

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

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

Present: Mayor Stronks, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilwoman Harrigfeld and Councilman Pincock (via phone).

Also Present: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, Rick Paskett, Greg Griffel, Tom Mattingly, Todd Martindale and Del Jensen.

Mayor Stronks called meeting to order at 7:00 pm and excused Councilman Atchley.

1. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Reading of Proposed Ordinance 463-14

Councilwoman Hansen read the ordinance into the record.

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

Del Jensen is at the meeting to talk about the employee insurance. He and the other employees that are here at the meeting are here to ask the Council to pay for the increase in insurance instead of a raise. The employees have not taken a raise in 4 years and last year were asked to participate in paying the increase in their insurance premiums. He has been with the City 14 years and is hoping that the Council will consider his request.

Rick Paskett is asking that the City pay for the raise in insurance premiums this year. .

Doug Hess asked about the lease. Mayor Stronks explained that he should go over it and come back to Council at the September meeting.

Greg Griffel explained that he too is at Council about employee insurance. He explained that the cost of living has gone up – groceries, gas, etc. As employees, they feel that they have been working with the City to keep costs down. The employees have not taken a raise and have been very appreciative of keeping their insurance. Of course, it is a small City and all departments are shorthanded. There is over 100 years of service and loyalty with these employees and they are asking if the Council will pay for the increase in insurance premium.

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the difference in cost from last year until this year. The difference could be made up if each department spent about \$1500 dollars less than is brought in next fiscal year. This could be done by saving on supplies, fuel, electricity, overtime, etc.

Todd Martindale is here to talk about insurance. His insurance went up quite a bit but he is wondering if they can tighten up on the budgets – especially if there is a hard winter. He doesn't know if cut backs can work if there is a serious winter.

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Councilman Pincock explained that the City can only try to plan. He then suggested that the City cover this year's increase but that the employees keep paying what they had since last year. Councilwoman Hansen and Councilwoman Harrigfeld both expressed that this would be a good idea. Savings in every department was discussed and ideas given for ways to save.

Tom Mattingly explained that even this year the police have more budget to spend and they will have some next year. He knows that their department can save and more so that there should be enough to pay for the raise in premium.

Mayor Stronks closed the Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion that the insurance costs for the employees would remain the same and that there would be a concerted effort to cut costs to pay for the raise in premium rates. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION:

A. City of Ashton Ordinance 463-14 – City Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to read the City of Ashton Ordinance 463-14 by title only and dispense with the second and third readings. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hansen read the ordinance into the record.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to adopt Ashton City Ordinance 463-14. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

◆ Special Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, September 10, 2014, Council Chambers. 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