The city's Street fund is a concern. This is the fifth year the street fund has showed a loss. The Mayor and Council need to look at the street fund to find a way to make it work better. Sheri suggests that the city develop a five year plan. The Visitor Center, Community Center and Parks & Recreation funds did well in 2008. The Water fund did well also. At this time, the Water fund is the richest fund. The bond reserve account for the Water fund has more money than is required in it but that could be useful in the future by making it possible to pay the bond off early. The Sewer fund is in jeopardy. The Mayor and Council will need to raise the sewer rate to avoid losing money. Sheri projects that the rate needs to be raised to \$34/month per user to cover future sewer needs. The rate is \$3.00 short right now. A 5% increase only will result in a \$20,000 loss over time. Extra funds need to be generated. Councilwoman Janssen asked if there are any other options. Sheri explained that the O & M costs could be brought down but she doesn't think that it will be enough. The future for sewer infrastructure will be affected by the council's decision. The decision can rob the city of the

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cash to fund future projects similar to the one we are currently working on. The Jensen & Poulsen firm also looks at where the city's financial procedures could be improved. Internal controls are key to avoiding problems. It is important to separate cash custody and recording. The city should not have same person doing both jobs. Sheri would like the city to split duties between the clerk and deputy for more control. Have Jan handle the cash then have Cathy record into system. Account write offs – come before council. A problem area continues to be the employee timecards – overtime needs to be checked. Sheri also recommends having a written procurement policy stating what a purchase order is needed for and who is responsible for signing off on them. Mayor Stronks thanked Sheri for taking the time to come up to speak to the council.

- B. Hess Heritage Museum – Teddy Stronks. Mayor Stronks explained that the council needs to discuss what they can do as a council to help preserve this collection. Councilwoman Janssen asked if there has been any progress. Mayor Stronks replied that the county has been looking at a land swap and other alternatives to help. The main bulk will lean on the city and the citizens. A museum would be a great asset to the community to have here. Hopefully there will be more information as the year progresses.
- C. Nativity Apology – Tom Mattingly. Tom explained to the council that the young people had come to council of their own volition. Mayor Stronks thanked the young people and expressed that it was great for them to come to the council meeting. The young people, Jordon Dye, Laiken Richardson and Shyla Rankin stood before the meeting. Jordan read their apology letter into the record. Shyla told the council and public that she could not express how ashamed, embarrassed and sorry they all are. She appreciates the opportunity to come before the council to express their apology. Mayor Stronks accepted their apology but asked for some community service. Specifically, he asked if they would take down and put away the Community Center nativity. The city would provide them with a supervisor but they would have to take it down. Jordon, Laiken and Shyla said they would. Mayor Stronks also asked if this was alright with their parents. The parents agreed that it would be alright with them. It was decided that they would work on taking down the Nativity as soon as possible.

### **5. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Sewer Project – Dick Dyer. Dick complimented the council on the new council desk, etc. Dick explained that the USDA Rural Development and Department of Commerce were here this fall and he had told them that he would have plans and specs together by the end of January. The tentative schedule would then ask for their comments back in February with a pre-bid tour set for March 11th. That will put us at starting the project at the middle to end of April. Dick then walked the council through a preliminary set of plans. Dick estimates that the project will take 105 calendar days and completion will be about the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Mayor Stronks thanked Dick for taking the time and coming up to speak to the council.
- B. City Business – Cathy Stegelmeier- Cathy reminded the council that the County Commissioners will be here for the next council meeting. That meeting will start at 6 pm.

### **6. STAFF AND COMMITTEE/SPECIAL REPORTS**

- A. Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Report – Melodie Chriswell. Melodie was not present and no information or meetings done with the committee.
- B. Community Center Committee Report – Shirley Wilkinson, Sara Reinke. Sara wanted to express the committee's thanks for the council's support with having the work camp come to help with the gym. The gym looks wonderful. The committee would like to set the Dog Derby as a deadline to finish some of the other projects. It has been hard to gauge volunteer labor. Rick has been wonderful to work with. Letha & Dan Whitmore's family painted some rooms in the upstairs. The Red Hat ladies will be coming to work on of the other rooms. It has been encouraging to hear people being optimistic about the future of the Community Center. The committee did get a rate schedule ready for the council. Mayor Stronks and the council members thanked Sara for her time.

### **7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

- A. Mayor Stronks – State of Ashton Address. Mayor Stronks gave the following speech:

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Sailors are always dependent on the wind for their propulsion. When those winds begin to fade, it takes a much higher level of concentration to coax a bit of power from the remaining breeze. Sailors whose crews are able to maintain their focus on fundamentals and avoid distractions are the ones best able to maintain a bit of momentum when the winds go light. It's also important in those conditions to scan the horizon for signs of where a fresh wind might develop, so that you might take advantage of the opportunities that are ahead. As we enter the year ahead I feel, as a mayor and newly elected counsel, that we can face the head winds that blow against us and take advantage of the winds that carry us towards goals we seek. Our waste water project is nearing completion which will help prepare for the future growth and infrastructure. Working closely with our community review will be our map to success. Preserving the Hess Heritage Museum and thus our pioneer heritage will be one of our goals. Preparing the Wye for a parking area will be another step in the right direction. We also, with the help of Idaho Parks and Recreation, have applied for a grant to start our Rails to Trails Project. Economic Development and Transportation will continue to be a focus to bring more jobs and opportunities to Ashton Citizens. The City of Ashton has a bright future. This City Council and I, as Mayor, will do our best to guide the city to that future

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

Mayor Stronks asked if there were any public comments. Joyce Edlefson wanted to compliment the city council on our completed Council Chambers.

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

### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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.

Advise Legal Counsel, Personnel Issues

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to exit executive session. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to provide for a winter rate for RV parks in our sewer user unit rate schedule. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

### **10.ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, February 13, 2008 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:

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Cathy Stegelmeier  
City Clerk

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Theo R. Stronks  
Mayor