

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

6:00 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

In Attendance: Mayor Mattingly, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilman Kaelberer, Councilman Scafe and Councilman Finley.

Also In Attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Jaden Jackson, Aaron Denney and Nellie Stegelmeier.

Mayor Mattingly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **ITD Sidewalk Grant Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Jaden Jackson** **ACTION** **ITEM**

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she had received the contract for the grant but she did not remember that the City had been awarded a grant. That is when I called Jaden. Jaden Jackson from Keller Associates explained that the application for this grant was submitted back in 2022. These are grants that are awarded on a three-year cycle. ITD has some extra funding and so since the City had applied it was in line for the funding. This is a grant to replace some of the sidewalks. There is \$411,000 for construction to replace as much of the sidewalk as we can get replaced. Jaden explained that for this kind of project, costs have been varying quite a bit. He estimates that if the City does both sides of Main Street this should replace one and a half to two blocks of sidewalk. Jaden went on to explain that this is a Federal Grant so there is a cost to the City of Ashton. The sidewalks and the trees were discussed. It is going to be a project that the citizens will want to give input. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that the sidewalk on the central block is getting really bad. By Napa and on the other side of Main is not good. Several council members agreed. The bricks have also started to disintegrate. The code was discussed. In front of the businesses is their property but like all other cities, the Ashton City Code tells them how the sidewalk is to be built. Councilwoman Hansen asked if the Streets Fund has the money for this project. City Clerk Stegelmeier replied that it does not. The General Fund will have to help. The Council discussed the trees and alternatives. There will be a lot of discussions and meetings to get this project in the works but the grant will be nice.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the contract for a ITD Tap Sidewalk Grant including Resolution 25-03. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mayor Mattingly called for a roll call vote: Councilman Atchley, Aye; Councilwoman Hansen, Aye; Councilman Kaelberer, Aye. The motion carried.

2. **Electrical Update at City Building Discussion – Councilman Kaelberer, City Clerk Stegelmeier** **ACTION ITEM**

Councilman John Kaelberer explained that he called about five different electrical contractors to come and bid on electrical updates as well as a generator for the police office. Two of the contractors came to look at the job. The first was Rocky Mountain Electric. When Councilman Kaelberer asked him to come out, he asked him to inspect all the electrical in the City Building to check for safety. Rocky Mountain came out and really did not say much about its safety. They could just replace it and gave us a bid for \$13,000 for the electrical part of it. The second bidder, Blaine Robbins electric came out. He looked at the electrical panels and said there was no problem with most of them, that they are still up to date. He can still get circuit breakers for them and there is no need to replace them. He was really quite honest about it. There is one panel that is hazardous in the break room and it really should be replaced, safety wise. Blaine showed Councilman Kaelberer some of the breakers that were barely making contact. The second part of the bid is a generator for

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the police station. Both bids came in fairly close. Blaine Robbins was little less money on the generator bid. The bid includes putting a generator out here, wiring into the panels and putting in a transfer switch so it will automatically transfer if/when the power goes out. Both bids were \$16,000 and change. The generator will be powered by propane. Councilwoman Hansen asked where the money to do the project is coming from. The Council had approved using some of the funds from the sale of the Visitor Center to upgrade the electricity here at the City Building. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that although we could open the budget and do the project – it was not in the budget this year. They talked about cold weather and programming so that the batteries get charged when needed. Councilwoman Hansen said she would like to wait until a new budget year to get the generator, etc. City Clerk Stegelemeier explained that there is enough in the admin budget this year to update the panel in the break room.

Councilman Kaelberer made a motion to approve bid for backup generator for police office with cold weather kit and electrical improvements at the Ashton City Building doing the generator the last week of September. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Text Service Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier *ACTION ITEM*

City Clerk Stegelmeier described the text service program to the Council. It will be loaded on the computer at the City Building. Then when there is a need to text, the text can be written and sent to the entire list or to a portion depending on the text. The program can be used like a mouse too and just pick out an area and text those phone registered in that area. We will give the service a copy of the numbers we have and the accounts/addresses that correspond. This will be great for water leaks. There will also be a QR code to go on the website so people can sign up on their own. People will also be able to text in questions. They will get automatic answers for a few things. If they text about a building permit it will text back a link to the permit on our website so that they can print it, etc. They will also be able to opt out of the service if they decide. The fee for the first year, with setup, etc. is \$3300 so that figures out to be \$275 per month. For the next year it will be \$2300, which is about \$192 per month. Councilman Scafe thinks it is a great way to improve communication. Councilwoman Hansen thinks it will be really nice to get information out to the public. Councilman Kaelberer likes the idea we could get the word out in case of an emergency. Councilman Finley thinks that it will be nice for the citizens to get the information quickly.

Councilman Scafe made a motion to approve the agreement with TextMyGov. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Tom Mattingly
Mayor