

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

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: Teresa Hansen
PLEDGE LED BY: Teddy Stronks

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Tadd Atchley, Jerry Funke and Tom Mattingly. Teresa Hansen was excused.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, P&Z Administrator Bowersox, Suzanne Brady, Shon Shuldberg, Rachel Hatton, Todd Martindale, Pauline Johnson, Sheryl Hill, Brittony Jackson, Dallas Hill, Karen Lansing, Sterling Nelson and Lisa Smith.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 6:58 pm.

1. CONSENT AGENDA: **ACTION ITEM**

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 Meeting Minutes 7-10-2019, Special Meeting 7-30-2019
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted

Councilman Atchley made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

2. PUBLIC HEARING:

Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.

A. Public Facilities Block Grant Final Hearing – Pauline Johnson **ACTION ITEM**

Pauline explained that this hearing is an informational meeting about the status of the City's City Park Project. The project included relining the pool, adding ADA sidewalks at the pool, adding parking including ADA parking and adding a walking path. There were three change orders for a total contract increase of \$ 6,751.70. Final payments for construction, engineering and administration have been paid. The City will accept written and verbal through the end of the hearing.

Mayor Stronks opened the hearing at 7:02 PM.

Sheryl Hill who lives at 238 Idaho Street in Ashton. Sheryl explained that she is one of the three who commented on the application for funding this project. She wants to commend the City Council for completing the project in original budget that was set. She reminded the Council that they had originally applied for \$150,000 but were approved for \$100,000. The City was going to spend \$96,000 to finish the project but spent \$150,000. The Ashton Urban Renewal Agency spent \$25,000 but in the application some of that money was supposed to be on the old pavilion but there was no work completed on the old pavilion. The private contributions were not received for the project. This being said, the improvements are great. The walking path is a great addition. The signs at the pool are easy to see and nice. There is a problem with soil erosion on the east side of the park where the engineers made a cut in the curbing for drainage. It is an engineering problem and they should give some guarantee that it will be fixed. Sheryl would still like to see a working bathroom and a plan of how the park will be maintained.

Mayor Stronks closed hearing at 7:08 PM

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3. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Ordinance 479-19 – FY2020 Appropriations – City Clerk Stegelmeier
City Clerk Stegelmeier reminded the Council that the budget hearing will be August 28 at 7 pm.

4. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

- A. Utility Fees at 411 Walnut – Karen Lansing
Karen Lansing is here to represent Habitat for Humanity. Thanked council for hearing her petition. Habitat for Humanity is now the owner of record for 411 Walnut. The property first deeded to the U of I but then they gifted it to Habitat. The property is a great gift but comes with a lot of expense. There is over \$11,000 in taxes and fees on the property. Karen has already spoken to the Fremont County which has reduced some of the taxes. Karen is her asking a similar request of the City. These old properties can be costly. The Brady property cost so much to clean up that Habitat may never be able to recover the costs. They are happy to clean up some of these properties but need to be good stewards. The 411 Walnut property consists of two city lots so Habitat could build two new homes so it will be a better value. Habitat is committed to long term relationship with the City of Ashton and are looking forward to making this build more feasible. Karen is asking that approximately \$2400 of the outstanding bills. Councilman Funke asked why the bills were not paid by the owner. Councilman Mattingly said that the former owner’s brother took care of it but that the owner left nothing in order to take care of it. Mayor Stronks asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to put this item on the next agenda for consideration.
- B. Ashton Living Center Water Meter – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Todd Martindale, Shon Shuldberg
ACTION ITEM
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the Ashton Living Center lawn watering system has not been being metered. There was much discussion on the past and the reasons behind the issue. The City Council explained to the current ALC Director, Shon Shuldberg, that the City services have to be maintained by user rates. There was some discussion on timing, construction, etc. Shon asked if they could just pay a flat rate. City Attorney Angell explained that the City needs to treat all customers the same. He explained that it is the property owners responsibility to get their system hooked up right. The water needs to be metered properly. Shon is unsure how to get started. The Council asked Todd to ask 3H Construction if they would be willing to help work on prices and scheduling, etc. Todd will get with 3H and Shon and come back to City Council.
- C. Tree Discussion – Todd Martindale, Brett Griffel, Michele Smith **ACTION ITEM**
Todd explained that there are some new signs that need to be put up and the trees hide the signs. Michele has met a representative from ITD to discuss them. They are putting new signs at the rail crossing as well as a flashing stop and yield signs. At the dental office they will be putting a permanent speed sensing sign. Michele explained to Todd that the trees at the park and ball field have some issues with bugs and disease. Councilman Atchley expressed concern for the City utility lines on Main Street and the damage that has been done by the trees. The trees on the west side of the railroad tracks will be taken out.
- D. Highway Discussion ITD – Mayor Stronks, Police Chief Griffel
Mayor Stronks reported that he and Chief Griffel met on Monday with legislators and county commissioners. There was a good discussion about lowering the speed limit down to 35 mph on Hwy 20 through Ashton. ITD has been unresponsive to this idea in the past citing that they cannot impede the flow of traffic. Mayor Stronks said that the legislators, in particular – Senator Hill, were very direct and the ITD representatives seemed responsive. They are proposing signs, rumble strips and other safety measures. The City will know more soon.
- E. City Election Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier

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City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the candidate filing period for the City 2019 Election opens on Monday, August 26th and closes on Friday, September 6th at 5 PM.

F. Budget Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier and the Council went over the budget. There were some items removed and many of the items will need to be purchased following the end of the sewer project. City Clerk Stegelmeier will make the changes and the Council will meet on August 28th for the public hearing on the 2020 budget.

5. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

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

A. Wastewater Project Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier read aloud the report from Keller Associates.

6. REGULAR BUSINESS/EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

A. P&Z Report – P&Z Administrator Sara Bowersox

P&Z Administrator Bowersox reported that she has been having preliminary discussions of fences, building permits, etc. Just day to day normal business. Some of the discussions may lead to long term discussions for the future. There has been a mobile home moved into Ashton without a permit. She will be trying to stay out in front of the application but there may be cause to levy fines.

B. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the City Council.

7. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers will bring items to be discussed with the other Councilmembers & Mayor. No action should be taken on these items as they have not been specifically listed on the agenda.

Mayor Stronks announced that he will not be seeking office again this election. Several local mayors are retiring from office as well.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

I.C. 74-206 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.

(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.

There was no business for executive session.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Atchley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Special Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, September 11, 2019 Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton.
- ◆ Questions concerning items appearing on these Agendas or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meetings 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