

# NEWS FROM THE CITY



City of Ashton

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2



## FROZEN

In Ashton, the frost line or the depth that the groundwater in soil is expected to freeze is usually four feet. Snow cover can insulate the ground so that the frost depth is lessened but there is not much snow yet this year. Also, many residents move the snow in order to make parking easier which makes freezing easier. When the ground freezes, water lines can freeze also.

Moving water does not freeze as easily as standing water. The City water mains are running much of the time but many homes may not have water moving through their service lines at all times. This is where running a dripping faucet may help.

Letting the cold water in a faucet drip can

prevent frozen service lines. The drip can be very slight and can be adjusted depending on the weather forecast. If the weather forecast calls for colder weather, the faucet should be adjusted to a larger drip.

Since the frost depth is deeper with each below freezing day, it may be necessary to continue to let a faucet drip until spring arrives.

Some lines have frozen in the past here in Ashton. The City helped those residents to thaw the lines when possible or provided hoses and coordination with their neighbors to provide water to their homes. Billing for the water cost is then done by first averaging the past water use of the neighboring

home then after the meter is read, taking that average from the current water use. The average use is then charged to the neighbor and the remaining is charged to the user borrowing water.

It may take until spring for frozen lines to thaw. The cost of digging up the lines, the risk of freezing during & after the trenching and the mess caused by the digging are serious considerations. In most cases, waiting for the spring thaw is preferable.

**The City encourages residents to use their own judgment in deciding when to run a drip to prevent frozen water lines.**



### FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Calendar Key

City Council Meeting	Yellow
Public Hearing	Cyan
Utility Bill Payment Due Date	Red
Utility Bill Mailing Date	Green
City Building Closed	Orange
Holiday Garbage Pickup	Purple



NEWS FROM THE CITY

# ASHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Greg Griffel

Greetings and happy New Year.

I would like to remind residents to park your vehicle's as far off the city right of way as possible for plowing purposes. The street crew spends a lot of time and effort to clear our streets so let's make it as easy as possible for them. This winter the snow is deep so the plow crew requires more of the city right of way to push snow back. Remember to remove your garbage cans from the street, the plowing crew is not responsible for moving them for you.

This winter our department has received several complaints about residents pushing or

blowing snow in to the street or right of way. When you do this your snow is carried from your property by the city plow to your neighbor's driveway. There is an ordinance against this action and you can be prosecuted for the violation. Please be courteous.

Our department has also received complaints in reference to overnight and long term parking on Main Street. The city has an active ordinance that states parking is limited to 2 hours between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. with no parking on Main Street between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am. This is subject to a possible fine and or

towing of your vehicle if violated. If your vehicle is towed the tow and impound fees are your responsibility. Ashton has limited parking and the Main Street business owners require the parking spaces for their customers. Remember, it is also a violation to park a vehicle on any city right of way that interferes with snow removal at any time of the day or night. You can be subject to a fine and towing of your vehicle for this violation.



## DOG LICENSE RENEWAL TIME IS HERE!



# 2022

It is time to renew all City of Ashton dog licenses. Every dog in Ashton is required to be licensed. Licenses are sold at the City Building and cost \$7.50. Any dog owner who is known to have failed to license

their dog is subject to a minimum fine of \$25.00. (Ashton Code 6.08.20) **The 2022 Ashton dog license is green.**

Additionally, even if the dog is licensed, dogs are required to be on your property or on a leash of less than 10 feet. If not, the dog is considered running at large. Any dog caught running at large is subject to impoundment by the

City dog catcher.

If you have any questions, call the City Office at 652-3987.



The city snow removal crew would like to say THANK YOU to our community. They reported, "The kind gestures and the thanks that people show us as we plow makes a long day so... much easier."

The City of Ashton is thankful to everyone for all the wonderful things they do—for each other as well as for our snow removal crew.





# PUBLIC HEARINGS 101

BY P&Z ADMINISTRATOR BOWERSOX



We have a great pamphlet at the city with some suggestions and strategies for participating in public hearings. Stop by and pick one up so you can participate in your city's governance. You can also find the City of Ashton Municipal Code with our hearing requirements on our website. In the meantime, here are a few highlights.

### What is a Public Hearing?

In short, a public hearing is a legally-required opportunity for the public to hear and respond to a something being considered for the city. Such hearings are conducted in accordance with Idaho and Municipal Codes in a pre-set format. Planning & Zoning hearings are conducted in a quasi-judicial capacity: the governing body judges requests against duly enacted laws and standards.

Hearings are recorded and later transcribed into official minutes which can be obtained at the City of Ashton City Business Office.

### How Do I Participate?

Every citizen has a right to be heard on a given request. In fact, it is the responsibility of all citizens to participate in their governmental process. Pubic hearings are announced in the newspaper, by mail,

and for Planning & Zoning, by posting a notice on the property involved. Once you see this notice, you can come by the city office to review any documentation or plans. You can submit written comments or questions at least 5 days before the hearing. You can come to the hearing and sign up to give your comments in favor, neutral, or against the request. Be sure to get your comments into the record before the hearing is closed. Once the hearing closes, discussion must be limited to the presiding body and staff and no public participation can occur.

### What Can I say, or Not?

You will have to state your name and address for the record. You do not have to live inside the city to voice your comments. Your comments must directly address the subject at hand, as opposed to

general comments about the city government or requirements, and not be repetitious with other comments already in the record. You should focus on how the request does or does not comply with the law rather than whether or not you personally like the applicant or the request. Your comments should not be personally malicious toward the requestor or the governing body. It is wise to keep your emotions under control and treat the presiding body with respect. You will generally be given a time limit to speak (usually three minutes). Testimony not complying with these standards may be declared out of order and be required to cease.

The City of Ashton looks forward to your participation in upcoming Public Hearings.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at or about 7:00 PM on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022, in the City Council Chambers, 714 Main Street, Ashton, Idaho, the City Council of the City of Ashton, Idaho, will hold a public hearing to consider the following matter:

CLASS II PERMIT APPLICATION – A Good 2 Go gas station, designed for high traffic on a 6.92-acre lot with two fueling canopies, the secondary canopy being diesel pumps. Truck parking and RV dump will be provided on site. Building to include convenience store and branded food tenant. Both will have drive-through windows.

The purpose of the public hearing is so that the City Council may receive public comments and testimony pertaining to this application. A copy of the application is available for public review at the Ashton City Building located at 714 Main Street, Ashton, Idaho. **THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND, AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS ENCOURAGED.** Written comments will be accepted and considered if received in the Ashton City Clerk's Office, 714 Main Street, Ashton, ID, no later than five (5) working days prior to the meeting; written comments not received by that date will need to be presented at the public hearing in order to be considered.

Any person needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact the Ashton City Clerk's Office seven (7) days prior to the public hearing meeting.

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Cathy Stegelmeier  
Ashton City Clerk

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# Tractor Envy

One of the City's younger citizens has been enjoying the snow removal equipment. As the City crew starts their plowing schedule, Waylon runs to the window and watches each do their job. At times Waylon's nose and hands get quite cold while pressing up to the window to watch!

City Wastewater Supervisor,

Brett Griffel, operates the City's grader. He took some time last month to drive the grader over to Waylon's house so that Waylon could see it up close.

I think everyone can agree that that both Brett and Waylon had a great time!



# Gone to the Dogs

Ashton City Police Detective Greg Belew and Officer Mako gave a demonstration at Ashton Elementary this week.

Officer Mako is a certified drug dog who helps officers detect when suspects are transporting illegal drugs in their vehicle. Detective Belew assists Officer Mako and is trained to know when Mako finds illegal drugs. Officer Mako then gets a chance to play with his favorite ball toy as a reward. After the demonstration, the children

all got a chance to pet and say hello to Mako themselves.

Officer Mako loves his job.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular City Council meetings are held each month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For specific dates & other meeting information please refer to our website: [www.cityofashton.com](http://www.cityofashton.com)



## CITY OF ASHTON

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