

# MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (North Entrance)

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*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.*

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### CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

**In Attendance:** Tom Mattingly, Teresa Hansen, John Scafe, John Kaelberer and Nate Finley.

**P&Z Commission In Attendance:** Rosie Owens, Dallas Hill, Danya Leibert, Audrey Tibbitts

**Also, in attendance:** City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, P&Z Administrator Bowersox, Chief Griffel, Abbie Rossmann, Heidi Burke, Jess Brumfield, Susan Buxton and Rachel Hatton.

Mayor Mattingly welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

### 1. Visitor Center Discussion – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Idaho P&R Representatives

#### **ACTION ITEM**

City clerk Stegelmeier explained that the Idaho Parks & Recreation (IDPR) Representatives are here to discuss the Ashton Visitor Center purchase and sale agreement. City Attorney Angell explained that the purchase and sale agreement states what has been discussed with the exception of a lease agreement for the dump station. Sam said everything is great but need to the lease on the dump station. IDPR Director Susan Buxton expressed that she is very excited to work with the City of Ashton and the Ashton Area Chamber of Commerce. She went on to discuss many of the IDPR projects throughout the area, etc. Having the Ashton Visitor Center open year-round should be good for the City and the businesses. Councilwoman Hansen asked questions about the Rails to Trails and the plans for the park. There is a plan to try to complete paving most of the trail and they will be having some meetings, etc. to let the community know of their plans. Councilman Kaelberer asked if there has been a solution with the railroad at the wye. There has not but they are still working with the railroad to come to a solution. Abbie Rossman explained that the Visitor Center construction has started. The bathrooms and furnace are being upgraded and the roof will be replaced. Councilwoman Hansen thinks the improvements will be great. Councilman Kaelberer had some questions about HAM radios stations on the trail. He explained how other parks are providing some items that make it a fun activity for HAM radio operators. Councilwoman Hansen thinks that the businesses will want to be involved. It will be nice to have it open year-round to bring people into town. Mayor Mattingly expressed appreciation for working with the IDPR.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the Purchase and Sales for the Ashton Visitor Center from Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation as presented. Councilman Scafe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Mattingly called for a break to bring the Planning & Zoning Commission up to the table that was set up for them for the discussion.

### 2. Work Session – Ashton City Council, Ashton Planning & Zoning Commission, City Clerk Stegelmeier, P&Z Administrator Bowersox, City Attorney Angell **ACTION ITEM**

Commissioner Owens asked what the goals of the Mayor and City Council for the P&Z Commission were. The Mayor said that they knew they were working on the Comprehensive Plan but asked if

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the Commission had something they wanted to discuss. Short Term Rentals (STRs) were a concern in many of the completed surveys. The Commission has some suggestions about STRs. There was some discussion on other Cities and the State laws. Commissioner Hill had spoken with someone in Fremont County and talked about some of the problems they have faced with STRs. Commissioner Tibbets has spoken with Fremont County, St. Anthony and Rexburg. Their permits for STRs range from \$165 to \$465. They all have some good and bad things about them but it is nice to have rules. Island Park limits the occupancy based on square footage. Rexburg has software that tracks STRs. Commissioner Hill explained that he feels that STRs limit the number of volunteers in a community. Those who stay there are not likely to volunteer like someone who moves here to live. Commissioner Leibert asked if the City could limit the number of permits available. City Attorney Angell explained that that is a legal question that is about to be decided in court right now with a case against the City of Soda Springs. City Attorney Angell said that there are some cities who have STR permits now and they work. He says the City should find look at these and fit it to the City of Ashton. A reasonable fee, a point of contact within a few miles, things like that. It would be done yearly and those who already have STRs would still need a permit. Councilwoman Hansen and Councilman Scafe have both heard concerns from citizens on STRs. They feel that a permit is a good idea. Violations were discussed and will need to be realistic in enforceability. The Council asked City Clerk Stegelmeier and Deputy Clerk Warnke to find codes from other cities for them to consider.

The Commission then talked about their work on the Comprehensive Plan. They are on step 4 and right now are working on homework from the survey information for the next meeting. The park and Main Street were discussed as well as the empty buildings. Hopefully, the City can keep trying with projects like the paving on Railroad Avenue and possibly a newly beautified entrance will move along. The Council expressed their appreciation to the Commission for getting the survey out there. Councilman Finley said that the Commission is doing a great job. Councilwoman Hansen said that it has been a while since the City has had a functioning commission and thanked them for their service.

### **3. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Finley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:22 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest

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Cathy Stegelmeier  
City Clerk

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Tom Mattingly  
Mayor