

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

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: Brett Pincock
PLEDGE LED BY: Teresa Hansen

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Brett Pincock, Teresa Hansen and Becky Harrigfeld.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Lookabaugh, Police Chief Mattingly, Letha Whitmore, Christine Dexter and Sheryl Hill.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Stronks explained that there needs to be a discussion concerning the dogs in town.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss dogs. Councilman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Minutes 8-12-2015, Special Meetings 8-17-2015, 8-26-2015
- 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 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. Snow Removal – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Rachel Cardell

City Clerk Stegelmeier had asked Todd & Delray how long the plowing took and they said about 20 minutes. The Council discussed the costs and that a private company could then have another client if the City did not plow. Councilman Pincock asked City Attorney Lookabaugh if there are any legal reasons not to plow for the Library District. City Attorney Lookabaugh explained that there are no legal reasons either way. She did say that it is still her opinion that the building exchange was a good exchange for the City.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that the City continue to plow the Community Center for the winter 2015-2016. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Main Street Tree Selection – Letha Whitmore, Sara Reinke, Sheryl Hill, Christine Dexter, Del Jensen
Sheryl Hill, Letha Whitmore and Christine Dexter are here to discuss the selection of the trees on Main Street. She has provided the City Council with some pictures of the Maple trees that had been discussed in earlier Council Meetings. She explained that she will read her comments (a copy is provided with the official record) and then answer questions. Letha Whitmore will then talk to the Council. The primary reason for Sheryl coming to Council with this information is because of a

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

question asked by Councilwoman Hansen at a meeting. The question was: Why were the wrong trees planted? Sheryl explained that the answer is that the trees are not the wrong trees. To clarify: the tree is a Norway maple tree. Sheryl pointed out that the tree currently recommended for removal on the page of photos. Councilman Pincock explained that the recommendation is for a later date. Sheryl went on to go through some documents from different cities including Ashton where the Norway maple is listed as a recommended tree. Sheryl closed by asserting that the Norway maple is the most commonly planted tree in our area and not the 'wrong' kind of tree.

Councilwoman Hansen expressed appreciation for Sheryl's research and asked where she found the information. Sheryl gave the information and then explained that the Norway maple is a pyramidal type tree – meaning it grows up more than out. There was some more discussion about distances between trees and buildings, etc.

Sheryl turned the time over to Letha Whitmore. Letha apologized that she had been so emotional at the last meeting. She explained that looking at the pictures reminds her as to why she reacted over the top to the situation. She read an email from Blake Snedecker who has just left the arborist position at BYU for another position. He explained that he would love to help out but is in the process of changing jobs. He went on to say that it is true that people worry about how trees will affect their property. Norway Maples are hardy to the hard Ashton weather and are a columnar tree. Letha finished reading the email and then said that she has read many articles about how trees increase the number of visitors and/or limit crime. She talked about the first Arbor Day and then talked about how those kids at that Arbor Day, 12 years ago, are now parents with their own kids. The trees are important and she encourages the Council to update the tree code. She thinks a functioning tree board is important and wants the Council to choose members who are passionate about trees. There was some discussion about the tree at Jackson's and why they were not allowed to plant a green area. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Jackson's did not ask to plant a green area and explained that the tree near the pumps has been hit several times as well as being a problem for clear vision. It will be removed permanently. Letha also asked why the trees have not been mulched.

Christine Dexter asked about taking the trees out. There are several people showing support for the trees. They have a petition that has been signed. Councilman Pincock explained that there is a tree that is a potential problem. Councilman Pincock said that the building is made of rock and mortar so cracks could be used by the roots. Councilwoman Hansen explained that at this time, the City Council has made the decision that the trees will be trimmed and then the Council will look to see if there is a problem. She explained that everyone wants trees but there is liability if the tree damages property.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. 2016 Liquor License Applications – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier presented the applications for approval. There are still several incomplete applications, i.e. they have not received their state and county licenses as of yet, etc.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to approve the permits contingent upon receipt of the proper materials. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Dog Rules – Teresa Hansen

Councilwoman Hansen had been noticing many dogs roaming around and barking – day & night. She thinks that the City needs to follow the dog code better because there are many dogs who are

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

not tagged and that are running around, etc. The City does have enforcement – Todd & Delray and they need to try to pick up the dogs. Something needs to be done to get the ball rolling. One of the biggest complaints are the mess in everyone’s yards. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that one of the problems is that no one contacts the City. Police Chief Mattingly explained that he needs a written complaint to make a case if going to court. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the information on dog rules could be put in the newsletter. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the information has been in the newsletter many times in the past but that she will get it in – although the October newsletter is very full – it may be the November newsletter before it can be in the newsletter. Councilman Pincock explained that there has been some problems with the traps that have been used i.e. people letting the dogs out, those not wanting it near their property, etc. Police Chief Mattingly explained that he has ordered a good catching device if Todd or Delray need it, it is 9 feet long. He also said that he needs access to the dog tag list so that if there is a problem they can notify the owner. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she would send it by email but Police Chief Mattingly said a paper copy would work for him. Sheryl Hill explained that if a dog is found they can also use the number on the rabies tag. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the City could ask when someone signs up for services how many dogs they have, etc. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that they could put it on the application if doing so is approved by City Attorney Lookabaugh. City Attorney said to send her an email with the addition and she will approve a final copy. Councilwoman Hansen said that she will tell those who contact her that they need to call the office and make written complaints for enforcement.

C. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council. The office will be closed for a week as she and Deputy Clerk Warnke will be at the Idaho Clerks, Treasurers and Financial Officers conference in Boise.

4. 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.

Personnel

There was no business for an executive session.

5. 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, October 14, 2015, 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