

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, July 8, 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: Becky Harrigfeld
PLEDGE LED BY: Tadd Atchley

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

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Lookabaugh and Sheryl Hill.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 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 6-10-2015, Special Meeting 6-30-2015
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As Submitted

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

2. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

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

- A. 3rd Street Improvements RFP – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Marvin Fielding
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the proposal from Keller Associates had been updated to the Council's requests from the last meeting. Councilman Atchley explained that the pre-bid walk through is the key when hiring the contractor. Councilwoman Hansen is still concerned about the cost of engineering. She would like to ask the owners of Reinke Grain if they would be willing to help with the costs. The Council agree that they need to meet with Reinkes about the road. Councilwoman Hansen thinks that an onsite meeting would be the best. City Clerk Stegelmeier will make an appointment with Marvin and the Reinkes to meet on site on July 21st at 7pm.
- B. Tree Trimming Bids, Tree Board Meeting – Tree Board, Del Jensen, City Clerk Stegelmeier
Mayor Stronks excused himself as his son has been the person requesting tree trimming, etc. He asked Council President, Councilman Pincock, to act as chair for the discussion. Councilman Pincock explained that besides himself, the Tree Board is not present. However, the Tree Board has met with Mr. Bates from the state and Kurt Shultz and in the end, after the commotion, it was determined that the tree will have to removed at the same time as the trimming is done. City Attorney Lookabaugh inquired as to which tree and Councilman Pincock noted that it is the maple tree at 511 Main. The tree can grow 40 feet high and have a large root system so the Tree Board determined that it has to be taken out. The Board had asked about the tree being taken out, about saving the tree and were told that there is not a spade that would work – they would need to rip out a lot of pipe and road. Councilman Pincock said the City will need to look at the other trees

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and what potential concerns might be coming up. Then those trees may need to be removed also. Councilwoman Hansen inquired as to why the wrong trees were planted. She had understood that the trees were planted with information on what trees should be planted for the conditions in the City of Ashton. She feels that care will need to be taken in deciding what trees to replant. Councilman Atchley thinks there will need to be a plan for replanting that is user-friendly. Councilwoman Harrigfeld asked if the tree will need to be removed if the City keeps it trimmed. Councilman Atchley said that all the trees need to be trimmed or Main Street will look funny. Councilman Pincock said the tree needs to be removed. City Attorney Lookabaugh inquired as to whether a nursery would want to buy and transplant the tree, maybe it would be feasible for them. Councilwoman Hansen is concerned about what trees to plant. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the Council could ask the Lenz's what trees they planted as they were allowed to leave trees on the City property because they were street trees. Councilman Pincock said that many times one expert will say one thing and the next expert says another. Councilman Atchley explained that it also depends on environment. The maple by Billy's restaurant is growing large while some of the maples are not as big. The City may never know what each tree will grow like. Councilman Pincock said they should saw the tree down, remove the stump and plan to replant a new tree with next year's budget. Councilwoman Harrigfeld inquired as to what it would cost to have the tree removed. Councilman Atchley said it would probably be \$400 maximum. He went on to say that in the future the tree trimming will not be as expensive as it will be this time because it will be done on a yearly basis. The Council will need to budget for it each year. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there is a budget for this each year – when the Tree Board plans their year they can plan for it. Councilman Atchley says that if the City waits longer to remove the tree it will be harder to remove. He thinks it will not be any more cost than trimming the tree would be but that if they are going to cut it down, they should go for it now.

Councilman Atchley made a motion to cut down the Maple tree west of 511 Main. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Stronks was asked to join the Council and Councilman Pincock explained their decision. The Mayor and Council then went over the bids for tree trimming. Mayor Stronks explained that the bidder should be insured but the Council is not bound to take the lowest bid. He has heard that Lawn Tech and Upper Valley do not have arborists. City Attorney Lookabaugh explained that she has had both Lawn Tech and Zundel do work in her yard and they both did a great job. Councilman Pincock explained that if there is a local bidder, the Council has used the local bidder on more than one occasion. City Attorney Lookabaugh wants to make sure that the bidder has the insurance and equipment to do the job, she doesn't want the City stuck with liability. Councilman Pincock said that the bidder will especially need the right equipment. Councilman Atchley would like to use Kurt Schultz. Mayor Stronks agreed and explained that Kurt works for Trees, Inc. and that his boss is going to help. Councilman Pincock said that if Kurt is insured that would work and said that Zundel is local also. Councilman Atchley said that he likes that Kurt is self-owned and a call away. Councilwoman Harrigfeld feels that using a local business is an investment in the community.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to accept the bid for tree trimming from Kurt Schultz. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Museum – Tom Howell, Darrell Reinke, Fremont County Historical Society members
Mayor Stronks, Councilwoman Hansen and City Clerk Stegelmeier met with the Tom Howell, Garth Blanchard and Darrell Reinke on the 7th. They went through the contract and document that the Historical Society had brought and City Clerk Stegelmeier will type a rough draft reflecting the changes. The document will then go out to City Attorney Lookabaugh, the Historical Society members and City Council. There will be another work meeting on July 21st to continue work on

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the document. Councilman Pincock explained that he and Councilwoman Hansen had met with Barbara Moon (the City's archivist) concerning the Archives. Barbara is very concerned about the move and has legitimate concerns about security, storage space, etc. Mayor Stronks explained that he, Councilwoman Hansen and City Clerk Stegelmeier had spoken at the meeting about her concerns and he asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to give the example she had given at the meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she had worked at the ISU Library while attending college. On her Saturday shift – the entire shift was spent looking for lost books. The books were not gone from the library, rather they had been misplaced by a patron trying to replace it on the shelves. Many times they would be within 5 books out of place. It is easy for someone to misplace items in a collection so that they cannot be found. Councilman Pincock explained that it may be more important to get the museum collection, etc. in the building, then decide if the Archives are going to move there. Discussion returned to the fundraising for the museum. The Historical Society has still not brought any fundraising plan/information to the City. Councilwoman Hansen said that the work meeting did get a little heated at times but explained that no one left the meeting angry.

- D. Mosquito Abatement – Councilwoman Hansen, City Clerk Stegelmeier
Councilwoman Hansen explained that she had asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to contact the mosquito equipment/spray company to get more information as a result of last month's meeting. City Clerk Stegelmeier has included his reply to the questions in the Council packets. Councilwoman Hansen read the email to the Council. She went on to say that the news reported some cases of the West Nile virus already showing up in the Pocatello area. Councilman Pincock said that he is concerned about the bees. He has not had many mosquitos show up at his home. Councilwoman Hansen would still like to spray. She would like to meet with someone at the City in St. Anthony to find out and maybe try spraying this year. She thinks that we can still be ahead of the big amount of mosquitos. Councilman Atchley said that he would like to look into other companies, etc. find better prices on sprayers & spray. Mayor Stronks asked Councilwoman Hansen to report on what she finds out at the meeting on July 21st.
- E. Past Due Accounts – City Clerk Stegelmeier
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the past due accounts will be placed as a tax lien against the properties as discussed. Mayor Stronks explained that he has had some complaints about weeds. City Attorney Lookabaugh explained that she would prepare a letter and have it served by Police Chief Mattingly.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that anyone with a weed complaint give a written complaint to the City, then a letter with a photo will be sent to the property owner. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

- A. FY2016 Budget – City Clerk Stegelmeier
The Council will go over the budget at the July 21st meeting.
- B. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier
Mayor Stronks explained that Steve Rees had inquired as to whether the City would be liable if one of the Senior Citizens fell on the sidewalk when they put out the no parking signs for parking on senior lunch day. City Attorney Lookabaugh explained that the property owner would need to make sure that the sidewalk was kept well as it would be the property owner that is liable. City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the Council's schedule with them. Special emphasis was given to the City's budget hearing on August 26th at 7 pm.

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4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

I.C. 67-2345 *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.*
Personnel

Councilman Pincock made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called: Pincock - aye, Atchley - aye, Hansen - aye and Harrigfeld - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk Stegelmeier was asked to leave until the session is completed.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that all P&Z enforcement be done by letter with prior approval by the Mayor. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 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