

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (North Entrance)

*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.*

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PRAYER OFFERED BY: Teddy Stronks
PLEDGE LED BY: Jerry Funke

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Teresa Hansen, Tadd Atchley, Jerry Funke and Tom Mattingly.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Marvin Fielding, Lisa Smith, Rachel Hatton, Letha Whitmore and Jaden Jackson.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7pm.

1. AMEND AGENDA

- A. 5. NEW BUSINESS: D. Nuisance Ordinance Concerns – Councilwoman Hansen, Police Chief Griffel
- B. 6. Old Business – Transportation plan discussion – Jaden Jackson, Marvin Fielding

Councilman Atchley made a motion to amend the agenda to include the items listed. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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 10-3-2018
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted

Councilman Atchley made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.

- A. Ashton Resolution 18-04 – Updated Garbage Rate Schedule

Mayor Stronks opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

Sheryl Hill, 238 Idaho Street in Ashton. Sheryl is sure that the raise is not negotiable because of the new Fremont County landfill fee. The County has reduced the fee on the taxes. Taxpayers will compensate for the increase being asked for PSI. Sheryl has a Facebook page for Ashton civil engagement. Sheryl expressed her understanding that the City has raised the garbage rate for several years at a rate of 3% per year. This 3% has already been applied for this year. Increases are really hard for people on fixed incomes. She knows the purpose of this hearing is to address the garbage rate increase, but perhaps to ease the burden on Ashton citizens the Council could consider rescinding the 3% increase for this year. It would only drop the annual increase by 70 dollars. She knows this is a lot to consider in 3 minutes.

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Mayor Stronks asked if there were any other attendees who would like to speak. There were none. Mayor Stronks closed the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

4. ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION:

- A. Ashton Resolution 18-04 – Updated Garbage Rate Schedule – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Jeremy Harris

ACTION ITEM

Mayor Stronks asked Jeremy Harris from PSI if he would like to speak about the rates. Jeremy explained that for PSI and the City this was an unforeseen rate change. It is strictly a pass through increase due to the rise in rates at the Fremont County Landfill. He asked the Council and City Clerk if there were any issues with PSI's service. There were none.

Councilman Atchley made a motion to adopt the rate schedule as presented. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Ashton Resolution 18-05 – Pocket Park Deed – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Mayor Stronks, Sara Bowersox

ACTION ITEM

Councilwoman Hansen is concerned about the City taking ownership of the park. She explained that when the park brought to the City's attention, the Agency talked about fixing it up for 10 years. Both Councilman Atchley and Councilman Funke expressed that they also remember a 10 year commitment. Councilman Funke is concerned that the City does not have the personnel to take care of another park. City Attorney Angell wanted to make sure the Council understands that the City will need to keep the pocket park as a property that is dedicated to the public. They will not be able to sell it to be used for any other purpose. Councilwoman Hansen is concerned that the park won't be able to be taken care of as it is now. Councilman Funke wanted to ask what the costs were this year. Mayor Stronks explained that the major cost is the City water fee which was around \$900 a month with usage. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the City taking over the park does not make that cost change. The cost of water treatment is the same throughout the City. Councilman Funke is still concerned that the City does not have the employees to do the upkeep it needs. He firmly believes that the City should take time to decide how they are going to take care of the park. Mayor Stronks asked Sara Bowersox to speak. Sara explained that she was appointed to the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency in mid process on the pocket park. She did not know that the Agency had made any commitment to keep the park. She explained that the committee is made up of 5 people and is not structured to be a property owner. The Agency committee members are really very pleased with the outcome. She explained that the mowing, etc. was provided by Grover's Landscaping and cost around \$1,200 for the year. In the month of November the Agency paid 511 Main for electricity for the tree and nativity. The Council discussed the need to make a master plan for the future in making sure that the City is prepared. Councilwoman Hansen would like to wait and discuss the issue more. Councilman Atchley explained the City needs to get a plan together and get it in the budget.

Councilman Mattingly accept Resolution 18-05 and continue to use a contractor to take care of the park.

Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. Councilman Funke and Councilwoman Hansen, Nay; Councilman Mattingly & Atchley, Aye; it is a tie vote. Mayor Stronks votes aye. The motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

- A. Senior Center Parking – Beth Wright, Senior Center Board, Police Chief Griffel ***ACTION ITEM***
- Beth Wright is here to inquire about having a permanent handicapped space on Main Street in front of the Senior Center. They currently have a sign but it is not a permanent fixture and the police have no way to enforce it. Police Chief Griffel suggests that the space further east be the handicap space. He will contact the ITD with the Council's approval and get back with the City and the seniors with

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more information.

- B. 2019 American Dog Derby – John Scafe **ACTION ITEM**
John Scafe explained that the Dog Derby committee has met and are making plans for the next race. It will be held the 14th, 15th and 16th of February, 2019. The committee is hoping for more snow. Right now they are going to be selling buttons at the Spirit of Christmas and they will be attending the Banff Film Festival at the Colonial Theatre to promote the event. Everything is looking good so far. The Mayor thanked John for his time.
- C. Blue Cross Grant – Mayor Stronks **ACTION ITEM**
Mayor Stronks explained that he completed his steps and will receive a \$1000 dollar grant from Blue Cross as well as qualify for \$10,000 grant. There is also another grant that Blue Cross does that is called a Community Transformation Grant. It is about promoting that health isn't limited to doctor's offices, it starts at home. Rexburg received the grant they created a park for little kids. Mayor Stronks would like to work on some things like maybe a bike path or new playground equipment. He would like to apply. He is asking if the Council is OK with him applying. He would like to use the \$10,000 on the tennis court. The Councilmembers are in support of him applying for the grant. Councilwoman Hansen congratulated him on accomplishing the walking goals.
- D. **Nuisance Ordinance Concerns – Councilwoman Hansen, Police Chief Griffel**
Councilwoman Hansen explained that she had received some calls and texts about a property that is in a residential area that had commercial vehicle use. Police Chief Griffel explained that he has been working with the property owner and 5 or 6 vehicles have been eliminated. Chief Griffel will continue to monitor the situation. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her appreciation and is glad there is progress being made. She also explained that she asked the complainant to come to the meeting but they are not present.

6. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

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

- A. Archives Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Police Chief Griffel, City Archivist Barbara Moon, Tom Howell, Linda Janssen, Bernetta Hansen and Margaret Howe **ACTION ITEM**
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there hasn't been a resolution as to an area for the Ashton Archives. Police Chief Griffel explained that he came to the Council about a year and a half ago to explain that he is running out of storage space. There are new state mandated rules on storing evidence. All sexual assault evidence has to be kept and the police only have a small refrigerator. All of the evidence lockers are full. Evidence must be kept in a locked locker and locked in the evidence rooms. Barbara explained that she was never opposed but need to know where to go. There are boxes and etc. that could be stored. She will need someone to come and help move things but she is open to another space. Tom Howell explained that for a year or two we have talked about combining the two together. He is concerned about space in the museum and there would not be telephone or internet service. He would be willing to work with the City but space is limited. Councilwoman Hansen said maybe the City could work with the library on space. Maybe even talking with them about the Archives themselves. Councilman Atchley thought the City could start the conversation but we need to move soon. Tom Howell explained that this is the best functioning archive in the County. City Clerk Stegelmeier was asked to call around and see who can help us getting going right away on getting what is done online and seeing if the City could meet with the Library board. The Council set January 1st as a target date to get moved into storage.

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- B. Wastewater Project Phase I Progress Report – Marvin Fielding, City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**
Marvin Fielding reported that Phase I of the Wastewater Project is wrapping up. There was a progress meeting held earlier this week. There is a concern that they are 30 days behind schedule which is problematic for the City under a compliance order. The contractor pulled off the crew to another project. Marvin has been in continual contact with them but has not had a resolution. There is a liquidated damages clause in the contract and the City may have to follow through on the clause. It is frustrating to see that they pulled the crew off when there is good weather. Councilman Atchley's opinion is that if they are done by November 30th then the City should charge damages. City Attorney Angell asked if a letter from the City Attorney would be helpful. The Council asked City Attorney Angell to write a letter explaining that the City will expect to be paid for damages if the project is not completed by November 30th. Councilman Funke inquired as to whether the City can hold back payment until completion of the project. There is 5% retainage withheld until project is done.
- C. AURA Sidewalk Progress Report– Marvin Fielding, Rick Miller, Jaden Jackson, City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angel **ACTION ITEM**
Jaden Jackson explained that the sidewalk project looks good and is done on time. All that is left is for them to take away the traffic cones. They have sent over the pay request but there are some items to complete prior to payment. Jaden will get everything submitted to LTHAC to complete the grant process. Councilman Funke shared his concern that the pedestals where the street lights will go seem dangerous. There needs to be some safety cone or something there so people don't get hurt. Police Chief Griffel says there is a need now for no parking signs by the Medical Center. He will get some ordered.
- D. City Park Project Report – Marvin Fielding, Jaden Jackson, Pauline Johnson, City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell **ACTION ITEM**
Jaden explained that the asphalt has been laid on the south and west of the park as well as curb and gutter and handicap parking. They are going to start on east side of park but the main line for the sprinkler system is located where the parking will go. They have submitted a change order in the amount of \$956 to move the line. Councilman Atchley said that is a good price for the work. Councilman Funke is concerned about erosion on the slope by the pool. There was talk about mowing, etc. in that area.
Councilman Atchley made a motion to accept the change order to move the main line for the sprinkler system at the City Park on the East side. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. [Transportation plan discussion – Jaden Jackson, Marvin Fielding](#)
The City Council has had a month to look over the Transportation Plan. They offered suggestions to amend it to include the future paving of Railroad Avenue. It will have to be done in phases as it will be a large project. Jaden will be submitting some grant applications for the City for next year.
Councilman Funke made a motion to approve the City's updated Transportation Plan. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Bank Bids – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**
City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the Council to look over the bids in order to make a decision next month.

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7. REGULAR BUSINESS/EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

- A. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**
City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council.

8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers will bring items to be discussed with the other Councilmembers & Mayor. No action should be taken on these items as they have not been specifically listed on the agenda.

There was no discussion.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Special Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 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:

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Theo R. Stronks
Mayor