

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

6:00 p.m.

714 Main

*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 6:03 PM.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, County Commissioner Paul Romrell, County Commissioner Skip Hurt, County Commissioner Don Trupp, Marla Vic, Mary Lou Davis, Chan Atchley, Karl Lewies, Jeff Patlovich, Tom Howell, Keith Richey, Sherriff Davis Del Jensen Todd Martindale and Tom Mattingly.

1. WORK SESSION:

A. Discussion with the County Commissioners

Mayor Stronks welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to the County Commissioners for their suggestion for the meeting. He then asked the Commissioners to decide how to start the discussion. Commissioner Romrell said he would introduce the county officials that have come with them.

After the introductions, Commissioner Romrell explained that the City of Ashton is important to the county and that the Commissioners understand that they need to answer to the taxpayers of Fremont County. One of the issues they have been working on with the City of St. Anthony is the court services that the county provides. The county would like to work out an agreement on the fines. The county pays the salary and all the maintenance for the court. Mayor Jewell donated all of the fines collected in the City of Island Park (\$750) back to the courts to help defray costs. The City of Ashton has a smaller percentage of the court usage than the City of St. Anthony. The County also does all the police dispatch throughout the county.

Commissioner Hurt wanted to encourage the city to work with them on Road & Bridge projects. In St. Anthony the City is providing a tanker of oil if and County Road & Bridge is applying it. The County is contracting now, and so if we are planning on it, we need to get with them as soon as possible. Commissioner Hurt also talked about the Wye and the County's commitment to help out with it.

Mayor Stronks asked if the Commissioners knew if the City could get some relief on funds we have had to expend due to the snow disaster. The City is already over budget on fuel, etc. Top on the city's list are the hydrants and the County Emergency Management Officer, Keith Richey, explained that we could get assistance with the hiring of a loader and manpower if needed. Discussion continued on the disaster with Commissioner Trupp expressing an opinion that there will be so much to figure in by the time it is all over. The Commissioners also spoke about how well their Emergency Management Officer has been doing to keep our County and Cities aware of the help out there. County EMO Keith Richey then gave a report on the accomplishments they were speaking of.

Mayor Stronks then asked about the Burberry addressing system. Sherriff Davis explained that the county is right on the verge of putting the information online. This system will automate the City of Ashton' police

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information for the first time. Sherriff Davis also reported that there will be no changes in the addressing system countywide although it is something that will have to be fixed at some point.

Mayor Stronks then asked how prosecution was going in the county. County Prosecutor, Karl Lewies, reported on the River's Edge case he is busy with right now. He then reported that he has two deputy prosecutors who handle the criminal cases for the county. City Councilman Huntsman expressed his appreciation for the Commissioner's decision on the River's Edge case and on other county items. Commissioner Hurt thanked him and said that the job can be difficult at times. Karl Lewies explained that the commissioners do spend a lot of time on these decisions. It seems that as time goes on, there is more litigation involved. Mayor Stronks explained that the city has had some controversy over the sign ordinance. Citizen's felt like the public hearings were not advertised. City Attorney Lookabaugh clarified that we are fully compliant with state law. Discussion turned to the fact that if public notices are properly given, there isn't much more you can do to get people to become involved.

Commissioners Romrell then expressed that there have been three new positions that the commissioners have filled that have become great assets for the county. The first is Marla Vic, who has been given four departments to run and has done a great job. Jeff Patlovich has also become a big asset with the management of the Planning & Building Department. Keith Richey as Emergency Management Officer has big asset also. This team has made the Commissioners jobs easier.

Marla Vik has assisted the city with a rough plan for the Wye. She explained that we should do some more design work on it.

Commissioner Romrell then asked County Clerk Abby Mace to talk about her office. She is gearing up for elections. Up for election in the county are: two commissioners one four year term and one two year; Prosecuting Attorney and Sherriff. In the national race for President, our county primary will not have any bearing on it. Commissioner Romrell explained that Abby is the president of the Idaho Association of Counties which is quite an honor. Abby told the council that she is enjoying her time and the travel that she has been able to do for the Association.

Commissioner Romrell then explained that MayLou Davis is also a great asset as the EMT Co-Coordinator. Mary Lou reported that it has been interesting that through the big storm we have had very few ambulance calls.

Sherriff Davis explained that he chairs the search and rescue board for the Idaho Sherriff's Association and if we have concerns can talk to him. Mayor Stronks applauded Sherriff Davis on his public discussions about HWY 20. Sherriff Davis told the council that the issue is not the equipment operators but that there is not enough equipment on the road. All agreed that the state should address this differently. Chief Mattingly asked if the Sherriff's office would be interested in a satellite office in Ashton. Sherriff Davis explained that the long range plan is to use their cars like an office. They can do 90% of work out of their cars. He also explained that it would be nice to have a place to set up for emergency situations and it could possibly be of use for probation purposes. Keith Richey said it would make a huge difference for him to have a satellite office. Talk then turned to the mandate for police radio frequency change. The cost is going to be huge for the county and city. Keith Richey will be helping to co-ordinate funding, etc. The county will be moving into this slowly and the city can get with Keith for assistance.

Mayor Stronks thanked the commissioners and other county officials for coming to the meeting. Thank you for coming.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by Mayor/Council). There were no public comments.

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3. Adjournment:

Mayor Stronks adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m. 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