

# MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (North 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 7- 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: Linda Janssen**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: Richard Huntsman**

**Present:** Mayor Stronks, Councilman Brady, Councilman Huntsman, Councilman Janssen, Councilman Pincock.

**Also Present:** City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Kathy Fisher, Ted Maestas, Steve Pinther, Luke Floyd, Todd Martindale, Darby Cikaitoga, Shirley Wilkensen, Brad Purcell,

**Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:01 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 April 9, 2008 and Public Hearing April 30, 2008.
- 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 accept consent agenda. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. City of Ashton Resolution 08-02-Updated Equivalent User Unit table. City clerk Stegelmeier explained that a motion was made for an update.

Councilwoman Brady made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Janssen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

- A. Street Light Project – Ted Maestas. Mr. Maestas is here to talk to the council about the new street lights that the Ashton Urban Renewal has been working on. Mr. Maestas has the contractor documents to get street lights installed. He spoke about the options that a contractor can use. He would like to send them out and get a 2 or 3 week bid period. He will be available to clarify any points for the contractors. Ted also came up with a logo and name of the city for the base of the street light. The original request was that city would buy lights direct and contract for the labor only. Mayor Stronks said the urban renewal agency has looked at both ways and it is better to buy and then get them put in. Mayor Stronks also explained the Ted has saved the city a lot of engineering fees. Mayor Stronks asked Ted what the next step was. Ted said that Clerk Stegelmeier needs to put the project out to bid.

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

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Councilman Pincock seconded the motion.

Councilman Huntsman made a motion that the city go forward and start with the bid process. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Idaho Meth Project – Steve Pinther. Mr. Pinther is a volunteer with the Idaho Meth Project. He explained that Meth is a big problem in Idaho. It can become so addictive. It will change the lives of everyone around you. Meth use contributes to prostitution, theft, etc. Steve is here to make sure that everyone gets the word out and keeps away from this drug. Mayor Stronks and the council thanked Steve for his time
- C. Animal Ordinance, Pigs – Shirley Wilkenson. Ms. Wilkenson and her family are moving to town. They have a pet pot bellied pig. City Clerk Stegelmeier checked the ordinance and it does make it illegal to have a pig in Ashton. Shirley feels though, that since all the other animals are farm animals that maybe the city council would consider modifying the ordinance to legalize the keeping of pot belly pigs as a pet. Shirley is willing to license the pig just like dogs are in Ashton. The pig is not going to get bigger than 150 lbs. Their yard has a fence and there will also be a kennel. Mayor Stronks told Shirley that he would discuss this with council and let her know. Mayor Stronks thanked her for asking first.
- D. 2008 Ashton City Pool – Kathy Fisher. Kathy has hired some new lifeguards for the Ashton City Pool for this summer. The new lifeguards are: Britney Davidson, Kaytlin Dummer, Kelsie Phelps and Krista Garz. Kathy then wanted to explain to the council that the toddler area at the pool has a sign notice requiring the parents to be in the pool with their children under 6. Lifeguards are not supposed to be babysitting. The inspector from the State helped prepare the wording on the sign. Mayor Stronks thanked Kathy for her work at the pool.

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

- A. Utility Concerns – Brad Purcell. Mr. Purcell told the council that he has some old and new business. He felt that he had gotten beat up bad after the meeting. He had to pay his 'blackmail money' of over \$3000 to start up his RV Park for the summer. He doesn't think that commercial compares to residential. He feels that the residents leaving for the winter do not compare to his business as a base rate. He thinks the city make it hard for businesses to do business here. He says he has paid but now he is upset about the nitrate problem. Darby Cikatoga (former City Clerk) explained to him that the nitrates are only a problem for 6 month old and younger. Mr. Purcell asked if he has to post this information for his guests. He is just required to tell them. He asked the question "Don't we want Ashton to become a destination?" Councilwoman Janssen wants to know just what he wants. He doesn't like what council has already done for his business. Mr. Purcell then talked about his new business – he has completed a survey and says that most of the tennis court is on the Purcell property. The council told him that they would discuss it after the city looks into a survey. Mr. Purcell feels that he has gotten hit at every corner. He expressed that the City council makes it hard to do business. Councilman Brady explained that we have tried to work with them. Big municipalities have larger resources. The resolution passed this evening was essentially to help Mr. Purcell with his base rate which he came to an earlier meeting about. Councilman Brady explained that he doesn't know how to help him more. Mr. Purcell expresses that he wanted to tell them how he feels. Councilwoman Janssen read Mr. Purcell part of the newsletter about city council vs. chamber. Some of the things Mr. Purcell wants the city council to do is not under their purview – it is a chamber item. Mr. Purcell was not happy and left the meeting. Darby and Todd Martindale wanted the council to know that they had spoken to Mr. Purcell before he built the RV Park and explained the costs, etc. Mayor Stronks explained that the council would be asking legal advice during executive session from the city attorney.

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- B. Abatement Procedures – Kandler & Icabod LLC. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Icabod had started work on the Texaco station and should finish soon. She also directed the council to a letter that was received from the Kandler family. The family will take house down as part of sale. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained to the family though, that the city would continue with abatement until further work is shown.

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

- A. Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Report – Luke Floyd. Luke is here. National Honor Society needs to do some community service and they would like to help by painting the youth room at the community center this Friday. Shirley Wilkenson from the Community Center Committee thinks it's a great idea, but that it is too little notice. After much discussion, the council approved the painting of the room, but to paint it a base color for now. Councilman Pincock expressed that more communication was needed. MYAC would be great for the community if we can get it more organized. Mayor Stronks asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to set up a day at the High School for a meeting to get new members. The Mayor would like to get more kids involved and do great things for the community.
- B. Community Center Committee Report – Shirley Wilkenson. Shirley came to council to give an update on the community center. The Gym painting is done, stage floor is refinished and the curtains are hung. The kitchen has been a huge project, but it looks great. Sara Reinke has left on vacation but will help get it all together when she gets back. The Mother's day kitchen shower went well. The donations from the Griffels and Reinke Grain will be used on the meeting room. Mayor Stronks explained that the Rotary Club is committed to materials & labor on paint & carpet. Friends of the library will match \$2500 to renovate the front entry. The committee feels like they are now making progress. Shirley is working on getting summer classes going. She will be asking the commissioner's for permission to use the Senior Citizen Van and then Cathy will help her co-ordinate insurance with the county. For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Shirley would like to do a truck touch at the park. Shirley also talked to the council about some tiles the committee will be selling at \$100 each. They will be place around the front entry. Mayor Stronks thanked Shirley and the committee for all their hard work and commitment.
- C. City Business – Cathy Stegelmeier. City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the council to approve utility shut offs policy be updated to match the ordinances. Policy has been to give the customer 60 days, but then the cost to reconnect services is too high. The Council and Mayor direct City Clerk Stegelmeier to enforce the ordinance. City Clerk Stegelmeier then asked about the charging for use of the Council Room so that it wouldn't compromise the Community Center meeting rooms. The Council approved charging \$15 to use the room. There will be a meeting with Dick Dyer and Chad Nielson on Friday at 11 am for any council members that can come. Councilwoman Janssen and Rick have been assisting the nativity juveniles with their community center. Councilman Janssen explained what they have done. Councilwoman Janssen explained to them that they are making amends to the community. Their service hours have been used for the community.

The Ashton City Council & Mayor Stronks expressed their appreciation to Luke for all of his hard work with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee. They will miss him, especially on council night.

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

The Mayor called for public comment. There was none.

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Instead of an executive session, the Council decided that City Clerk should visit with the City Attorney and follow her guidance on the Purcell land issue.

### **7. 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,

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, June 11, 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