

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, August 9, 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: Teddy Stronks
PLEDGE LED BY: Jerry Funke

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Becky Harrigfeld, Tadd Atchley and Jerry Funke.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Ashton Archivist Barbara Moon, Micah Spicer, Michelle O'Malley, David Pasqueriello, Sheryl Hill, Marvin Fielding, and Darrell Reinke.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 6:58 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 Meeting Minutes 7-13-17, 7-20-17 & 7-27-17
- 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

Councilman Atchley made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION:

- A. City of Ashton Ordinance 470-17 – Appropriations Fiscal Year 2018
City Clerk Stegelmeier has the public notice prepared for publication.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to approve the public notice for Ordinance 470-17 and asks that City Clerk Stegelmeier have it published. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. City of Ashton Resolution 17-02 – City Fee Update
City Clerk Stegelmeier did not bring this to the Council this month.

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Park Community Block Grant Application – Rick Miller
Rick Miller from ECIPDA is here to explain that a public hearing is a requirement for the application for a Community Development Block Grant for the City Park. Rick explained that he had been at City Council earlier in the year to ask if they would be interested in applying for the grant and the Council expressed their desire to apply. The grant anticipates a \$200,000 project. At this point the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency has committed to donating \$25,000 to the project and the City is anticipating \$15,000-\$50,000 in in equipment and labor. The application is due on September 19th. It will take 2 or 3 months for the Idaho Department of Commerce to go over the proposals and make a decision. They are looking for the projects with the most need, the most matching funds or in kind service and the most community involvement. The project could possibly be done next year if all goes well. The Council sent out a survey with the last newsletter and got quite a good response. Rick brought a

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copy of a ranking sheet developed by his office on the replies. The swimming pool and a parking lot got the largest number of number 1 priority rankings. Right now there is no handicapped parking so it is good that it can be addressed. Of course, the pool has been a public priority for many years and still seems to be important. On the low end rankings were the tennis courts and the skate park. Public restrooms were either loved or hated – it had about the same amount of low and high rankings. Following this public hearing, Rick will return at the August 30th meeting with plans and estimates for approval from the Council in preparation for the application deadline.

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

Mayor Stronks opened the public hearing. Come up and state name and address.

Sheryl Hill 238 Idaho Street. Sheryl would like to comment but would like to have time to submit written comments. She did not realize there was going to be a public hearing until she saw the agenda at the post office. She is concerned that the public did not have enough notice about the meeting and many would have attended had they known. She went on to say that the purpose of a public hearing is to gain public comment. She feels that the community has not had enough information concerning the grant. She is also concerned that the City needs a parks maintenance policy if planning to spend \$200,000 on facilities. She explained that the public needs to know what the long term maintenance issues and cost are because these are long term ramifications. She thinks that even a parks council could have been set up to help decide what the grant would be used for and she feels that the City Council has missed an opportunity to get the public involved.

Brian Hatton 969 Cherry Street. Brian expressed his belief that many times you can talk about something forever and nothing gets done. He has come to share his comment against building a public restroom. Public restrooms turn into being places that are not supervised and dirty. He also feels that it is not feasible to put in restrooms. Brian explained that there are many months where the restrooms will not be able to be used as winters are long in Ashton. Brian was at the swimming pool following the Pool Fundraiser when a gentleman came in to ask if he could just use the restroom. The gentleman then just sat in the restroom and had to be escorted out by a policeman. Brian can see that a public restroom may be a place that would be frequented by people like that gentleman who was up to no good. He does not feel that the citizens of Ashton need to supply full facilities for everyone. In all, Brian feels that improving what we have, like the swimming pool which everyone uses and loves, is the best use of the City's funds.

Sarah Reinke 711 Idaho Street. Sarah is a supporter of doing something in the City Park. She wants to be proud of our community. Improvements at the park will be good for our pride and our families. Sarah had been in Ashton back in the 80s when the vote had been to close down the pool because it was \$13,000 in debt. With the help of Micki Funke and the Vasak Fund she helped to keep it going. It has been used for a wonderful purpose. Sarah would like some of the money to go to the pool. Sarah cannot speak for the Ashton Community Foundation but she feels that they would be willing to put something into the project. Sarah is glad that the Council is being creative, energetic and positive.

Teddy closed the public hearing at 7:24 pm

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4. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

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

- A. City Building Use – Chief Griffel
Chief Griffel explained that the construction on the new police office is going well. The new telephone and other wiring will be done today. After that they are just waiting for carpeting and then they will be able to start moving in.
- B. Solar Eclipse Discussion – Police Chief Griffel, Officer Wes Owens, Sewer Supervisor Jensen, Water Supervisor Martindale, City Clerk Stegelmeier, Fremont County Sherriff Len Humphries, Fremont County EMS Supervisor Bob Foster and Micah Spicer
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Mayor Stronks has signed a disaster declaration as recommended by the County Emergency Manager. Chief Griffel said that everyone will need to be patient. He is pretty confident that several agencies will chip in and help. He is confident that the City police, county police and EMS can manage the situation and take care of problems. Micah Spicer is here representing the Henry's Fork Music Fest. Micah explained that everything is going smoothly. Emergency management service will be on site with a medical tent. Micah would like to borrow some barricades from the City to help funnel the crowd to the parking and keep some of the area open. Chief Griffel asked that they keep people from parking on HWY 47. Micah is not sure how many guest they will get, there have been 15,000 visits to the website and he is hoping to do well. Officer Griffel will be committing one officer to the music festival. He is worried about a base for the life flight helicopter if needed as the school lots will be full. The school will be letting the festival goers use the restrooms in the school. By next month we will know if all the planning has paid off.
- C. Highway Discussion – Police Chief Griffel, Fremont County Sherriff Humphries
Chief Griffel has been in several discussions about the speeds on both Hwy 20 and 47. The Idaho Transportation Department raised the speed limit on Hwy 20 to 70 miles per hour (mph) which has made slowing them down to 45 at Ashton a problem. The consensus is that the signs for 65 mph change needs to be further south on the highway. Chief Griffel would also like the 45 mph sign moved back on both the South and North. He would like to set up a meeting with ITD, the commissioners and the City Council to go over the problem. Another concern is the 35 mph at the High School. This also should be discussed. The Council would like to write a letter. Councilman Funke asked Chief Griffel to get some statistics ready to go in the letter. Sherriff Humphries has met with the ITD board. He has been concerned about the ITD weigh station and the lack of capacity for trucks getting up to speed before coming on to the highway. There is nowhere for cars to go to avoid the truck. Sherriff Humphries thinks a letter is a good idea and he will write a letter to support the City. The school zone is problematic but the City of Teton has some success in Teton. They met with the Sherriff and ITD and they now have a school zone on Hwy 32. Chief Griffel has ordered a sign that will flash like the ones on Main Street but for the 45 mph zone on Hwy 20. The City is not asking for something unreasonable. City Clerk Stegelmeier will work on getting a meeting set with the ITD, etc.
- D. Archives Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Barbara Moon, Sara Bowersox, Tom Howell
Sara Bowersox is at council to talk about the Archives. She has had some conversation with Chief Griffel, the Ashton Archives Committee and the Historical Society. They are going to need to look at a different funding structure for the future. There is not a good way to figure what future expenses for the Archives will be. They will need to find out what the city would be willing to donate to the Ashton Archives. They also have to understand what the physical requirements would be for the Ashton Archives. They are looking at what kind of storage and discussing the relationship of access to security. They do recognize that whatever permanent location the find will likely not be a City owned building. When we go through all of this we need to develop a plan and have all of the

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parties need to be part of the planning and discussion from the beginning. This is in an important asset and planning cannot just be an afterthought. The ground work needs to be laid now. They have discussed this all with Greg and they have planned to vacate the front office and move everything to the back room although they understand that that is a fairly short term compromise. The long term direction is to be out of the back space. It will be a fairly lengthy process and will have to be a very ordered move. The digitizing project is moving forward. Sara has contacted Family Search and may be able to get their help. She is working on getting what already exists so we don't have to duplicate the process. Councilman Atchley fine that the Archives are fine where they are at but they need to move when a good location is found. He has talked with Tom Howell about the museum and that is a possibility. Tom explained that it would make a lot of sense. He is renovating an office and restroom with grant money from several sources. He is hoping to get everything ship shape and see how much room there is. The humidity is higher right now but he has found a cast iron grate to get air exchanged and working towards the possibility of working together. In the long term – we have to pursue grants and other funding such as donations. He said the free will donations have been very generous. He encourages the Archives to have a donation box and work to getting donations. He will report back after renovations have been done. He hopes the Council will put this on the agenda again to keep the ideas flowing. Mayor Stronks thanked everyone for their time.

E. Sewer Project Update – Marvin Fielding

Marvin was not in attendance.

F. Newsletter Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier reported that 43 responses were received about the newsletter. She is thinking that in the next newsletter it could be announced that the newsletter will now be online. If the citizen would still like the print version – they will need to sign up at the City. Councilman Funke wonders if we shouldn't hire the printing and finishing out. It may be less expensive. He brought a copy of a Fall River Electric newsletter to show that maybe it could be done more professionally that way. Also, maybe producing it quarterly would help. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she will produce the newsletter however the Council directs. Mayor Stronks, Councilman Atchley and Councilwoman Hansen agree that a quarterly newsletter will work. City Clerk Stegelmeier will do quarterly newsletters starting this fall.

Councilman Funke asked Sheryl Hill if she had a comment. She explained that the City is very far out of date on social media – website and Facebook. She feels the Council needs a concerted plan for communications. They need a plan so that they can communicate to the citizens better for less money.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. Scout Project – Kyle Calhoun

Kyle Calhoun is here to talk to the City Council about his eagle project. He is going to replace the school benches at the school. He explained how they would be built and that they would cost about \$300. After some discussion, the Council understood his plan.

Councilman Atchley made a motion that assist in Kyle Calhoun's Eagle Scout project to make baseball benches at the City Ball Park in the amount not exceeding \$300 dollars. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Fiber Optics – Shannon Hill

Shannon Hill was not in attendance.

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- C. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier
City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Special Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, August 30, 2017, Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton.
- ◆ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 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