

NEWS FROM THE CITY



City of Ashton

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 12

PUBLIC HEARINGS 101

BY P&Z ADMINISTRATOR BOWERSOX



We have a great pamphlet at the city with some suggestions and strategies for participating in public hearings. Stop by and pick one up so you can participate in your city's governance. You can also find the City of Ashton Municipal Code with our hearing requirements on our website. In the meantime, here are a few highlights.

What is a Public Hearing?

In short, a public hearing is a legally-required opportunity for the public to hear and respond to a something being considered for the city. Such hearings are conducted in accordance with Idaho and Municipal Codes in a pre-set format. Planning & Zoning hearings are conducted in a quasi-judicial capacity: the governing body judges requests against duly enacted laws and standards.

Hearings are recorded

and later transcribed into official minutes which can be obtained at the City of Ashton City Business Office.

How Do I Participate?

Every citizen has a right to be heard on a given request. In fact, it is the responsibility of all citizens to participate in their governmental process. Public hearings are announced in the newspaper, by mail, and for Planning & Zoning, by posting a notice on the property involved. Once you see this notice, you can come by the city office to review any documentation or plans. You can submit written comments or questions at least 5 days before the hearing. You can come to the hearing and sign up to give your comments in favor, neutral, or against the request. Be sure to get your comments into the record before the hearing is closed. Once the hearing closes, discussion must be limited to the presiding body and staff and no public participation can occur.

What Can I say, or Not?

You will have to state your name and address for the record. You do not have to live inside the city to voice your comments. Your comments must directly address the subject at hand, as opposed to general comments about the city government or requirements, and not be repetitious with other comments already in the record. You should focus on how the request does or does not comply with the law rather than whether or not you personally like the applicant or the request. Your comments should not be personally malicious toward the requestor or the governing body. It is wise to keep your emotions under control and treat the presiding body with respect. You will generally be given a time limit to speak (usually three minutes). Testimony not complying with these standards may be declared out of order and be required to cease.

The City of Ashton looks forward to your participation in upcoming Public Hearings.



DECEMBER 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

JANUARY 2022

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FEBRUARY 2022

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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

Calendar Key

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| City Council Meeting | Yellow |
| Public Hearing | Cyan |
| Utility Bill Payment Due Date | Red |
| Utility Bill Mailing Date | Green |
| City Building Closed | Orange |
| Holiday Garbage Pickup | Purple |



NEWS FROM THE CITY

ASHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Greg Griffel



Old man winter will undoubtedly appear this year so let's be prepared for winter road conditions and low temperatures. It's important to have blankets, warm coats, flares, a shovel, snacks that won't spoil (granola bars) and water in your vehicle just in case you are stranded. Remember to check weather conditions between destinations. With our winter conditions you could be stranded close to your home with no help so please be prepared. Do not drive around "road closed" gates and signs. If you get stranded and require help you may be risking first responder's safety as well as yours. Disobeying road closure

signs is a criminal act.

Drive safe and slow down when conditions are slick or snowy. Give yourself ample time for braking, stopping, turning and entering intersections. Please watch for pedestrians at the crosswalks. Please be cautious driving the back streets and watch for children playing in the snow. The speed limit on all of our back streets is 20 MPH but drive for conditions.

If you are leaving town this winter for warmer weather, please be sure the doors on your home and outbuildings are locked. If you are leaving for an extended period of time, you

may contact our office and ask for our department to keep an eye on your property.

Christmas is just around the corner so be aware of the date your packages are being delivered to your residence to avoid the possibility of someone else collecting and enjoying your Christmas gifts.

Happy holidays.



Wipes and Wastewater



Remember these photos from last month? There are still wipes ending up at the wastewater facility. These wipes are causing serious problems.

There are now products that are sold to replace toilet paper. These products usually have the term 'flushable' on the packaging. Many customers also think Sanitizing wipes and baby wipes are

flushable. Of course, these products will flush down your toilet BUT they are not biodegradable.

As the wipes arrive at the City's wastewater treatment facility they often get caught in the large fans (or aerators) which are used to help process the sewage. This can stop the aerators and sometimes burn up (ruin) the motors.

Stopping the aeration also affects the ability of the facility to process (or digest) the sewage in order to clean it for use on the city's land application site.

These pictures were taken at the city's wastewater treatment facility on November 4th, 2021. The first picture is of the boat that the oper-

ators take to get out to the aerators to try to pry the wipes out of the motors. This will be even harder as the freezing and thawing becomes worse through the winter. The second photo shows the wipes wrapped on the blades of an aerator.

It is difficult to work on the aerators. The city's public works department employees spend many hours trying to keep the facility working.

Please only flush toilet paper and human waste. Anything else can cause problems with the sewer system.





FROZEN

In Ashton, the frost line or the depth that the groundwater in soil is expected to freeze is usually four feet. Snow cover can insulate the ground so that the frost depth is lessened but there is not much snow yet this year. Also, many residents move the snow in order to make parking easier which makes freezing easier. When the ground freezes, water lines can freeze also.

Moving water does not freeze as easily as standing water. The City water mains are running much of the time but many homes may not have water moving through their service lines at all times. This is where running a dripping faucet may help.

Letting the cold water in a faucet drip can prevent frozen service lines. The drip can be very slight and can be adjusted depending on the weather forecast. If the weather forecast calls for colder weather, the faucet should be adjusted to a larger drip.

Since the frost depth is deeper with each below freezing day, it may be necessary to continue to let a faucet drip until spring arrives.

Some lines have frozen in the past here in Ashton. The City helped those residents to thaw the lines when possible or provided hoses and coordination with their neighbors to provide water to their homes. Billing for the water cost is then done

by first averaging the past water use of the neighboring home then after the meter is read, taking that average from the current water use. The average use is then charged to the neighbor and the remaining is charged to the user borrowing water.

It may take until spring for frozen lines to thaw. The cost of digging up the lines, the risk of freezing during & after the trenching and the mess caused by the digging are serious considerations. In most cases, waiting for the spring thaw is preferable.

The City encourages residents to use their own judgment in deciding when to run a drip to prevent frozen water lines.

CITY CODE ONLINE

Did you know that the City Code is available on the City website www.cityofashton.com?

The City Code has been online for a few years and is very user friendly. The code is updated yearly and can be searched by keyword.

To access the City Code, go to your web browser and type in <http://cityofashton.com>. After the website loads, click on the CODE tab. You can then look through the chapters by clicking on the left side of the page or use the

search option.

If you have any questions, please call the City Building at 652-3987.





Getting Ready

Not ready to start thinking about snow? Well, if we start now, we will be prepared! The City has ordinances in place to help both the citizens and city snow removal team to keep the streets open.

Here is a list of reminders to make/keep winter plowing better for everyone.

1. Cars, trucks, boats, trailers and other misc. items need to be removed from the city right-of-way.
2. Any personal items (**including mail-boxes**) in the City right-of-way need to be removed.
3. Garbage cans need to be removed from the street as soon as possible after being dumped.
4. When removing snow from your driveway, do not blow or plow snow onto the City Street. **Citations will be given.**
5. The City of Ashton is not liable for damage of any sort to your personal property when left in the City right-of-way.

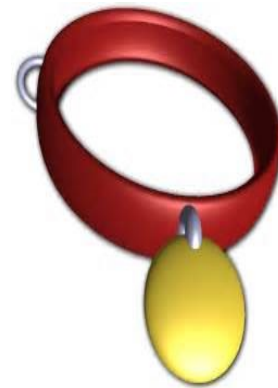
Thank you in advance for making winter plowing easier and better!

The City Building will be closed December 24th & 27th, 2021 for the Christmas Holiday.



We will also be closed December 31st for the New Years holiday.

Merry Christmas



2022

The City is having a **DOG LICENSE SALE!** City Residents may purchase their 2022 dog licenses at the City Building for

\$ 7.50.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular City Council meetings are held each month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For specific dates & other meeting information please refer to our website: www.cityofashton.com



CITY OF ASHTON

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