

# MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

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: Becky Harrigfeld**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: Tadd Atchley**

**Present:** Mayor Stronks, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilman Pincock, Councilman Atchley, and Councilwoman Harrigfeld.

**Also Present:** City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Police Chief Mattingly, Ann Marie Emery, Jack Emery, Heather Williams, Matthew Shaw, Hunter Shaw, Connor Morris, Noel Parrish, Paul Morrison, Monica Morrison, John Toenjjes, Paula Toenjjes, Seth Toenjjes, Noah Toenjjes, Todd Hansen, Randy Kirkham, Sabrina Kirkham, Shon Shuldberg, Cam Shuldberg, Zack Shuldberg, Tyler Shuldberg, Vic Lowe, Jan Stronks, Fernando Nevarez, Bryan Lenz, Trystan Lenz, Carson Williams, Kelton Williams, Tia Cherry, Jacob Pilgrim, Lisa Pilgrim, John Scafe, Jori Lenz, Tucker Lenz, Sara Reinke, Rachel Stronks, Mamie Jorgensen, Jerry Funke, Micki Funke, Fernando Garcia, Andy Garcia, Estaban Lozano, Jan Stronks, Coreen Fabanich, Ellen Laux, Richard Laux and Kim Jones.

**Mayor Stronks called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**

### 1. AMEND AGENDA:

- A. **New Business:** C. **Garbage Handling – Randy Kirkham**

Councilman Atchley made a motion to accept the Amend Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to go out of order to agenda item 5 B: Skate & Sports Park. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. 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 Council Meeting Minutes 2-12-2014.
- 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. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. City of Ashton Ordinance 460-14 – Water Bond

Councilwoman Pincock made a motion to read the City of Ashton Ordinance 459-13 by title only and dispense with the second and third readings. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

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Councilwoman Harrigfeld read the Ordinance into the record.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to adopt Ashton City Ordinance 459-13 and asked the Clerk to have it published. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. 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 News – John Scafe

John Scafe came to Council Meeting to report on the 2014 American Dog Derby. This year was a tough year because of the lack of snow. They had to cancel the 100 mile race and do shorter races. It was great to have it on Main Street again and so far that is what they are hoping to do in the future. He expressed his appreciation to Del Jensen and the City for all their help. He thanked the Mayor for running in the celebrity race again this year. The dates for next year's Derby are February 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The following year, 2017, will be the American Dog Derby centennial. He is hoping to get assistance from the community, the Chamber of Commerce and the City to make it a big event. Mayor Stronks thanked John and the American Dog Derby committee for all their hard work.

B. Landlord Letter – Deputy Clerk Warnke

Deputy Warnke explained that City Attorney Lookabaugh had approved the letter in the packet to be sent out to the landlords.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to send the letter as presented. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Flooding – Weldon Reynolds

Weldon is at Council again to talk about flooding on his property. There has been a drainage problem. Weldon brought a map and showed where he thinks the problem lies. He requested that the borrow pit cleaned out in the fall which he thinks will take care of 90% of property. There is also a need to make sure that snow is not plowed over the area that the water will need to drain through. Kasey Henry has been renting his building and he thanked Todd for coming over quickly with sand bags and the backhoe to get the water moving. The water receded within 2 hours. Weldon asked that the City be proactive instead of reactive in keeping the water draining. Councilwoman Hansen asked if it would be possible to slope his property to better handle the runoff. Weldon said he can live with the low spot if the City keeps the drainage working.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:**

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

A. Frozen Water Billing – Deputy Clerk Warnke

Deputy Clerk Warnke had put together a spreadsheet showing how, by policy, the billing was done for the customers with frozen water service lines. Mayor Stronks acknowledged Linda Janssen who was at the meeting and was one of the customers with a frozen line. Linda asked if she could share some concerns with the Council. The first concern is about how the water is hooked up and the amount of waste. Todd explained that they had to hook it to the outside hydrant because she does not have a hose bib on the outside of her home. Linda is concerned about her home's foundation because of all the water. She asked if the water could be hooked up through the meter pit instead. Todd said there is not room to hook it up but he said he would look at it again the following day. Linda was upset because there had not been any warning call prior to her line freezing. She is also making sure that the Council is aware that she will be watching the foundation of her home for

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damage. She also explained that she was not getting the service and should not have to pay a base rate. Councilman Pincock explained that the City has to charge the base rate. Councilwoman Hansen explained that if the water line had frozen in the past, Linda should have known to make sure to run water in cold weather. Linda explained that she is concerned and is stating her case. .

### B. Skate & Sports Park – Heather Williams

Heather Williams brought quite a group of people along to talk to the Council about the skate/sports park. She explained that this is a project that she feels very strongly about. She explained that she has formed a committee to work towards this goal and the committee members are at Council this evening. She then had the committee members stand. She then introduced specialist Mark Goddard who drove all the way from Driggs to at council meeting. This project will benefit the downtown of the city of Ashton. It will not only benefit the youth but also benefit the adults in the area. The committee is planning an outdoor recreational plaza that will be completed as a three phase project. The three phases will be intense and it will not happen overnight. The community will all be involved in. Heather went on to explain the benefits of the park including safety and just plain fun. She asked the audience to raise their hands if the ride a bicycle, a scooter, roller blades or skate boards to show how many of those present would benefit. She went on to say that everyone there would benefit.

The first phase of the project is called the skate & bike park. She knows that there is a lot of confusion when discussing a skate park. Heather feels that many are just not educated on the topic. She told a short story about a friend that has been hit twice on their bicycle and someone has been killed on a bicycle. This has made this project very important to her. She feels that there could be a centralized location where these kids could go, play, congregate and get to know each other.

Heather then asked Mark Goddard of Driggs to speak on the topic of maintenance of the skate and bicycle park. He explained that he has been involved with the skate park in Driggs. He said that the oldest concrete in the Driggs park is 12 years old. He maintains that there is virtually no maintenance. He said that in the 12 years he has maybe put in 12 hours of his time and \$100 into maintaining the park. He explained that not a whole lot can go wrong at a skate park if it is built right with good concrete. City Clerk Stegelmeier inquired as to what is done for weed control, sweeping, etc. He explained that the park generally stays fairly clean although it can get a bit dusty but there is not a significant degree of dirt.

Heather had a map and a packet for the Councilmembers. The information included a proposed location for the skate and bicycle park. It would be 12 to 15 thousand square feet large and include a proposal for parking to help to swimming pool area. The information is just an example as they have not made specific plans or layout of the park. Phase 2 of the project is to update or fix up the tennis court area. Both phases will need to go through a negotiation with the property owner who has been contacted and says he is willing to work with the committee. Phase 3 is a walkway around the entire park.

Heather went on to say that we all know that the citizens have elected the City Council and Mayor for a purpose to hear people and work with them. Heather brought a video for the Council to watch. The video showed several people talking about that there is nothing to do in town and that there should be somewhere for kids to go in order to stay out of trouble. Several talked about the recreational things to do in the area but not in town. Following the video, Heather explained that it was put together by several of the youth in the room and thanked the City Council for letting the committee talk to them. She gave the following quote; "A difference starts with one individual and

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one person can make a difference”. She explained that the only thing they are asking of the City Council & Mayor is the go ahead to find the money to spend on the project. All funds to build the park will come from private or other grant sources.

Heather then asked Ann Marie Emery if there was anything she wanted to add. Ann Marie explained that she is really excited. The project is in an area of town where there is a leafy spurge infestation, where unlike most places, it will actually good to pave it over. She feels that there is a lot of hardship in this town for the youth and she wants to support them. She expressed her opinion that no one should ever discourage outdoor youth activity. With this project the youth are taking initiative. They want to fix infrastructure, make the design smart, blend in well and be inviting. They are willing to put in long hours and great work. She feels they will make the Mayor and Council proud.

Councilman Atchley asked the committee if they would want the city to have ownership. He would be concerned with the City’s liability. The committee said that the liability would be easy for the City because it would be just like the City Park. No additional liability.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld inquired as to where the skating would be available. She also wanted to ask more specifics about the tennis court phase. Heather said that they would come back and discuss each part. They want the City involved in every step.

Councilwoman Hansen explained that she thinks that there is a misconception that the Council does not want this project. She said that the Council has contacted other Cities to ask about their skate parks and the answers have been negative. Jori Kerbs asked if the Council has contacted any of the kids that use the parks. Then Heather Williams said that she thinks the other parks have been cited in bad areas. She explained that they have been in out of sight areas, not well lit, etc. There was information about this in the Council’s information from the committee. It also has information about how parks can statistically reduce crime in the cities by huge percentages and reduce injuries also. It was discussed that the location would be great.

Tamra Cikaitoga talked about helping this group find and that they may be able to get Fremont County to help with small things. She is thrilled to say this many people at this meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier inquired as to whether the County would have property and want to help with the project. Tamra said that would be up to the County Commissioners and she does not think the County has any property for this project.

Micki Funke said that she thinks that the City Council should let this group go ahead with this project. Other committee members talked about the money that the project will bring to business owners with kids buying snacks, etc. Also, more kids at the pool.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that if the City’s name is used in order to receive grants, the committee would need to become a City Advisory Committee. They would need to run according to state & city law with the funds appropriated through City administration, public meeting law guidelines met for meetings, public works bidding procedures, City Council approval for decisions, etc. The committee needs to consider this when applying for grants, etc.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion for the group to start working on Phase I and report back to the City Council. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

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Councilman Pincock said if we could have this much support at the meetings it would be great. Mayor Stronks asked many of the youth in attendance to consider joining the Mayor's Youth Council. Councilwoman Hansen explained a little bit about MYAC and said it would be great if some of them would join.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to go back in order. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Stronks returned to Agenda item 2.

C. Garbage Handling – Randy Kirkham

Randy Kirkham is a local business owner who would like to enlarge his business in garbage handling. He made a public records request to get a copy of the City's garbage contract. He is here at Council because the contract is ending soon and he would like the opportunity to bid on providing the City's garbage handling service. Councilman Atchley expressed interest in getting bids. City Clerk Stegelmeier does not remember why there were no bids the last time the contract was up but would be willing to put an RFP (request for proposals) together. Councilman Atchley asked Randy if he had the equipment. Councilman Pincock also thought it was a good idea to go out to bid. Rachel Hatton inquired as to whether Mr. Kirkham would be interested in helping with community events. He said he would. Mayor Stronks thanked Mr. Kirkham and asked Mr. Hansen to go next.

D. PSI Contract Extension – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Todd Hansen

Todd Hansen explained that the PSI has been providing the City's garbage handling since 1999. He explained that the company is based out of Idaho Falls and they try to use local people whenever possible. He says he would be glad to bid and would help with the RFP. He said he is willing to make an extension to the agreement so that the City can go out to bid. He did say that the price may go up depending on what is required by the RFP. Councilwoman Harrigfeld expressed concern that garbage service is a must. City Clerk Stegelmeier inquired as to whether the Council could meet for a special meeting to go over a Request for Proposals and discuss an extension.

Councilman Pincock made a motion wait on extension until a special meeting later in the month. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the Council's schedule with them. A special meeting was tentatively planned for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**6. CITIZEN INPUT:** (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.)

Mamie Jorgensen inquired as to whether the City would consider having a twice a month or once every two week pickup. She said that if she recycles diligently her garbage only needs to be dumped that often. Mayor Stronks said that was a good idea.

Micki Funke explained that she enjoyed being at the meeting. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their concern for the community. She is concerned that the community is shrinking and that part of the problem is communication. She thinks that the Council needs to establish a way of communication. Maybe a marquee with a running banner to catch people's eyes. She also thinks Ashton needs to plan for growth.

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Sara Reinke explained that she is thinking about recreational things. She feels that there are wonderful things going on. She wonders if this a time when should be citizens should look into starting a county recreational district taxing district. Many people in availing themselves of the City facilities such as the pool do not live in or pay City taxes. Just like with the Community Center – it makes more sense for them to help pay for the facility.

Todd Martindale said that more than two thirds of the people in attendance at this meeting were Fremont County tax payers – not City tax payers.

Sara Reinke did say that the City made a great effort last year and there were many citizens pleased with the cleanup that went on. Many concerns heard are about how attractive or unattractive the City is and the cleanup made a big difference.

Mayor Stronks thanked everyone for their comments. He then asked the Council if one of them would volunteer to help him by being available if he is not to attend a subcommittee studying making Island Park a national monument. The meetings are every second Tuesday. Councilwoman Hansen said she would help when she doesn't have school. Councilman Atchley said he would also help when he is available and Councilwoman Hansen is not.

Jerry Funke inquired about the City's Urban Renewal Agency. Mayor Stronks explained that the Agency just updated the Urban Renewal area. There are new plans the first being to finish the Main Street lighting.

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **NEXT MEETING**

- ♦ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 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