

# MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, March 16, 2015**

**7:00 p.m.**

**714 Main (North Entrance)**

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*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.*

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### **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

**PRAYER OFFERED BY: Teddy Stronks**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: Brett Pincock**

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

**Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Hailee Stegelmeier, Bonnie Burlage, Maggie Reimann, Doug Ervin, Bernetta Hansen, Linda Jansen, Garth Blanchard, Darrell Reinke, Sara Reinke and Tom Howell.**

**Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.**

### **1. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:**

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

A. Consideration of Museum Proposal – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Darrell Reinke, Tom Howell  
Mayor Stronks asked Darrell Reinke to explain the situation to the Council. Darrell explained that he thinks that the partnership between the City and the Fremont County Historical Society is the way to make a museum proposal work. The building would need some remodeling. The small office spaces are not bad for exhibits. The idea is to do what the City is now for the archives and move it over to the old City Building. They are also hoping to move the Chamber of Commerce to that building. Darrell and Mayor Stronks went to the County Commissioners and the County are considering giving 3 to 4 thousand a year. With the loss of the Hess Heritage Museum, we have lost a part of our history. There is no history or cultural center in our community. The idea is to build for the future. The focus will be on the lower part of the County as Island Park has their own Historical Society. Darrell said it would do something with a rundown building. The Ashton Archives are not used to their potential. This would be a good thing for the community.

Councilwoman Hansen asked about how much the County Commissioners are going to do each year. Darrell replied three to four thousand a year. Councilwoman Hansen asked if this was a firm commitment. Darrell explained that they were supportive with Commissioner Jordan being very cautious. Joyce Edlefsen is going to take the lead in getting with the St. Anthony City Council and also continuing to talk with the County Commissioners.

Councilwoman Hansen also asked if the grant that Darrell is applying for calls for matching funds. Darrell said that the society already has \$10,000 from the Ashton Seed Growers. They are also thinking of asking Fall River Electric to pitch in.

Councilman Atchley expressed his opinion that the roof repair bid would come in lower than originally thought. He thought it would be lower than twenty thousand. Councilwoman Harrigfeld asked if the grant was a sure thing. Darrell explained that they are asking for \$30,000 in grant money but may not get that much.

Darrell talked about a partnership agreement of some sort. The City managing the physical building, the Historical Society managing the operation. Maybe three years having a partnership would be enough.

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Councilwoman Hansen explained that the City had already budgeted for the Archives and that there is no extra money. The museum is another new thing. Darrell explained that the City would be repairing a building. Councilwoman Hansen also expressed her concern about whether the grant would have to be paid back if the Museum folded. Councilman Atchley asked if there is another grant application date. Darrell said that the next one is November.

Linda Janssen explained that she has gone to Idaho Falls. The Chamber and Archives are all there in the same building. It was a good match. It is great for education. Tom Howell talked about the Geotourism Center in Driggs. They would like to get something happening in Ashton. Bernetta Hansen talked about already fundraising at the Flea Market.

Councilman Atchley would still like to know more about the grant. The rules, etc. prior to committing to the City's involvement.

Garth Blanchard inquired as to whether the City would allow them to apply for the grant and then discuss the terms, etc. of the partnership. The option of waiting until November will just mean the roof continuing to deteriorate. The City is on the hook for that regardless of the museum question. The Historical Society can then get creative about how to raise money.

Councilwoman Hansen expressed that she thinks a museum is a great idea. If it were her money they would not be doing it at all. She would like to see a plan of how the Historical Society/Museum is going to work, run, etc. The City is facing some issues on the sewer and the Citizens do not need another bill added on to what they already pay. Councilwoman Harrigfeld explained that the City cannot keep nickel and diming the citizens to death. As much as the Council likes the idea, they have to think of the people of Ashton. The surrounding community cannot expect the Ashton citizens to pay for things that benefit all of them. Sara Reinke explained that this is for the citizens. They need something for their quality of life. There are rundown buildings and the City looks just sad. Councilwoman Hansen explained that she is proud of Ashton. Even if it doesn't meet the standards that some are setting. Sara Reinke asked Councilwoman Hansen if she had actually gone to the Archives. The lights in the hallway leading to the Archives do not even have covers on them.

Councilwoman Hansen said that the Council likes the idea of a museum but there are more important needs in the City. Councilwoman Harrigfeld asked that the Historical Society come up with a plan. Linda Jansen said they are not asking the City to fund it – they have lots of fundraising ideas. What they want from the City is a partnership agreement for the Archives budget. Garth Blanchard asked if the Council would be willing to spend what it is currently spending, then the rest would have to come from fundraising. Tom Howell explained that they have good people to work on this Tamra Cikaitoga, Suzanne Lyon, Idaho State Historical Society, and Idaho State Historical Trust Foundation. They just need to get started. They need the City's help to get started.

Mayor Stronks explained that a long time ago he sat down with Jane Daniels. She asked if the City had a room she could use and that was the beginning of the Ashton Archives. He hopes that the Council will give the Historical Society a shot at getting something going.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld said if the Council went with them – they would want to see some more in the way of fundraising. They need to get more and more people involved and talking about it. They need to get some level of fundraising efforts activated. They need to get the community enthusiastic and participating.

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Councilman Atchley made a motion to give the Fremont County historical society permission to pursue their grant of a partnership with the current archive budget. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

#### A. Assist Main Street Conference Attendee with Reimbursable Expenses

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Sara Reinke had asked if the City would be willing to pay the plane ticket and hotel for the Main Street conference attendee until the expenses could be reimbursed from the HUD grant. This is what the City has done in the past when Mayor Stronks has attended conferences for the HUD grant.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to pay the plane ticket and hotel until being reimbursed by the HUD grant funds. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

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

### NEXT MEETING

- ♦ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 8, 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:

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Cathy Stegelmeier  
City Clerk

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Theo R. Stronks  
Mayor