

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

6:00 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. Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda 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*

PRAYER OFFERED BY: John Kaelberer

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PLEDGE LED BY: Teresa Hansen

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

Also, in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, Chief Griffel, Todd Martindale, Jim Mullan, Kyle Jones, Nate Finley, Taylor Hansen, Kennalee Hansen, Susan Sullivan, Abby Rossman, Kirsten March, Mariah Hilliard, Adam Zaragoza, Joseph Blackburn, Rachel Hatton, Rick Miller and Taci Stoddard.

Mayor Mattingly welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:00 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 Meeting Minutes ~~11-09-2022~~, Minutes 4-12-2023
- B. **Treasurers Report** - As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted

Councilman Kaelberer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Scafe 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.

1. **Frozen Water Discussion – Taylor Hansen, Kennalee Hansen ACTION ITEM**

Taylor and Kennalee appreciate the Council listening to them this evening and are here to talk about their frozen water service line they had in the winter. Their water froze in February. They called the City and the public works department came over and helped them to hook up to their neighbor's home with lawn hoses. They were told that it froze on the City side of the meter. The hose froze and they had to call the City again. They were told to run the water a lot. They have 3 kids under the age of 5 so they need water service. Their bill is usually about \$145 per month and the charge for the water it took to keep the water line running was \$40 more for February and \$60 more for March. They are asking if the City Council would be willing to just let them pay the average and not the amount for the extra water they ran to keep the hose from freezing. Maybe there could be some concession made as it was on the City side that it froze. Councilman Scafe asked if they were the only ones whose water had frozen. Taylor and Kennalee explained that a neighbor down the street, John Finley, also had a frozen water line. Councilwoman Hansen said that she, Mayor Mattingly and City Clerk Stegelmeier met and discussed the frozen water. The public works department have gotten some bids on fixing both lines. City Clerk Stegelmeier will bring the bids to the Council. Mayor Mattingly asked if Water Supervisor Todd Martindale had anything to add to the discussion. Todd asked if Taylor and Kennalee were aware that the City had been asking everyone to run a drip in a faucet to keep the lines from freezing. Kennalee said they had not been aware but would do so in the future. They replaced their service line last summer. Todd asked if they had used blue board on the line. They reported that they had not but the line is deeper than 4 feet so it should be deep enough to be insulated. Councilwoman Hansen made a point that water users need to tell the City when they have issues so that we can find a way to fix the problem.

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Councilman Scafe made a motion to charge Taylor and Kennalee Hansen the average of \$145 for the water bill for the March and April. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. Councilwoman Hansen abstained from voting. The motion passed.

2. **4th of July Parade – Rachel Hatton, City Clerk Stegelmeier** **ACTION ITEM**

Rachel Hatton is here representing the Ashton Area Chamber of Commerce at council to talk about the 4th of July Parade in Ashton. It will be here before we know it. She is touching base with Mayor and City Council. The fireworks fundraiser will be held at the Ashton Community Center on May 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The parade will be on Tuesday the 4th of July. The theme for this year's parade is Party in the USA. Rocky Mountain Power has given a nice donation to help pay for the expenses of the parade. Her question is would she speak with Michele Smith on the park requests and Chief Griffel on safety requests? The Mayor and Council said they can help on workdays but to be sure to get volunteers to help her gather up the garbage cans, etc. Councilman Scafe explained that there are a lot of volunteers needed and hopes that anyone who has time will volunteer to help. Police Chief Griffel estimates that there were over 7000 people at the parade in 2022. There was discussion on having the candy thrown clear to the sidewalks so that there is less danger of children getting hurt. Rachel asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to direct questions on booths or food trucks to her at her home phone number. There will not be a Farmer's Market this year on the day of the parade. Mayor Mattingly expressed his thanks to Rachel for all that she does.

3. **Wastewater Screen Project – Rick Miller, Taci Stoddard** **ACTION ITEM**

Rick Miller with Altura wanted to visit with the City Council tonight about the wastewater screen project. He also wanted to introduce Taci Stoddard to the City Council. Taci has a history of city service as she is a past city clerk at the City of St. Anthony. He brought a copy of the screen project budget. The City is looking good with the \$500 thousand from the block grant and \$500 thousand from ARPA funds. The project should be fully funded by grants. The City is hoping for good bids when design is done in the fall for a work happening in 2024. Equipment schedules are really long right now so bidding in the fall should make it so the equipment can be ordered and here when construction starts. They talked about the park restroom project. Councilman Funke is hoping that costs will come down. Rick Miller explained that if we want to apply for the ICDBG for parks, we need to start working on the paperwork in June.

4. **Visitor Center Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Adam Zaragoza, Abby Rossman** **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the finalized Lease with Option to Purchase is in the Council's packet. She then explained that Adam Zaragoza with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) is here to tell them what happened in their board meeting. Adam explained that this has been a project that has been a long time coming. On behalf of the IDPA board and the director he would like to express their excitement and appreciation for this project. Last week at the quarterly board meeting, the board did authorize Director Buxton to sign the Ashton Visitor Center Lease with Option to Purchase Agreement for the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation. Councilman Kaelberer asked the opening date. There hasn't been a date set at this time, but it will be prior to the Memorial Day holiday as requested by the Mayor. The agreement says May 15th but they have started working over at the Center to get ready. Mayor asked that May 15th. Councilman Funke asked City Attorney Angell about liability. City Attorney Angell explained that the liability is addressed in the lease. Councilman Scafe asked if they have been working with the Chamber of Commerce on getting ready for the summer season. Abby Rossman explained that she has been working with the Chamber as well as the City and will be meeting with the Chamber again later this month. The Council, Mayor and the IDPR crew are all excited for this partnership.

Councilman Funke made a motion to accept the Ashton Visitor Center Lease with Option to Purchase Agreement with the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation. Councilman Kaelberer seconded the motion. Mayor Mattingly called a roll call vote. Councilman Funke, aye; Councilman Scafe, aye; Councilwoman Hansen, aye; and Councilman Kaelberer, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

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5. **Maple Leaf Water Line Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Todd Martindale, Kyle Jones** **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that this water line has been identified by the public works department for replacement. It is too shallow and runs through a lot of rock. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that two years ago the City had asked Keller Associates to put together what they thought the cost of replacing the line would be and that cost estimate is in the packets. Since the City is now also working with Harper Leavitt Engineering, she had talked with the Council last month and they had her ask Kyle with Harper Leavitt to come up with an estimate. City Clerk Stegelmeier said the Council could just use the estimates for budgeting purposes since it was not budgeted for this year. Councilman Kaelberer is concerned that the cost will be going up more as we are waiting for construction. Councilwoman Hansen said that the Council should schedule it for next year. They discussed that the design will take some time. The Council asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to get a bid proposal ready to make sure that they are bidding the same job so they can get in the budget for construction.

6. **Projects Update – City Clerk Stegelmeier** **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier reported that Jaden was not sure Jim Mullen could be at City Council but he was available to be here so he will go through the projects that Keller Associates are working on for the City. Jim Mullen with Keller Associates is here to go over the projects that are in the works for the City of Ashton. Jim appreciates the opportunity to speak to the Council. On the sewer screen/headworks project, they are in the middle of predesign with it and they will have a report to the City when they are at 30 percent design. Everything is on schedule and are hoping to go out to bid on construction later this year for construction in 2024. The restroom project is at a standstill with construction prices being too high and working on a grant. The sign project is still waiting on LTAC and ITD to get with us so that we can get that finished. Councilwoman Hansen says it has been over 4 years waiting on the signs. Councilman Kaelberer asked if they had any idea of how long. Talked about the Railroad Avenue project which was approved for another \$100,000 from LTHAC to keep working on paving. Jim brought a contract for Keller Associates to do the design, etc. and they can get started as soon as possible to get that project finished. City Clerk Stegelmeier reminded the Council and she has reminded Jaden Jackson at Keller Associates that when this project is done, it needs to address the sewer line on that street that freezes in the winter.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the design contract with Keller Associates for Railroad Avenue improvements. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **LCRR Compliance Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Todd Martindale** **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the letters have gone out and showed them the box with the survey and test kit that are planned to go out to the water users. Discussed with the Council about sending out the test kits. Mayor Mattingly explained that the City is complying with the EPA & DEQ rules which require an inventory of the City lines as well as service lines that is completed by October of 2024. Todd Martindale explained that there is a company that the City could hire a company call 120 Water that will come in and do the inventory for the City. Kyle Jones of Harper Leavitt Engineering said that the City of Blackfoot and some other cities are using this company. Mayor Mattingly asked City Clerk Stegelmeier to find out what 120 Water would charge. Councilwoman Hansen thinks that the City should just get them sent out.

8. **Meter Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Todd Martindale** **ACTION ITEM**

Councilwoman Hansen was wondering if the City regularly checks meters to see if they are reading correctly. Todd Martindale explained that the meters that we have right now are IPERL meters. These meters will not read incorrectly – they just won't read if they are bad. Right now, the City has some larger capacity meters that have bad batteries, are still reading and can be read manually. The smaller meters will just stop reading and must be replaced.

9. **Service Discussion – Councilman Funke, City Clerk Stegelmeier** **ACTION ITEM**

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Councilman Funke said that it has come to his attention that the FAA (Future Farmers of America) kids in the high school to get points for their state requirements need to perform so many service hours. He has been asking the public works if the city could use extra help painting like painting fire hydrants along the street. The kids are junior or seniors that would be doing the work. He would like to work through the North Fremont Ag department and have them do some simple projects. The Mayor and Council expressed that they thought it was a good idea. Councilman Kaelberer suggested that they and the public works need to identify the projects. Councilman Funke expressed his belief that the students will be responsible. He has spoken with the public works employees and they suggested having responsible kids that do not need supervision or transport by the City. He would talk to the Ag teacher and have them choose those who would be responsible. Upon completion, Councilman Funke would like to reward them with a pass for a swim at the pool. Councilwoman Hansen asked if they will be able to do it before the end of school. Councilman Funke explained that it can be done through the summer. On the other hand – to reward them with a swimming pass. A city employee would need to tell them what needs to be done but the idea is not to take the employees away from their duty. Mayor Mattingly said it sounds like a good plan.

10. Pool Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier **ACTION ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there are 9 lifeguard candidates for lifeguard training and she has been able to get the training moved here to the Ashton Swimming Pool. There has not been an applicant yet for pool supervisor and there were none for swim teacher positions. There will not be any lessons this year. There will be lap swimming in the morning and open swim through the afternoon. There will be night swim Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and parties scheduled on Monday, Friday and Saturdays. City Clerk is still hoping to find a supervisor but will find a way to cover it if there is no applicant.

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

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the upcoming schedule with the Council.

12. Executive Session – City Attorney Angell **ACTION ITEM**

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 City of Ashton to discuss legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion that the Council enter executive session. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. Mayor Mattingly called a roll call vote: Councilman Funke, aye; Councilman Scafe, aye; Councilwoman Hansen, aye; and Councilman Kaelberer, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council entered executive session at 7:09 pm.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion that the Council exit executive session. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council exited executive session at 7:24 pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 7:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Tom Mattingly
Mayor