

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

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: Brett Pincock
PLEDGE LED BY: Becky Harrigfeld

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Brett Pincock, Teresa Hansen, Becky Harrigfeld and Tadd Atchley.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Michelle O'Malley, Jerry Funke, and Sheryl Hill.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

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 Regular Council Meeting Minutes 11-11-2015, 11-16-2015.
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted
- E. **Budget Report** – Worksheet showing the revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year to date

Councilwoman Hansen inquired as to the Keller & Associates billing. She wanted to know if the charges were for the 3rd Street improvement project. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the first amount (\$1,606.50) was work on the 3rd Street project but that the other charges (total of \$4,383.75) were for the Wastewater Treatment Plant study.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

2. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. P & Z Commission Member – Mayor Stronks

Mayor Stronks explained that he has asked James Reynolds to serve on the P&Z Commission Board if the Council will appoint him. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her thoughts that James would be a good addition to the commission.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to appoint James Reynolds to the P&Z Commission. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

3. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

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

- A. Election Results from County Clerk – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she had forgotten to ask the City Council to formally accept the results of the election from the County. This is still new to the City (this is the 3rd election ran by the County) and City Clerk Stegelmeier had forgotten that an acceptance was required.

Councilman Atchley made a motion to accept the election results from Fremont County. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

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B. Dog Derby – John Scafe

John was not present at the meeting.

C. Electric Car Station – Billy Stronks

Councilman Atchley explained that Billy had contacted him for assistance as Billy is ill. Billy asked Councilman Atchley to tell the Council that he has met with Ben Burke at the state (Idaho Dept. of Transportation). Ben has told Billy he has no problem with having the charging stations at 511 Main. He has given Billy a permit application to fill out. Councilman Atchley explained that the City now needs to make it official and then come up with something with City Attorney Lookabaugh. Councilwoman Harrigfeld explained that something in writing should be received prior to making any more decisions through Council. Councilwoman Hansen agreed and then asked if there would be a fee involved. Councilman Atchley and Mayor Stronks did not think a fee was necessary. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that this is a new request to the Council and that they need to deliberate on what they think is a fair decision. There are several considerations to letting a business owner use public property and certainly one consideration is that a fee could be charged. Councilman Atchley explained that the Council could accept the proposal pending receipt of written information from the state or they could call Ben Burke to find out if it is going to work. Councilwoman Harrigfeld and Councilwoman Hansen said they felt more comfortable waiting until the state process is complete. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that then they could meet and negotiate with Billy. Councilman Atchley said that City Attorney Lookabaugh would need to help the City get started. There is the costs of installation, where exactly the stations will be located and liability issues to start negotiating. Councilwoman Hansen wondered if City Attorney Lookabaugh would be able to negotiate this lease as she is out of town. Mayor Stronks explained that City Attorney Lookabaugh can get it written.

4. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. Water & Sewer Service at 958 Highland – Tim Mower

Mayor Stronks asked if Mr. Mower would like to come to the pulpit or speak from his seat. Mr. Mower chose to speak from his seat. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Mr. Mower had spoken with her several times concerning the home that Heidi Bainbridge used to own here in Ashton. Heidi had had the water & sewer services disconnected several years ago to avoid the base rate costs. As the Council is aware, if the services are removed – a new service connection fee is required prior to connection to the services. The City Council has allowed others in the past to pay ½ the cost down with monthly payments then to pay it off. She explained that Mr. Mower had expressed concern over being able to make \$200 payments along with his bill and that is why he is at Council. Mr. Mower explained that that is not the only reason. He is wondering if he could pay less than half to start or if the fee could be removed for him. Councilman Pincock said that the fee has to be charged but that the Council could work with him. Mr. Mower asked if he could do \$500 down and then small payments each month – unless he has extra which he would pay it down with as he has extra. Councilman Atchley asked how much the Sanders family had paid per month on their hookup. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that their monthly payment was \$100 and they completed their payments in September 2015. Councilwoman Hansen asked how long that would take to pay it off at \$100 per month. Councilman Pincock said that the remaining \$2,500 would take him a two years and a month. Councilman Pincock asked Mr. Mower if that schedule sounded like something that could work for him. Mr. Mower said that it was and thanked the Council.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that the City accept \$500 down payment on water & sewer hookups at 958 Highland with the remaining \$2500 paid at \$100 per month along with the regular billing on the services. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Turkeys for Giving Tree – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the Red Hats have asked that the City donate \$300 again to

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them for purchase of turkeys to give to needy families with the Giving Tree program. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her opinion that this is a worthwhile project and she feels the City should continue to donate.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to donate \$300 to buy turkeys for families in need in Ashton.

Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. USDA & DEQ Loan Information – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there is a balance left on the 1991 water bond of \$14,345.46. City Clerk Stegelmeier would like to use a savings account (as per the bond agreement) that is associated to this bond (as per the bond agreement) to pay off the balance. City Clerk Stegelmeier spoke to the City's auditor who agrees with her that paying the bond off is a good idea. City Clerk Stegelmeier would need the Council to make a motion to have her pay it off.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to pay the USDA 1991 bond in full. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk Stegelmeier then explained that the DEQ has offered the City more loan forgiveness on the last water project. She has accepted but wanted to keep the Council informed. Councilwoman Hansen asked if there was something the DEQ wanted in return. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that it was grant money that wasn't utilized in the program and they offer several of the entities that have loans a percentage of that amount. She also explained that they are probably thinking about Ashton quite a bit because of the sewer project coming up and that Ashton will need to borrow again.

D. Meter at the High School – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that when the High School was put in, they put in a 4 inch meter in order to irrigate the football field. The school did not utilize the meter (except for a drinking fountain) because they used the irrigation ditch instead – and of course now they have the pipeline which is even better. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that for several years the City has tried to explain to the school that perhaps they would want to change that meter to a smaller meter. The school is finally paying attention and is asking to change out that meter for a ¾ inch meter. However, they would like to complete the change in the spring when it is easier. Councilman Pincock expressed his opinion that they need to pay for that meter until they put in the smaller meter. Councilwoman Hansen explained that she thought as long as they are paying a base rate – even the smaller base rate- she thinks it is fine. Councilwoman Harrigfeld explained that it is all tax money anyway – the citizens will have to pay up for the bigger meter.

Councilman Atchley made a motion change base rate at the school irrigation meter to the base rate for a ¾ meter while they are waiting to change the meter out. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. Harrigfeld, Hansen and Atchley voted for, Councilman Pincock voted against. The motion carried.

E. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the City Council. Mayor Stronks reminded City Clerk Stegelmeier about a phone conference with the DEQ on the 17th. The DEQ and the Dept. of Commerce want to talk to the City about the funding options available. The meeting is at 11 am and Mayor Stronks would like the Council to attend. The Council discussed their worries about another project and the potential to have to raise rates. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the City would not know a lot about the rates until the wastewater treatment plant study was completed.

Councilman Pincock asked Sheryl Hill if she had anything to add. Sheryl explained that she is still working as a volunteer for the City and is now on a committee to assist the DEQ in developing documents for when they take over primacy on the NPDES permits. She was on a 3 hour conference call last week and then had spoken with an AIC representative earlier the day of Council. Sheryl is

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hoping to discuss ways that the AIC can provide support to smaller cities. She told the Council that the legislators have explained that since the City had failed years ago to renew their permit, the City is just going to have to live with the consequences. She explained to the AIC representative that small cities simply do not have the resources that many of the larger cities have and that is part of the problem. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her opinion that the citizens of Ashton should not still be paying for that past mistake.

Sheryl said that the Henry’s Fork site study is ongoing. The city is just getting to the point of seeing what happens during the winter out at the lagoons. She did explain that there were minnows found as the site was drying out last summer. Councilman Pincock asked if they tested them to see what kind of fish they were. Sheryl explained that they were chubs – definitely not salmonids. The study will continue for two years so that there is a clearer picture of whether the stream is perennial or intermittent. She does not know if that will have a lot of bearing on a project.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she thinks that the engineers are finding that there are other problems at the site with needs for updating of equipment, etc. There will still probably have to be some sort of work done at the site even if it won’t be work to change the ammonia levels for discharge.

Mayor Stronks said that Jeff Siddoway has contacted him again to say that he is looking for funding for the City’s possible project. Sheryl agreed that the legislators have been actively looking for funding for the City.

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that whatever funding is found – base rates will have to change to support repayment of the loan/bond. Councilwoman Hansen explained that she still wants to fight it as the base rates are getting so hard to afford for everyone. Everyone agrees.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ♦ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton. Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meeting 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