

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

7:00 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.*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing will be required which may impact the amount of people able to attend the meeting.

ALSO: Temperature screening will be required.

Please do not attend the meeting if you feel sick or have been around those who have been sick.

PRAYER OFFERED BY: Tadd Atchley

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PLEDGE LED BY: Jerry Funke

In Attendance: Tom Mattingly, Jerry Funke, Teresa Hansen and John Kaelberer.

Also, in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Chief Griffel, Detective Owens, Detective Belew, Brenda Belew, Destin Belew, Megan Stark, Curtis Calderwood, Jason Minzgher, Kris Eiding, Lisa Smith, Greg Crites, John Scafe and Rachel Hatton.

Mayor Mattingly welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:01 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 Special Meeting Minutes 1-13-2021
- 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 to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Funke 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.

2. Police Officer Appointment & Oath – Mayor Mattingly, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Mayor Mattingly administered the oath of office for Detective Belew. He then expressed his appreciation for Detective Belew becoming a part of the Ashton Police Force. Detective Belew also has a canine partner, Mako, who will be assisting our police force in keeping everyone safe.

3. ITD Discussion – Megan Stark, Jason Metzgher, Jeremy Pettingill ACTION ITEM

Jason Metzgher explained that he is Idaho Transportation head engineer for our district. He then introduced Chris Calderwood who is the project lead for the expansion of the highway to 4 lanes from Chester to just south of Ashton. Chris explained that the ITD is just finishing up the environmental assessment hoping to complete it this fall. Once completed in the fall then they will pursue the funding which they estimate will be slated for 2023. Councilman Funke expressed his hope that the speed limit through Ashton on US 20 could be lowered to 35 mph. Jason Metzgher explained that the traffic studies that have been done do not

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

support that speed but that the new traffic light will help the situation. Chief Griffel inquired about the timing for the light project. It should be in 2023 also. Chief Griffel then asked about the number of lanes, etc. Jason Metzgher explained that there will be 2 lanes in each direction with a light. Chief Griffel does think that the light is the best alternative but is still concerned about speed because of how the road turns right before Ashton. Jason explained that 45 mph is pretty standard with signage will be an alert with yellow lights. There will be a prepare to stop sign and lighting. Councilwoman Hansen expressed her concern that the speed still needs to be lower because there is a school and school buses as well as large trucks coming around the corner. It was decided that the ITD should come and explain more about just the light project another time. Jason Metzgher then went on to a project from Ashton to Targhee Pass. The ITD will be working on modernize the highway from Ashton to Targhee Pass. They want to reach out to the stakeholders. The first step will be a study to identify the environmental concerns. For instance – they know they need to expand the road but trying to figure out what that expansion should look like. Detective Owens asked if the ITD could work more on the condition of US 20. There has been a lot of accidents due to the potholes and patches. The road problems and the patching were discussed.

4. Park Restroom Update – Councilman Funke, Marvin Fielding, Jaden Jackson **ACTION ITEM**

Councilman Funke has met with the engineers, City Clerk Stegelmeier and Parks Supervisor Smith. He is trying to get everything done to submit to the financing. He would like to get the financing finalized in hopes of getting the work done this spring. He hopes it will be a decent facility that will look nice and attractive. It will be ADA compliant. He described the current design and explained that there is a restroom at Ennis that looks like the design. He will have more information in March.

5. Sidewalk LTHAC Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Marvin Fielding had called to explain that LTHAC is talking about having some larger monies for projects for this grant season. Marvin thought it would be a good idea for the City to again submit an application to repair the Main Street sidewalks. City Clerk Stegelmeier wanted to inform the council about this possibility so they could garner more information on discussion through the month.

6. American Dog Derby – John Scafe **ACTION ITEM**

John Scafe explained that through much deliberation and checking trails he and the committee have found that there is not enough snow for the race in the fields with no base to the snow. It was not going to be safe for mushers or dogs to be start the race in town. The race will start at Bear Gulch. The mushers are excited and the committee already has 20 signed up. The American Dog Derby will be basically the only game in town as many of the other races have been cancelled due to COVID. The registration will be at the Community Center at 2 pm on Thursday and the race will start at 9 am on both Friday and Saturday. There will not be much parking/room for spectators but this is the best alternative in the current situation. Councilman Funke asked where the race goes from Bear Gulch and John explained it briefly. Councilwoman Hansen asked if more help is needed. John said they think that they are set and ready to go.

7. IMR Snowmobile Race – Kristopher Eidinger **ACTION ITEM**

Kris Eidinger is ready to go with the snowmobile race if the City Council will allow it. City Attorney Angell explained that he has found that since the race will be on private property the City really has no stake in whether they can have it or not. It is the liability of the race promoter and property owner. Kris expressed his thank to the city for the snow that was taken to the site earlier. Chief Griffel is still concerned about parking. City Attorney Angell explained that parking on the City streets will still be handled as per usual and so the promoter will need to get signage, etc. to make sure that people are well aware that there will be no streets closed for parking and that parking violations will be cited as per usual. There was some discussion

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

about spectator parking on site. Kris said that there is not usually a lot of spectators on Friday but there will be on Saturday. He will see if parking can be had on site and will advertise/have signage about parking limitations. The hours are roughly 10 am to 4 pm but usually racing does not start until 11 am. The groomer and loader will start of the track next Wednesday.

8. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council.

9. Executive Session – City Attorney Angell

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 public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.

City Attorney Angell said there was no need for an executive session.

Detective Belew asked if the City Council would like to meet Officer Mako (police dog). Mayor Mattingly suggested closing the meeting and anyone who would like to meet Mako could stay.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 7:52 pm.

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ City Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, March 10, 2021 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

Tom Mattingly
Mayor