

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 20, 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: Teresa Hansen
PLEDGE LED BY: Teddy Stronks

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

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, P&Z Administrator Baldwin, Michelle O'Malley, Sheryl Hill, Marvin Fielding, Jeremy Harris, Mike Doyle, Stephen Pinchard and Darrell Reinke.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

1. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION:

- A. City of Ashton Resolution 17-02 – Personnel Policy Update

Councilman Funke made a motion to that Ashton City Resolution 17-02 be approved. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. 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. City Building Use – Chief Griffel

Chief Griffel was unable to attend the meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the construction should be done soon.

- B. Solar Eclipse Discussion – Police Chief Griffel, Officer Wes Owens, County EMS Bob Foster, Sewer Supervisor Jensen, Water Supervisor Martindale, City Clerk Stegelmeier.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Fremont County Clerk Abby Mace has explained that the commissioners have decided to make an Emergency Declaration prior to the eclipse in order to have the ability to move quickly if there are emergency issues. City Clerk Stegelmeier will bring a declaration for the Mayor and Council to consider at the next meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that maybe the City should get some walkie talkies just in case cell service does go down. Councilwoman Hansen is concerned about some of the older folks, etc. who may not be getting information about the eclipse so they may not be prepared. Mayor Stronks expressed his thought that the clergy would be the ones who could get that information to them better than the City. He asked Councilwoman Hansen if she would contact them. She agreed to contact the local clergy.

- C. Park Grant – City Clerk Stegelmeier,

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the City will be able to donate through machines, etc. as well as some of the projects already in the loop. There will be a survey running in the newsletter to get information from the public on what they want in the park. The Council liked the survey although Councilman Funke would like to add a skate park question. Mayor Stronks explained that the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency will be donating \$25,000 to the project.

- D. Wastewater Project Update – Marvin Fielding

Marvin explained that the project is out for bid and there is good interest from contractors in the project. There is another source of local soil. The Neilsons have offered to let contractors get soil from their adjacent property. That will be really positive for the City's project. Marvin spoke with the contractors in pre-bid meeting last week and has found that it is not feasible that the project will finish this fall. They will start construction and plan for the winter. They will need to make a

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way for things to drain well in the spring. He understands that there is not enough time if they start in the spring anyway. The City will need to discharge effluent this winter. The contractor will get the new aerators operating. Marvin is hoping that the City Council will plan a special meeting on Thursday, July 27, 2017 to accept the bid and get going. Some of the bidders at the pre-bid meeting were: COP Construction, Gale Limb, Toomer Construction, Knife River, Depatco, DL Beck, SL Underground and Timber Construction.

E. Old Post Office – Brad Rankin, City Attorney Angell

City Attorney Angell gave an update on where the City is in the deed process. The quiet title petition is done and as soon as the judge signs it the title company will clear it and everything will get closed. It did take a court proceeding to get it done. City Attorney Angell has looked at the lease agreement City Clerk Stegelmeier sent him and it should work until the sale is closed.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. Sign Ordinance – P&Z Administrator Baldwin

P&Z Administrator Baldwin explained that it has come to his attention that the sign ordinance has not been enforced for some time. He has had a few discussions with others at the City and some of those whom he spoke to advocated doing away with the ordinance. Administrator Baldwin explained that feels strongly that the ordinance should be kept and enforced. His purpose in coming to City Council is to tell them that he is planning on enforcing it and hoping to get direction from them on what to do with the signs that have appeared during the time it has not been enforced. He is wondering if he imposes a fine or does he just bring them into compliance. Councilman Atchley expressed his opinion that the out of compliance sign owners should pay the fees that are listed but if they won't pay the fee etc. then there will have to be fines. Councilwoman Hansen said she is glad that Administrator Baldwin will be enforcing this code. She said there are getting to be a lot of signs. She is also concerned about the alleys and whether people should be using them as part of their property. Discussion continued with discussion on enforcing the code for everyone and not picking and choosing who follows the code. Administrator Baldwin did say he is hoping to amend the code by adding provisions for seasonal signs and banners. Councilman Atchley thought that asking the opinion of some of the businesses that change out banners may help. Mayor Stronks expressed his opinion that educating the business owners and the public will go a long way into helping administer the sign code. The Mayor and Council expressed support for Administrator Baldwin and the enforcement of the sign code.

B. Ball Park Light Discussion – Deputy Clerk Warnke, City Clerk Stegelmeier

In the past, the City has charged \$15 to those who wanted to use the lights at the ball park. Recently, there has been times when other employees have just let people turn on the lights without discussion on the fee. Then when they need lights again, we tell them about the fee and then the people are mad. The City employees need to be on the same page. Do we charge or not? Discussion on the costs and what the lights are needed for went on with the direction to City Clerk Stegelmeier to come to Council with an updated fee schedule for consideration by the Council.

C. Property @161 Pacific Avenue – Deputy Clerk Warnke, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Deputy Clerk Warnke explained that after the property owner died, some extended family members paid the base rates but have now quit. This property will most likely just become one that the bill will be certified to the County and paid when the property changes hands. The property may not be worth enough when it does change hands. City Attorney Angell directed Deputy Clerk Warnke to give the owner a 60-day notice of the removal of services and then remove the services if no communication is received.

D. Transportation Plan Update – Marvin Fielding

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Marvin explained that the last transportation plan for the City was included in as part of a County plan. The City is now eligible for a transportation plan update and has been awarded a grant for a plan. The purpose of a plan is to create a capital improvement list for the City. A capital improvement plan can make it so the City is eligible for other construction grants. The plan will cost \$30,000. Once you choose your consultant you are ready to go and the grant is simple. Once the plan is complete the funding will be sent. There is a term agreement list of consultants that the City can choose from without going out to bid. Marvin would like to suggest that Keller Associates would be happy to complete the plan and are on the term agreement list. Mayor Stronks thanked Marvin for his time.

E. Garbage Discussion – Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle is here to meet the Council. Mike is the new manager at PSI which is the company who provides garbage service for the City. Mike thought this would a good time to make a meet and greet. He introduced Jeremy Harris who explained that he is honored to serve the City and he is committed to keeping safety the number one priority. Deputy Clerk Warnke expressed her appreciation for the new driver and his conscientiousness. The he driver's name is Jim. Sheryl Hill has also enjoyed Jim who is very good to pick up extra garbage, etc. She is concerned because she heard that PSI has a monopoly on large container garbage in Ashton. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the contract between PSI and the City lists that they will be the exclusive garbage service for the City to get the lower price that the citizens enjoy. Jeremy explained that he knows the situation Sheryl is concerned about and that he met the price they were getting with the other service. Contracts help PSI to plan in buying trucks, etc. Stephen Pinchard then spoke about how PSI is the best of the best. PSI feels that they set the standard in this area and they have cameras on the trucks giving them a tool that protects the driver and the citizens. It also allows for live dispatching. Everything is uploaded into the driver's tablet. PSI wants to get involved in the community. Mayor Stronks complemented their donations for special events and how this really helps the community. They spoke about being in the parade next July with a garbage truck. They expressed their willingness to come to any festivity with a truck to show the kids, etc. Mike Doyle then expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for letting them come and talk trash with them. Mayor Stronks thanked them for their time.

F. Scout Project Proposal – Kyle Calhoun

Kyle was not in attendance.

G. Scout Project Proposal – Chris Hansen

Councilwoman Hansen explained that Chris has coordinating with City parks worker Forrest Hall and then he will be coming to Council.

H. Pocket Park Discussion – Mayor Stronks

Mayor Stronks asked the Council how they like the pocket park. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her appreciation for the work and told him she really likes it. Mayor Stronks explained that there are going to be three more trees on the west side of the park and there is the possibility of a sculpture. Councilman Funke said every little town has a sculpture. Mayor Stronks explained that the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency talked to an artist today but that bronze sculptures are expensive. Mayor Stronks wanted to ask the Council if they think putting power in is a good idea for the park. It will be another bill for the City once the City takes ownership. It was discussed that it would be good for Christmas lights, the Dog Derby may use it and other events may want it. There will need to be a cost on the City Fee schedule. It will cost each month for the meter. The Council thought power would be a good idea. Mayor Stronks will take the information back to the Urban Renewal Agency. Councilman expressed his appreciation to the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency on the pocket park.

I. Fireworks License – City Clerk Stegelmeier

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City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the license came in on time and was license fee was paid. Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to approve the Fireworks License for J,J& J. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Newsletter Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the newsletter costs are going up and the post office was asking for a different paper/format. She is wondering if the Council feels that it has been a good way to reach the citizens. Councilwoman Hansen and Councilman Funke feel it has been a good idea. Councilman Atchley does not use it much and he would be fine to get it electronically from the website, etc. It was decided that City Clerk Stegelmeier will put a survey in the next newsletter to see how the citizens use the newsletter and whether they would like to receive it electronically or in print.

K. City Cleanup – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier thought the Council should discuss where they will be taking the cleanup garbage next year. The City Council will be thinking about places where the City may be able to take the cleanup garbage.

L. Budget Workshop Dates – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the Council if they could have a workshop after the bid consideration on July 27th. The Council agreed.

M. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

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

Councilman Funke talked about the weeds around town. He mentioned the following property owners: Warren Moon, Zeta Wilcox, TJ Stronks and Paul Parkinson. He also said the National Guard building property needs weed control. Michelle O'Malley explained that the City has some terrible weeds and garbage behind the City Building that need to be cleaned up – even two old refrigerators. City Clerk Stegelmeier will give this list to Chief Griffel.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Special Council 7:00 p.m. – Thursday, July 27, 2017, Council Chamber, 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
- ◆ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, August 9, 2017, Council Chamber, 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