

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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: Teresa Hansen

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PLEDGE LED BY: John Kaelberer

In Attendance: Teresa Mattingly, Teresa Hansen, John Kaelberer, John Scafe and Nate Finley.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, P&Z Administrator Denney, Chief Griffel, City Attorney Angell, Teddy Stronks, Paul Sorensen, Justin Angell, Terry Thames and Andrew Rogers.

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 5-14-2025, Special Meeting 5-29-2025
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted

Councilman Kaelberer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception paying the bill from Harper Leavitt Engineering at this time. Councilman Finley 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. Fibercom Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Paul Sorensen

Mr. Sorensen here to show to speak to the Council about Fibercom. Fibercom is a company which would like to bring fiber communication lines into the City of Ashton. Fibercom would like to run the lines in the City road and/or alley property. Citizens who would like the service would then be able to subscribe and Fibercom would run the service into their homes. There would be no cost to the City for running the lines and the only cost to the citizens would be the monthly costs of the service they ask for. Service starts with a one hundred per minute service for \$39.95 and goes up from there. Councilwoman Hansen is skeptical of a 'free' service and asks what the 'catch' is. Mr. Sorensen explains that he is of the understanding that Fibercom is hoping to cover as much area as possible with the service because they are getting federal funding at this time and want to grow their assets. They want to become the internet service provider for eastern Idaho. They need to get fiber in the ground to get the assets to meet this goal. City Attorney Angell asked if Fibercom wants a franchise agreement with the City. Mr. Sorensen says they do not. He brought a copy of the agreement that Fibercom would like to have with the City and if everything looks good, Fibercom would like to sign with the City. Fibercom would be installing all the lines and connections and have estimated that it will take a month to complete. Councilman Scafe asked if Fibercom is speaking with other cities. Mr. Sorensen said they are and he is going to Parker, Teton, St. Anthony, Island Park and Newdale to speak to their councils. Councilman Scafe asked again if

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it would be free to the customer for installation. Mr. Sorensen said the installation would be free but they would then have a monthly bill for the service. Councilman Kaelberer asked about routers. Mr. Sorensen said he was not sure but he thinks the monthly cost covers the router.

Councilman Kaelberer made a motion to put Fibercom on the agenda for more discussion next month. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Ashton Urban Renewal Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Teddy Stronks

Teddy Stronks is here to want to ask the council about some of the projects being considered by the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency. They have sent aside some money from their first district to complete the sidewalks to the alley on the east sides of both 5th Street and 4th Street. They have been looking for a project for the other district. They would like to do something in the park. They are wondering if they can replace the old pavilion. Mayor Mattingly explained that he is not sure it needs to be replaced. He would like to have it inspected by the City's inspector, Blake Bowman. Mayor Mattingly said that there are many in town who really love the old pavilion. Councilman Scafe said that he thinks it needs to be inspected to make sure that it is safe. Councilman Kaelberer explained that the City is going out for a grant and hoping to complete some of the other projects at the park. There is the parking on the north and west as well as the parking lot on the South. Also – maybe adding some features to the pool area. Teddy said to come to them when we have more ideas for budget, etc. Mayor Mattingly asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to set up an inspection.

3. Abatement Discussion – 401 Main Street – City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, Chief Griffel, Nathan Ricks *ACTION ITEM*

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she kept this item on the agenda for the Council to remember the timeline that they gave Mr. Ricks. Next month will be the end of the 90 days that was given to Mr. Ricks to clean up. There has been some work but there are still issues. The Council discussed having Mr. Ricks come to the next meeting.

4. Fourth of July Discussion – Chief Griffel, Imperial Club Representative *ACTION ITEM*

Terry Thames from the Imperial Club is here to ask the Council for permission to close 5th Street from Main Street to Idaho Street on July 4th for a festival to go along with the 4th of July celebrations. They are planning to have food trucks, bands and family-oriented activities. He is also asking for a liquor catering permit so that the Imperial Club can sell beer. Chief Griffel explained that he has met with Terry and other members of the Imperial Club a few times. He sees no issues with their plan and everything looks good. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the Opera House was going to be open. Terry replied that all the activities would be outside. They are going to be putting up some large tents in the grassy area to the west of the Opera House. The music will end at 10 pm and everyone will watch the fireworks.

Councilman Scafe made a motion to approve closing 5th Street from Main Street to Fremont Street on July 4th from noon to 11 pm. Councilman Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Finley made a motion to approve a liquor catering permit for the Imperial Club for July 4th from 10 am until 11 pm. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Sign Safety Project Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier *ACTION ITEM*

City Clerk Stegelmeier reported that she, the Mayor and Chief Griffel met with Mark Loosli from JM Construction. He will be starting soon on the sign project and seems to be ready to do the project. He is planning to complete the project on time. Chief Griffel did want a few more stop signs and City Clerk Stegelmeier will get them ordered. Councilwoman Hansen asked for a clarification on the date the project will be complete. City Clerk Stegelmeier replied that the contract reads that the project will be completed by the 30th of September.

6. Water Study Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Kyle Jones

Kyle Jones was not at the meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier will remind him to be at the next meeting.

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7. Wastewater Screen Project Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Justin Angell, Jaden Jackson **ACTION ITEM**

Wastewater Supervisor, Justin Angell, explained that the final walkthrough at the lagoons is complete. The aerator on pond 2 does need some work and the electrical should be completed next week. The evaporators are fully functional but the pond is not full enough to use them yet. They are installed and fully functional. Councilwoman Hansen and Councilman Finley expressed interest in touring the facility. Justin said to call him and set a time for him to show them around.

8. Planning & Zoning Report – Mayor Mattingly, P&Z Administrator Denney **ACTION ITEM**

Administrator Denney explained that things have been quiet with the only active project being the Tyler Teske project. Tyler’s plans look good and meet all the requirements. Administrator Denney asked for the Council’s input on the comprehensive plan update for a meeting he is having with the City’s consultant. The Council will discuss it more at the next meeting.

9. Text Communication Report - City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the Council if they had been pleased with the text messages that have been sent. The Council said they received them. Councilman Scafe is pleased with the service.

10. FY26 Budget Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the Council to schedule an upcoming work meeting on the budget. She has included some of the items that each department is looking at purchasing in FY2026. She will not receive the final income tax estimates until late July. City Clerk Stegelmeier will put all the numbers that are known to the Council in a draft budget and then the final budget meeting will be in late July.

11. Council Schedule – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

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

12. Executive Session – City Attorney Angell **ACTION ITEM**

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 City of Ashton to discuss legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation.

There was no business for an executive session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 6:57 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

Cathy Stegelmeier

City Clerk

Tom Mattingly

Mayor