

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

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: Becky Harrigfeld
PLEDGE LED BY: Teddy Stronks

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Teresa Hansen, Becky Harrigfeld and Jerry Funke.

Also in attendance: City Attorney Angell, Micah Spicer, Rick Miller, Sheryl Hill, John Scafe, Wes Owens, Tom Howell, Bill Stephens, Kurt Eidam, Michelle O'Malley and Shon Shuldberg.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 6:57 pm.

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 Special Council Meeting Minutes 2-15-2017
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted
- E. **Budget Report** – Worksheet showing the revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year to date

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

2. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

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

- A. American Dog Derby 2017 – John Scafe
John was not able to attend the meeting.
- B. Funding Update for Wastewater Project – Rick Miller
Rick Miller brought a copy of the City's addendum to the Community Development Block Grant application. The City's project is pretty straightforward and he feels there is a good chance that it will be a successful application. Rick met with Dennis Porter at the Idaho Department of Commerce and was told that the City's application looks good. Because the DEQ loan will have labor requirements and will require more work such as payroll reviews, the Development Company is asking to revise the contract. They will be charging \$8,000 for the extra work making the administration costs \$51,000 instead of \$43,000. Rick then encouraged the City again to change the rates for sewer earlier to get a reserve built up for payments. Councilwoman Hansen is unsure that they should start that now and is interested in raising the rates by stages. Councilman Funke wants to see the project in the final stage prior to raising rates. City Clerk Stegelmeier would like to go over both the water and sewer rate in a rate study prior to rate changes. Rick will plan on next council to finish up contract. Mayor Stronks thanked him for his time.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

- A. Henry's Fork Music Festival – Kurt Eidam
Kurt explained that he is here representing the Ashton Rotary Club. The Ashton Rotary Club has been in Ashton for 50 some years and donated the covered shelter at the City Park to the City. Many of the money for their projects come from donations but they are hoping to host a fund raising event

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

this summer – the Henry’s Fork Music Festival. The chairman of the event is Micah Spicer and Kurt turned the time over to Micah. Micah explained that he is new to town and most recently lived in Texas. The Rotary is hoping to make the Henry’s Fork Music Festival into an annual fund raising event. They are hoping to have 2 concurrent stages playing music along with vendors for food and drinks. They would like to hold the event on Friday and Saturday, August 18th & 19th, 2017. This will give people that are here for the solar eclipse somewhere to spend some of their money. Maybe some of them will come back every year. The money raise will be funds that the Rotary Club can put back into the community. They have been thinking of holding it at the City Park. They are wondering what permits, etc. they would need. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the only permits required would be sign permits. They would probably all be temporary signs so there is just a simple form and a \$15 fee. Vendors would also need sign permits. The fee for using the park is \$50 and they would need to call the City Building in order to see if there has already been reservations made for that weekend. Kurt Eidam asked if they would be charged even though it is the Rotary shelter. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that they would need to pay. Mayor Stronks explained that the City is worried about police protection. The police were wondering if they could have the event either the weekend prior or the weekend following the dates chosen. Micah explained that the reason they planned it for that weekend was to capitalize on the crowds in the area. He speculated that it would be better for the crowds to be busy with an event rather than left to their own devices. Detective Owens explained that there simply are not police to cover both the predicted eclipse work and this event. Some discussion on police availability at the time of the event was discussed. Councilwoman Hansen explained that the City police just want everyone to be safe and they are cautioning the Rotary Club to be careful with people’s safety. Mayor Stronks thanked the Rotary Club representatives for their time and explained that the City hopes that their event is successful. Micah explained that there is a website for the event at henrysforkmusicfest.com.

B. Solar Eclipse Discussion – Officer Wes Owens, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Detective Owens is at City Council to solar eclipse happening this August 21st. Following the report from the Chamber of Commerce at the February City Council meeting, Chief Griffel and Detective Owens attended a meeting of the Madison Community Action Group along with members of Fremont County law enforcement. These meetings are going to be held monthly and he highly encourages City Councilmembers and members of the public to attend. The group is working together to prepare for what could be a large influx of people here to view the eclipse. With large amounts of people come higher incidents called in, accidents and other police concerns. Besides the police, the other emergency responders – fire & EMS – will also need to be prepared. Grocery stores may run out of needed items, traffic could be slow for people getting to work and gas stations may not be prepared for the amount of gas required. There is concern at RV dumps because the amount may affect public sewer systems. The City may want to limit the number of trailers that will be allowed to dump. Hospital and internet capabilities were discussed and hopefully can be managed. Being prepared is the key. The Madison School District is delaying the start of school one week. Lodging throughout the area is full or almost full. Detective Owens has asked that anyone who is setting up rental of their private property to let them know so they have an idea of areas that may need a patrolling. Councilwoman Hansen was impressed with the different committees for different aspects of the planning. She feels that it will be a good way to be prepared. Councilman Funke inquired as to whether the National Guard could be of help. Detective Owens is hoping that with this planning there will be no reason for the Guard. Mayor Stronks explained that Keith Richey is setting up a Fremont eclipse preparation team. Councilwoman Hansen asked about the CERT program that has been taught in the past. Mayor Stronks explained that Keith will be setting one up. Mayor Stronks thanked Detective Owens for his time.

C. City Building Use – City Clerk Stegelmeier

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Chief Griffel couldn't be at the meeting but wants to remind the Council of the discussion to move the police department to the other City Building. The City Council will be discussing that at a later date.

D. Pool Boiler Bids – Councilman Funke, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Councilman Funke explained that the failure of the pool boiler is reason the City closed the pool early last summer. City Clerk Stegelmeier and Councilman Funke prepared bid documents and sent them to several local (or close) companies. Both the local plumbers – Dan's Plumbing and T&T Plumbing do not have the certifications required. Councilman Funke then pointed out the document City Clerk Stegelmeier prepared for Council listing the bids. There is quite a difference in the bids even though the City sent out specific instructions. The bid was to include installation, hauling off of the old boiler, starting the new one and giving instruction to the person running the pool. The low bid is 12 thousand – high bid is 23 thousand. Discussion on the bids continued with concern over the low bidder's use of a Pentair boiler instead of the asked for Laars. Mayor Stronks asked Councilman Funke to research and come back to the Council at the next meeting. After some discussion it was decided that a special meeting is necessary because of time concerns. Mayor Stronks directed City Clerk Stegelmeier to set a special meeting for the Wednesday the 15th at 7pm. Councilman Funke explained that he and City Clerk Stegelmeier have applied for some grants in order to pay for the replacement.

E. Employee Insurance – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that a few years ago, the Council had asked the employees to pay the raise in their insurance. It was a good idea then but as new employees are being added, City Clerk Stegelmeier would like to have an amount that is simple and easy to see why it is what the employee is paying.

Councilman Harrigfeld made a motion to change the health insurance cost share for employees to \$25 for the employee and \$25 for their dependents following a final check with the City's insurance agent concerning the grandfathered status of the policy with such a change. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

F. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over schedule with the Council.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 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