

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

6:00 p.m.

714 Main Street

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. Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda 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

PRAYER OFFERED BY: John Scafe
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
PLEDGE LED BY: Teresa Hansen

In Attendance: Tom Mattingly, Teresa Hansen, John Scafe and John Kaelberer. Jerry Funke was excused as he is out of town.

Also, in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, Detective Belew, P&Z Administrator Bowersox, Kurt Eidam, Tim Eidam, Todd Martindale, Marvin Fielding, Robyn Fielding, Nate Finley, Susan Sullivan, Andrea Simpson, Rachel Hatton and Sheryl Hill.

Mayor Mattingly welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. **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 Meeting Minutes 11-09-2022, Minutes 2-8-2023
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – before 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 Scafe 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.

1. **Wastewater Screen Project Discussion – Marvin Fielding, City Clerk Stegelmeier, Justin Angell, Todd Martindale ACTION ITEM**

Marvin Fielding is here to discuss the City's wastewater screen project. Todd, Michele and Justin have been taking some samples at the lagoons. The screen project is to include fixing the disinfection problem at the site. There has been a problem with disinfection prior to land applying the effluent. There could be two issues – the first would be that there is not adequate treatment or a problem with the chlorination set up. They are getting additional samples so that we can find which issue needs to be addressed. Marvin expressed his thanks to the crew as he knows it has been rough at times because of the snow. Once the things melt out, Marvin and his team would like to come up and spend some time testing the disinfection during land application and find out if there needs to be some modification to the disinfection or treatment systems. Because of the need for this testing, etc. the project design has been delayed. They are hoping to finish with testing in mid-June. They then would be able to finish the design in time to pre-bid walk through and bid opening in mid-October. That way the contractors could see the site prior to the winter and have time to order equipment and have it make it by the time to do spring construction. There are long lead times on equipment lately. They are confident that if they have all the equipment, it could be completed in one construction season. They want to be confident that they are addressing the right problems. Mayor Mattingly understands that there has been an issue with disinfection but the problem to begin with was that a screen was needed. The screen would be prior to the disinfection so he is asking why the wait on the

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screen part of the project. Marvin said that the headworks building needs to be coordinated for the electrical for the evaporators & aerators. The design is underway but with the testing they will know whether the aeration needs to be in first, second or in the big pond. Mayor Mattingly explained that he had thought that they made up their mind on the screen. They have done a topographic survey and rock survey. The sewer line out to the ponds has an area that is flat, with no natural fall in slope. The screen needs approximately 6 inches of fall. Part of what they may have to do is to replace the 15-inch sewer line to make sure that there is no back up. Councilwoman Hansen asked about the testing. Marvin explained that they need to do testing to see how or why the current system is not working. Councilwoman Hansen suggested that they be able to do the walk through and bid by September to beat the snow. asked that they finalize the plans by September to make sure that the walk through and bid can be completed prior to the snow. Councilman Scafe is concerned about the extra sewage from the new construction, etc. He wants to make sure that the City is planning on future expansion. He knows that the schedule is not what the Council had hoped for but he thinks it is what is necessary to get it right.

2. Visitor Center Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Adam Zaragoza, Sterling Neilson

ACTION ITEM

Adam Zaragoza, the Management Services Administrator for the Idaho Parks & Recreation Department is here to speak to them about the Visitor Center. As the Council is aware, Idaho Parks & Rec have been discussing with the Council about a lease to purchase agreement with the City for the Visitor Center. He has now had the chance to take the information to the Idaho Parks & Recreation Board. The good news is that the Board was and is excited about the opportunity. Adam asked City Clerk Stegelmeier if the Council had talked about the proposal for rent for the time until the Department and Council have completed the lease to purchase agreement. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that in prior meetings she had explained the proposal to the Council. She then reminded that Council that the Department is proposing to pay \$500 per month for the time being until an agreement is finalized. During this time (hopefully just a year) an appraisal and then negotiate terms. The City during this time will be deciding on whether the City will sell the trailer sewer dump to the Department and what the proposed sewer fee amounts would be for this dump. They will need to have some time to work through what to charge. Mayor Mattingly then asked Adam what the proposed date was for the start of the rent payments. Adam said that it would be July 1st because that is the start of the state's fiscal year. They would like to move their park director, Abby, into the Center then so that she can start using it as her office. The Mayor proposed having the Department just start the summer season – usually opening on Memorial Day – at the Visitor Center without rent payments until July. He would like them there, with the Center open, to hand out brochures, etc. for the City and the Chamber of Commerce if possible. Adam said he will go back with that proposal but that he thought it would work for the Department. The Department board is excited about the Center and the upgrades that are coming this year to the Ashton to Tetonia Trail. They have a three-million-dollar economic development grant that they are investing in the trail this year. They are really excited about this opportunity. He said if it is alright with the City, he will speak with the Attorney General's office about getting a written agreement started. Mayor Mattingly said to have them run it by the City Attorney and we will work it out. There will still be some work on figuring out how to run the trail through the City. That will be worked out as things go forward. Mr. Zaragoza explained that the budget has still not been approved by the legislature but everything looks good so far. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained some of the little items that they may discuss with Abby earlier. She then introduced Sterling to Adam and Abby to work together.

3. City of Ashton Ordinance 500-23 – Banking Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Idaho Code requires that the City's depositories must be listed in the City Code and this will update the depositories in the code. She then explained that the City would like to apply for different credit cards through a local bank. Councilman Scafe said he likes that we are working with a local bank.

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Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to read the City of Ashton Ordinance 500-23 by title only and dispense with the second and third readings. Councilman Kaelberer seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hansen read the ordinance into the record by title.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to that Ashton City Ordinance 500-23 be approved and published. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

4. American Dog Derby Discussion – Councilman John Scafe *ACTION ITEM*

John reported that it was a spectacular year for the American Dog Derby. There were a lot of people. Over 500 people went through the Henry's Fork Museum! The committee worked great, the community was great and there were no complaints. It will be hard to top this last year. He appreciates the City and all the help they gave. People couldn't say anything but great things about Ashton. He appreciates everyone and all their support.

5. P&Z Discussion – P&Z Administrator Bowersox, City Clerk Stegelmeier *ACTION ITEM*

P & Z Administrator is here to give Council an update. It has been quiet with just a few Class 1 permits. The North Fork Village development has started but has not gotten that far due to the winter. The other big thing is that the Commission will be holding a public hearing next Wednesday at 7pm to hear comment on changes to comp plan and municipal code that would allow residential use on the ground floor in the Community Core Zoning District. Because it is not a property specific issue, the Council can attend that meeting. Administrator Bowersox sent a letter and explanation to every business owner on Main Street. The Planning & Zoning Commission will hear it then make a recommendation with them. If they vote to recommend it for approval then there would be a public hearing before the council at the April council meeting. Councilwoman Hansen asked that if they do go to the meeting, would they have to declare a conflict of interest. City Attorney Angell explained that it would be the Council acting in their legislative capacity. They would be working to issue new legislation. You get to act as a legislator and are not limited to the information that comes to council that night.

6. Roof Discussion – Mayor Mattingly *ACTION ITEM*

Mayor Mattingly wanted to mention at Council that citizens should be making sure to take a look at their roofs. There has been a roof that collapsed. The roof collapsed at the old Maupin gas station. He asked City clerk Stegelmeier to put this information in the newsletter. Councilman Kaelberer expressed his appreciation for the police. They have been checking the roofs around town and letting property owners know if they see a problem. He appreciates their work in keeping everyone safe.

7. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier *ACTION ITEM*

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the upcoming schedule with the Council.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Tom Mattingly
Mayor