

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, August 13, 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: Tom Mattingly

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PLEDGE LED BY: John Scafe

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

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, P&Z Administrator Denney, Chief Griffel, City Attorney Angell, Teddy Stronks, Rachel Stronks, Mark Loosli, Rick Miller, Matt Young, Jess Jason DeGeorge and Taci Stoddard.

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 7-9-2025, Special Meeting 7-30-2025
- B. **Treasurer’s 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 still excepting 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. Park Grant Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Taci Stoddard, Rick Miller **ACTION ITEM**

Rick Miller is here to talk to us about an ICDBG grant for upgrades and some improvements at the Ashton City Park. The applications for the grant are due on September 19th so they will need to get everything together quickly. He is here to get more of an idea of what the City Council is hoping to complete with the grant. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there were still some elements from the last park grant that the City had not been able to finish. Mostly parking on the west and north of the park. Rick explained that the last time, the grant officers were not that interested in granting money for parking. City Councilwoman Hansen inquired about their reasoning. Rick said that although for ADA they are understanding but they would rather help with amenities to the park. The bulk of the grant though, the Council and Mayor agree, should be spent on updating the decks, etc. at the pool. The Mayor had worked with Blue Cross of Idaho last summer to get a \$20,000 grant which could be used as match for the ICDBG proposal. Rick and Taci will be back at the meeting on August twenty-seventh to discuss the park project further.

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve a contract with ECIPDA for grant application work. Councilman Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Rotary Flagpole Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Matt Young, Teddy Stronks**

ACTION ITEM

Teddy Stronks is here to discuss putting a flagpole near the rotary sign in their flower bed close on the corner of Hwy 20 and Main Street. They are hoping for the City's support while working with the Idaho Transportation Department on a permit. Next year will be the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and it will be a great time to celebrate our country. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the Rotary is prepared to move the flag to half-staff, etc. when required. Teddy said they would and that it will be lit for night, etc. Matt Young then arrived and reiterated what Teddy had told the Council. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the flower bed was going to be staying. Matt said that it would be but that it was going to be smaller and some of the bushes, etc. would be removed. He said the City would be receiving a letter and asked that the City support the Ashton Rotary Club in this endeavor. Councilman Scafe said it is a good project and the other councilmembers agreed.

3. **Visitor Center Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Jason DeGeorge, Jess Brumfield**

ACTION ITEM

Jess Brumfield re-introduced himself to the City Council. He is the manager of Harriman State Park as well as the Ashton to Tetonia Trail. He introduced Jason DeGeorge, who is the new ranger at the Ashton to Tetonia Trail taking over from Abby Rossman. Jason comes from Bear Lake State Park. Jason is going to be living here in Ashton and running the Ashton Visitor Center. He will be the City's point of contact and oversee the day-to-day operations at the Center. The Council discussed the renovations and new buildings at the Center with Jess.

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

ACTION ITEM

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Mr. Ricks did come into the City office and report that he had been able to sell the property. The new property owner is from Rexburg and the City has received a demolition permit for the building on the property. They did look into saving it but it was not able to be saved. They are hoping to build a building that will look nice and be a nice addition to Main Street.

5. **FY2026 Budget Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier**

ACTION ITEM

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that following the Council discussion, she had gone over the budget and updated the numbers. There will need to be some savings used in order to balance the budget but it is ready to be published.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve Notice for Budget Hearing and publish it. Councilman Kaelberer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Sign Safety Project Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Mark Loosli**

ACTION ITEM

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the project is almost to an end. Mark Loosli is the contractor on the project. He explained that all the sleeves for signs have been placed but they need a few more posts, longer posts, for those signs. There are also some other signs that are needed. City Clerk Stegelmeier and Jaden have been working with the State to get the materials that are needed. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that they do not have any dates for delivery yet. Councilman Kaelberer asked if there were a lot of trees that had to be moved. Mark said that there were about seven or eight but people were understanding. Councilwoman

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

COUNCIL MEETING

Hansen said that the signs look nice. Councilman Scafe said that he was worried about whether all of them could be placed according to the laws. Mark explained that there were a couple that had to have an adjustment but that it worked out well in the end. Councilman Kaelberer expressed his appreciation for the job well done.

7. Water Study Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Kyle Jones **ACTION ITE**

Kyle is here to discuss the water study with the City Council. He brought an 80% completed study. He went over it with the council. He then asked the council if they should go through it and give him any input. The next step is to get a few answers from Todd about the well and then get some costs together. Councilman Kaelberer asked about the well capacity. They discussed the two wells and projections for the future. There will need to be a public meeting prior to the study being finalized and sent to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. After discussion, Kyle will come back to the budget hearing meeting on August 27th and then to the September 10th meeting. The Council will decide on a date for a public meeting to talk about the study later in the month.

8. Wastewater Screen Project Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the report from Keller Associates with the Council. They then discussed getting a generator for the wastewater screen facility. City Clerk Stegelmeier will be working on that and report at the next meeting.

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

Administrator Denney had a few updates for the Council. The first is that the P&Z Commission finalize a draft for the Comprehensive Plan and then they will decide on their recommendation to you for approval or denial. Councilwoman Hansen asked if he was happy with the draft and he said he is happy with it. Administrator Denney then explained that there has been an application and approval of two duplexes on the corner of Walnut and Second Street.

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

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

11. 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.

Mayor Mattingly asked City Attorney Angell if an executive session was needed. City Attorney Angell explained that there was no need for an executive session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 7:13 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Tom Mattingly
Mayor