

MINUTES - CITY OF ASHTON **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

April 12, 2006 - 7:00 PM
ASHTON CITY HALL
714 MAIN STREET, ASHTON, IDAHO

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The prayer was offered by Linda Janssen as Brett Pincock was excused.

Role Call-

Teddy Stronks
Linda Janssen
Brett Pincock - excused
Richard Huntsman
Matt Brady

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Mattingly- Police Chief, Tree Committee Members- Letha Whitmore, Faye Hope, Judy Royer, & Mar Nicoletti. Youth Council Representatives- Alexis Stronks & Tia Atchley. Melissa Trafton and Joni Amen- City Clerk

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 March 8, & March 29, 2006
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As Submitted

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, by Janssen, seconded by Brady, no discussion.

ROLL CALL: Huntsman Y, Brady Y, Janssen Y, motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Youth Council- Mayor Stronks told the interested youth council representatives about the program. He explained that he and the council would like to see the kids get involved with the city government and that they will go to Rexburg to one of their meetings to learn more about it.
- B. FYI: Dale Dixon will be here on April 24, @ 5:30 p.m. for Com Review Report. Council and Community is invited!! We maybe should consider moving the meeting to a bigger location if a lot of the community decides to come. Will check with the school to see if we could hold the meeting there.
- C. Mayor Stronks made the following appointments -*Eileen Mockli appointment to P&Z Board*
- D. *Jean Hansen appointment to P&Z Board*

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

5. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Consider Sewer Revenue Bond Ordinance Series 2006 (425-06)

Motion by Janssen, to dispense with the reading rule and read one time by title only, seconded by Huntsman. All in favor. Motion carried. Richard Huntsman so read.

Motion to adopt Ordinance#425-06 to provide for issuance of sewer revenue bond series 2006 in the

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principal amount of 1.2 million made by Janssen, seconded by Huntsman. ROLL CALL VOTE: Huntsman Y; Janssen Y; Brady Y; motion carried. Ordinance will be in affect following publication.

6. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

- A. **Melissa Trafton**- request for baby swing at park. She researched the costs are about \$100. There is one swing that is unusable and could be switched over. Council agreed to have staff order and install the swing.
- B. **George Smith** – Chamber—4th of July plans. He feels that this is a very important holiday and he would like to see the city come together for the event and have City Council involved. He wants to keep it free- have a train ride for the kids, somehow have a carnival atmosphere. He would really hope to see more people involved. Linda Janssen asked about the theme for the parade, Tom said it is "The Way We Were." She said she would like to get that information out. The Centennial Committee has been planning to honor the senior citizens in the community and would like to have all of 90 years of age and over be grand marshals. Mayor Stronks asked if George was representing the Chamber- he said yes and no.?
- C. **Paul Wynn** – Petition on sewer rates- Mr. Wynn is concerned about the rate that he is being charged - full rate on the Sewer bill when he is closed in the winter. Mr. Wynn admonished the Council that they had the power to give him a break if they wanted to. His home is in his business so he would pay for the residential rate, but he doesn't want to pay for the motel. He doesn't understand why the rates were set the way they were. He said that he would be willing to pay if he used it. He requested that the Council consider calculating his water use and rate his sewer rate more fairly- he said it was immoral. Linda Janssen said that when we studied raising the rates, the community at the meeting didn't want to go that way because it would have been even more money on usage for commercial. She explained that the public hearings for the rates were where that decision was made. He restated that he wants to be at full rate only when he is open in the summer. He said our taxes are higher and it is too expensive. Ms. Janssen suggested that with the ordinance will have to be looked at. Mr. Wynn asked how the Council felt about it. Matt said that we will look at the ordinance and discuss what can be done if anything. Linda explained that the rates have to cover the costs of the bonds. We don't give vacation rates to residents that go away for the winter so we don't do it for commercial. She also reminded them of the public hearing that we decided the rates be based the way they are not by use. Paul said that he felt the Council is in its power to adjust it. He is asking for a credit on his bill of the charges over the winter. Council will take it under advisement.
- D. Consideration of declaring old phone system and old chairs as surplus. Linda was in favor of selling Matt so moved, adding that we accept the offer of \$100 for the old chairs and \$500 for the old phone system, seconded by Janssen, all in favor.

7. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS: Feral Cat -Matt reported that the humane society offered to pick up around 2-3 cats per month. He also reported that they told him a pair of unneutered - unsplayed cats can produce over 64,000 kittens! We have a major problem and that is not enough to even dent it. Jean Hansen used to work in the industry and said she that if we spayed and neutered the cats it would help in the long run, in reducing the cat population. She also stated that Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies can help. She suggested that the City consider a spay and neuter program. The Humane Society recommends destroying feral cats as being the most humane solution. Matt wants to get an ordinance to do something with the cats; he read an ordinance that he would like the council to consider. He said he feels it is a health issue and that we risk spreading rabies. Teddy asked Matt to work on it and talk to City Attorney for next council meeting.

8. STAFF AND COMMITTEE/SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Tree Committee Report - Letha Whitmore thanked the council for being in support of Delray's

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Arborist training and hiring the contractor for the tree assessment grant. Arbor Day is the May 24th at 1:00 at the Elementary School. That is the day that the school children will plant the flowers on Main Street. She said she is concerned that the water system be ready at this time. Letha requested that the lines be split on the North Side and a new junction box and timer be installed this year as it is never going to work properly the way they had it done in the first place. The Tree Committee would like to get the problem resolved this year. She said that the snow should be left around the trees. She said "who ever plows and does that should keep the crap away from the trees!" and "you could save a bunch of money if you turned the heat down in here!" There are also monuments that have been damaged the sprinklers have been broken. She is complaining about the snow packed on the curbs that people drive up too close to the trees and the guys plowing too close to the sidewalk. She is upset that no one is sweeping the sidewalks and she wants it done before the streets are swept by the truck. She said that she didn't want the community service kids to start sweeping on the East end of town she said she watched them everyday piddling around at the City Building when the real work needed to be done on the West Side of town! She then asked about the Centennial Committee plans for the school house and raised beds. She is worried about where they will get the water and the soil for the raised beds that they want to have planted. Tom recommended talking to Suzanne Hamilton. Letha then reported that Kurt Eidam will warranty the system this spring on the corner coming into town. She was upset that we paid him for installing the system without her permission, as she wasn't happy with the job.

Mayor Stronks would like the city to pay for the monument that was broken he would like Letha to get it ordered. Mayor Stronks also requested that she get a price from Mr. Morgan and let him know how much it will cost to do the split on the irrigation line. Matt and Linda asked that we mark the corners of the tree wells to use orange snow fence to protect them. Letha said you shouldn't have to mark them! She said they can see there is a tree there and should stay away. She does not want to mark them, she said anyone should be able to figure it out that they are too close. Linda stated that the city workers weren't the only ones plowing the sidewalks and there was even a pickup that plowed. She said we will put a note in the chamber newsletter to not plow so close.

Teddy also said that we have talked about sweeping the sidewalks in employee meeting and the community service kids are going to come and help. He insisted that we wait until we can have the kids do it- "they need to do it for their community service."

B. 2nd Quarter Budget report – Joni Amen

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Linda reported that she is going to be meeting with Kathy and gathering support letters for the property at the school. She will be approaching them soon.
- B. Centennial report- Tom asked that the Council consider Dale Richans horse drawn coaches and Tom would like to invite him to come for the parade. The Council will support that – his #313-5938. Tom would like to get all the surplus items together for the garage sale and decide how to proceed. Linda asked if we would do a float for the city, she would like use a trailer-float with Todd in the Manito pulling them. She asked that the Council be involved with the grand marshal portion of the parade. Linda will take the message to the Chamber of Commerce that the Council would want to pick the centurions- senior citizens in the community over 90 to be honored as grand marshals. Teddy asked that the Council take turns going to the Centennial Meetings from now on. We still need to plan the buffalo dinner. Tom will need someone to help with the food. He will order 4 hind quarters and ask to have it precooked. Council would like to offer the dinner to the Community and to ask for donations to help defray costs of the food and misc. expenses. Mayor Stronks suggested that Tom talk to Ryan Grigg- he said he will do that. Will take donations for dinner- city will sponsor.

Tom asked for support in the Gun Show, Council said they want to encourage the guys to keep the gun show in town. It is well worth it. Tom said that they will use some of the funds to purchase ammo for the Police Dept target practice.

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10. **Adjournment** Motion by Janssen, seconded by Huntsman that there being no further business, meeting be adjourned at 9:30 P.M., motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joni Amen, City Clerk.

Attest:

Joni Amen
City Clerk/Treasurer

Theo R. Stronks
Mayor