

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (North 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**. 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: Brett Pincock

Present: Mayor Stronks, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilman Pincock, Councilman Atchley, Councilwoman Harrigfeld and (outgoing) Councilman Rankin.

Also Present: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Todd Martindale, Lacey Atchley, Dawson Atchley, Diane Sanders, John Scafe, Tom Mattingly, Jerry Funke and Delena Stronks.

Mayor Stronks called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He explained that (outgoing) Councilman Dexter was excused as he is out of town on business.

1. AMEND AGENDA:

These are agenda items that are added after the statutory 48 hour agenda deadline.

- A. **6. B. New Business: Dog Derby Information – John Scafe, Todd Martindale, Del Jensen**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to amend the agenda as presented. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 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 Council Meeting Minutes 12-11-2013.
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 Pincock made a motion to accept consent agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. State of the City Address – Mayor Stronks
Mayor Stronks gave his State of the City address.
- B. Outgoing Official Presentation – Mayor Stronks
Mayor Stronks thanked Councilman Rankin for his time and commitment as a Councilmember. He gave him a plaque. Councilman Rankin thanked everyone at the City for everything and explained that although the water project took much of his time on the Council, there are many things that he learned about City government that will stay with him.
- C. Oath of Office – Administered by City Clerk Stegelmeier
Councilman Atchley and Councilwoman Harrigfeld each took the oath of office and took their seats at the Council table.
- D. Certificates of Election –Mayor Stronks
Mayor Stronks gave Councilman Atchley and Councilwoman Harrigfeld their certificates of election.
- E. Election of Council President – Mayor Stronks
Mayor Stronks called for nominations for Council President.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion nominating Brett Pincock as Council President. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Water Project Report – City Clerk Stegelmeier
Mayor Stronks opened the public hearing. He asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to give her report

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concerning the project. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained the progress of the project, gave a budget report and explained the remaining items for completion.

Mayor Stronks looked over the list for comments. There were no names listed for comment. He then asked if there was anyone present who would like to comment. There was no public comment.

Mayor Stronks closed the public hearing.

5. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.

A. Customer Deposits – Deputy Clerk Warnke

Deputy Clerk Warnke explained the information that she had prepared for the Council packet to the Council. The information shows how, with the increase in rates through the water and sewer projects, the \$ 150 water deposit is not enough. When a renter leaves town, many times there is still more than \$150 owing on the account. The City's ordinance calls for the deposit to be two times that of a regular billing. That would mean raising the deposit for services to \$300. Alternatively, Deputy Clerk Warnke suggested that the land owners be made more aware of their responsibility. The land owner is the responsible party according to City Code. She is hoping a letter can be sent out explaining the code and renter contracts. Another alternative would be that land owners be required to keep the services in their name. At many of the trainings Deputy Clerk Warnke attends, the trainers are suggesting this as a better solution. Councilman Pincock expressed his concern that a renter would have a lot of extra expense anyway with first and last months' rent owing also. Councilwoman Hansen inquired as to what other cities are doing. Deputy Clerk Warnke explained that in this area, most let renters sign up for services but many have larger deposits. Councilwoman Hansen is concerned that the landowners need to know their risk. It was decided that a letter would be sent out explaining the risk to the landowners. Councilwoman Hansen offered to help deliver letters. Councilwoman Harrigfeld said that if they are mailed to the address on the tax notice that would be a good faith effort.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to the City send a letter explaining to the landowner that they are liable to pay the balance due if their renter leaves owing more than the deposit. The wording on the contract will also be made clear so that when the renter takes it to the owner, the owner will be reminded. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Charge for Meter Lid Breakage – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there have not been any meters damaged this month. She has spoken to the engineers and Todd about the lids which would take care of the problem. Todd said he would look into them.

6. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.

A. Water & Sewer Services – Diane Sanders

Diane Sanders is here to speak to the Council because they bought a fixer-upper home and they are wondering if there is any way to lower the cost to reconnect to the system. They bought the home thinking they knew what had to be done but then found out that a disconnect request had been completed. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained the information she had given to the Council. It included a copy of the disconnect requests and an explanation of how the rates have been established. Councilwoman Hansen understands that it is a large amount but explained that the City does need to treat everyone the same. Councilman Pincock explained that there are payment arrangements that can be made. Diane explained that she was told that she would have to have half down. Councilman Pincock inquired of City Clerk Stegelmeier if there could be special arrangements made for the Sanders'. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that there could. Mayor Stronks thanked Mrs. Sanders for coming to Council.

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B. Dog Derby Information – John Scafe, Todd Martindale, Del Jensen

John Scafe is here to talk to the Council about the Dog Derby. The Derby will be held on February 14th and 15th. Not enough snow right now. Need about 2 foot of snow before they can start. If at all possible they would go down Main Street. The items that get in the way of having the race on Main Street are lack of snow, safety of the crowd & racers and the legality of having it on a State highway. John explained that another race has also moved to the same week and that is going to affect the amount of racers. If there is enough snow, John will get the liability insurance, etc. to the city. The committee is meeting every Thursday now until the race. Mayor Stronks thanked John for his time.

C. Public Safety Inquiry – Jerry Funke

Jerry Funke is here at council to talk about Public Safety. He was interested in what the City has in place to help with something like the power outage that occurred lately. He is especially concerned about the seniors in our community who are very independent but who need help during something like the 11 hour outage. He would like the law enforcement officers to check on them after 4 hours and take them to a warm place. Mayor Stronks explained that there are plans but that communication is an issue. He would like to get all the churches together to get information to the citizens. Brad Rankin explained that Keith Richey is the emergency preparedness officer for the County and the City has been included in the emergency plans. The fire department, police (both City and County) and government offices (City and County) all work together in the plan. Mayor Stronks asked Jerry if he would help to put a list of the 'at risk' people together. There needs to be better communication so that everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

D. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council.

7. **CITIZEN INPUT:** (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.)

8. **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

Mayor Stronks had no business for an executive session.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

NEXT MEETING

- ♦ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, February 12, 2014, Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton. 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