

Minutes-CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

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: Teddy Stronks
PLEDGE LED BY: Linda Janssen

Present: Mayor Stronks, Councilman Brady, Councilman Huntsman, Councilman Janssen
Also Present: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Sara Reinke, Letha Whitmore, Katie Valenta, Karen Valenta, Jaci Hill, Karin Daw, and Del Jensen.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Mayor Stronks welcomed everyone to the meeting this evening.

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 May 9, 2007, Special Council Meetings May 16 & May 24, 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 Janssen made a motion to accept consent agenda with exception of the financial statement.
Councilman Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

- A. Street Light Project -Ted Maestas. Mayor Stronks will present the information to the council as Mr. Maestas could not make it to the meeting. Mayor Stronks had diagrams of what the lights would look like and explained that they will have rod for pots and banner brackets will be included. A water system is not included and doesn't seem to be a good idea anyway. Mayor Stronks explained that to get things going, Mr. Maestas needs to get an RFP from the city. Mr. Maestas is willing to do all engineering etc. and will be at next council meeting to show sample lights, etc.

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to approve RFP and have Ted Maestas go ahead with light project.
Councilman Pincock seconded the motion.

- A. Student Safety – Jaci Hill. Jaci Hill and Karen Daw are here to talk to the council about a proposal to make the bus unloading and parent pickup safer for the students at Ashton Elementary. Karen Daw will be presenting the information. The Police Chief and Council have been concerned for the children's safety while loading and unloading. The School District has had problems at other schools also. Mrs. Daw showed the City Council and audience an overhead depiction of their solution. The Superintendent has been contacted and they anticipated being able to start as soon as this summer. They will then come to the City Council to discuss crosswalks etc. Councilman Pincock expressed concerned about the trees that line Railroad Avenue. Mrs. Daw explained that some of the trees might have to be removed. The District wants to do the safest, best thing for the children.

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Councilwoman Janssen expressed concern about the loss of space on Railroad Avenue that the city currently uses for snow storage. There will be some loss, but it will not be expected to be a through street. Councilman Pincock requested that the city be given a progress report later this year. The Mayor thanked both Ms. Hill and Mrs. Daw for their time and preparation.

3. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Nativity Appology. Several convicted juveniles came to Council to ask forgiveness for stealing and damaging the City Nativity. They expressed their sorrow and explained that they would never do something like this again. They explained that they have renewed respect for other's property. Councilman Brady expressed his concern about whether restitution would be provided so that the City could replace the Sheppard. The offenders explained that the judge had ordered restitution and City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier explained that it would be paid through the court. The offenders also asked to be able to complete the 10 hours (each) of community service ordered by the judge. Mayor Stronks asked Councilwoman Janssen to supervise. Councilwoman Janssen explained to the council that there are a couple of projects at the community center that the offenders could help with. She will get her schedule worked out and then contact them. The offenders were asked to leave their phone numbers with the City Clerk. Mayor Stronks expressed his appreciation for their appology.

4. STAFF AND COMMITTEE/SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. MYAC Report – Luke Floyd. Mayor welcomed Luke to council to report about MYAC. Luke attended a Community Center Committee Meeting. He learned that the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee would need to have a definite plan including directions for adult supervision, set times, cost for rent, etc. before the Community Center Committee feels that they could support the maintenance of a Youth Room at the Center. Luke said he wants to try to get something set up for the next school year. He also explained his goal for getting a recycling program going at the high school. Mayor Stronks asked Luke to set up a meeting for elections. The Mayor offered to have the city buy pizza and try to get a big crowd for the elections. Councilman Brady said they could use his room and he would help set it up with Mrs. Bergman. Luke also explained that they are going to try to set up their summer meetings for the hour before council meetings each month. Mayor Stronks thanked Luke for his efforts with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee.
- B. Community center – Sarah Reinke. Sara wanted to give the City Council a progress report on the Community Center Committee's activities. It has now been six months since the formation of the committee. They have struggled some because individual members were divided with some more concerned with the building and some with the activities. They have had many donations. The Henry Griffel family suggested that mourners give to the Community Center. There have also been 2 rooms adopted. The kitchen floor, updates on electricity and the entire bathrooms have been completed. The committee has applied for grants and updated a price list for rental. A spinning class and children's theatre class have begun. The summer lunch program is planned again for this July. Councilman Huntsman expressed his gratitude to the committee. He can't thank them enough. Mayor Stronks thanked Sara for her time and work for the Community Center.
- C. Tree Committee. Letha Whitmore. Letha and the Tree Committee are getting ready for spring. They will be meeting Thursday the 17th at Trails Inn to plan their summer. National Arbor Day is May 2nd but they are planning Ashton's Arbor Day later in the month. Letha has spoken to the Rotary and they will purchase the flowers. The new student council will plant the flowers. Letters have been sent to the local church groups to schedule weeding. At the Arbor Day here, the Tree Committee will use a \$300 grant they received to plant two fast growing shade trees at the park near the Cal Wickam Bench. It has been hard to find new volunteer and committee members. Letha is concerned about citizen's lack of participation. A student from Ashton Elementary won 2nd place in the State Arbor Day art competition. Mayor Stronks and the City Council thanked Letha and the rest of the tree committee for their help.

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D. City Business- City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier. John from rota rooter came to the city building to talk with Del about a camera for the sewer lines. After visiting with him, Del & Todd found that for our city, buying a camera is not feasible. John will be here to start cleaning the lines on May 15th. City Cleanup is tentatively set up for May 19th through the 30th. Councilman Brady expressed his concern about flooding on Highland Street similar to the flooding that happened in 2007. We have a plan for such a problem. Mayor Stronks spoke to the council about the need for chip sealing the streets. After much discussion it was decided that the budget would have to be opened to allow for the chip sealing. City Clerk Stegelmeier is to begin the process of opening the budget. City Clerk Stegelmeier reminded the Mayor and Council of the Association of Idaho Spring District Meeting the following day and times were discussed for leaving, etc.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to open up the FY2008 budget for the purpose of financing repair on streets. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Stronks called for a 10 minute break.

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

5. 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.*

Acquisition of Real Property

Councilman Pincock made a motion to exit executive session. Councilman Brady seconded the motion. Roll Call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

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

NEXT MEETING

Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, May 14, 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:

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Theo R. Stronks
Mayor