

# MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

7:00 p.m.

714 Main Street

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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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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing will be required which may impact the amount of people able to attend the meeting.

**Please do not attend the meeting if you feel sick or have been around those who have been sick.**

**PRAYER OFFERED BY: Tom Mattingly**  
**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: John Kaelberer**

### CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

**In Attendance:** Tom Mattingly, Teresa Hansen, Jerry Funke and John Kaelberer. Tadd Atchley was excused as he is ill.

**Also, in attendance:** City Clerk Stegelmeier, Police Chief Griffel, Sterling Nielson, Suzanne Brady, Lisa Smith, Rachel Hatton and Rick Miller.

Mayor Mattingly welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

### 1. **AMEND AGENDA: ACTION ITEM**

A. . Construction Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Rick Miller **ACTION ITEM**

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the amend agenda as presented. Councilman Kaelberer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. **CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION ITEM**

*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 Special Meeting Minutes 8-12-2021, 8-17-2021 & 8-25-2021
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Regular Business:

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

### 3. **2022 Liquor Licenses – City Clerk Stegelmeier ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that all the applications in the packet have provided all the materials needed to be approved.

Councilman Funke made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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### 4. **Animal Ordinance Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Chief Griffel **ACTION ITEM****

Councilman Funke wants to change the wording to say 'domestic livestock and fowl excluding female chickens' so as not be discriminatory. Councilwoman Hansen thinks that she likes each animal spelled out so there is no argument. Councilman Kaelberer agrees with Councilwoman Hansen and likes that the animals are listed. City Attorney Angell explained that this ordinance is not part of the development code making it so that a public hearing is not required. Mayor Mattingly asked that City Clerk Stegelmeier put the ordinance on the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.

### 5. **4<sup>th</sup> Street Construction Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Rick Miller **ACTION ITEM****

City Attorney Angell reported that he has spoken to Jerry Rigby who is willing to work with the city in getting started on looking for additional water sources. The city will apply for a water study this year and get started on finding out what is needed. City Attorney Angell explained that the Mayor and Council are headed down the right path on this project.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she had asked Marvin at Keller Associates to report and give costs on projects that they have been working on for the city. The bid for road work was to finish out 4<sup>th</sup> Street south from Main to the alley. The road is narrow and often times there are problems with traffic at the location. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the project was in the budget. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that it was not. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her opinion that it needs to be budgeted for and that the city should look into grants for help with the project. Councilman Kaelberer said that this project wasn't a priority so waiting and looking into different sources for assistance is a good idea.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the wastewater treatment plant was still facing some problems with wipes, etc. and that Keller Associates have been working with Todd and Brett to get a plan for a screen building. The costs included by Marvin also include some aerators for the large pond and replacement of a block of sewer line. The estimated cost of the project is \$950,000. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Rick Miller from the Development Company is here to discuss financing. Rick Miller explained that the city would need to apply with for a Community Development Block Grant through the Idaho Department of Commerce. He has been speaking with Marvin who brought to light the urgency that the City has because of the issues caused by the wipes and rags in the system. The city is having trouble meeting its requirement for compliance with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Right now, the DEQ has been patient and is trying to help the City solve the issue. Rick and Marvin have spoken with Willie Tuescher at the DEQ and have some more ideas to help. Mr. Tuescher is willing to work with the city especially as we try to work through getting funding, etc. The process starts with applying for the grant. As part of the application the city has to show that it has matching funds for the grant. The city would need to either use city funds or bond (get a loan) for the matching funds. The bond process includes either a bond election or as an alternative – asking a judge for judicial confirmation. The grant applications are due in November and in the spring, they will let the administrator (the Development Company) if the city will be allowed to file an addendum for the final process. If the grant and funding are secured – then design starts with construction probably in 2023. The bonding agency would be either the DEQ or possibly the USDA. City Clerk Stegelmeier reminded Rick that the Corps of Engineers have worked with the city on wastewater funding in the previous project so they may be interested in helping with this project. Rick said he would contact them. Rick explained that the grant process may be easier as the city has just completed the last grant. City Clerk Stegelmeier expressed her thought that that should mean

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that the grant administration fee might be less. Rick said he thought he could work on it. He will get back with the Council at their special meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion that the city have the Development Company start preparing a Community Development Block Grant for the Ashton Headworks project. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### ~~6. P&Z Report – P&Z Administrator Bowersox~~ **ACTION ITEM**

### **7. Visitor Center Discussion – Sterling Nielson, Suzanne Nielson**

Mayor Mattingly called on Sterling and Suzanne to speak with the Council about the summer at the Visitor Center. Suzanne explained that the last three months have been fun. Just the interaction out at the Visitor Center has been fun. They have met people from all over the country. They were not able to do some of the events, etc. that they talked about as they did not have much lead time. It is really fun. They did have a good summer in running the food truck and are hoping to work with the city again next summer. Councilman Kaelberer asked if it was something else they would like to do next year. They know how to advertise well now and want to expand to 2 or 3 locations. They will come back to the city to discuss some more through the winter in preparation for next summer. They ended up manning the Visitor Center for the most part and can't believe they gave out 1000 Idaho maps – the traffic through the center is incredible. Mayor Mattingly asked if they were able to check in with the antique sale. Sterling said they are hoping to work on that for next summer. Councilman Kaelberer is the Council liaison for the Visitor Center so he checked on them throughout the summer. He saw that they were helping visitors and was pleased with their work. Sterling explained that is point of emphasis was to be an extension of the Chamber and try to get everyone to go through town to check out the businesses on their way to Mesa Falls. Sterling reported that Brenda Montano, the owner of El Rincon, said that many people said they heard about her restaurant at the Visitor Center. Suzanne and Sterling want to get the visitors to spend a little of the vacation money here in Ashton. Councilman Funke asked if they had a guess of how many of their customers were local compared to tourists. Sterling replied that he thought it was about 40% local and 60% tourists. The locals were great to support them and it was so nice to work with the city workers. They met great people and enjoyed their summer.

### **8. American Dog Derby Discussion – John Scafe**

John Scafe said that 2022 will be the 105<sup>th</sup> running of the American Dog Derby. He has been keeping in touch with the Department of Corrections and does not think that the work camp will not able to assist again this year at the Derby. He is concerned that he won't be able to hold it downtown. His concerns are moving snow and takes a lot of volunteers. John is asking the Council that if the committee gets the volunteers, would the city be able to move the snow? The Council is willing to help but also expressed that as the date gets closer, there will be changes – hopefully for the better. John went on to say that the American Dog Derby is mentioned at all dog races. Ashton is the destination place. There are several junior mushers and love coming here. Next year's dates will be February 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>. The committee and city will discuss working together as the event gets closer.

### **9. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier** **ACTION ITEM**

### **10. Executive Session – City Attorney Angell**

I.C. 74-206 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.

**(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.**

City Attorney Angell has no information to discuss in executive session.

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Councilman Funke explained that there is a trailer on Walnut Street right out on the street. Mayor Mattingly has already discussed this with the police. The police will contact them.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- ◆ City Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, October 13, 2021 Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton.
- ◆ Questions concerning items appearing on these Agendas or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meetings 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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Tom Mattingly  
Mayor