

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

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: Brad Rankin
PLEDGE LED BY: Stacey Dexter

Present: Mayor Stronks, Councilman Dexter, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilman Pincock and Councilman Rankin.

Also Present: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, Paul Scoresby, Todd Martindale, Melody Hess, Tamra Cikaitoga, Kathryn Stronks, Tammy Lehmann and Wade Lehmann.

Mayor Stronks called meeting to order 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 Council Meeting Minutes 11-13-2013.
- 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 Rankin made a motion to accept consent agenda as presented. Councilman Pincock 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. Water Project Report – David Schiess, Todd Martindale, Del Jensen, Paul Scoresby
Paul Scoresby came to City Council to explain that the Operations & Maintenance manuals for the City's Water Treatment Facility and water system are complete. He has given Todd a copy to keep at the facility and brought an office copy for the City. They will be submitting a copy to the DEQ on Thursday, December 12th. Councilman Dexter inquired as to whether all the AS BUILT drawings are included in the materials. Paul replied that they are. Also included are the GIS maps although he did say that only 95% of the valves were on the maps and Todd has some concerns that they will be going over. He will be bringing a CD with the GIS information later following a review with Todd. If the City purchased ARC GIS software, the file could keep building as changes are made to the system. The water project itself is down to 3 punch list items. Paul then asked if he could discuss helping the City with a letter of interest for the DEQ concerning a wastewater planning study. There was a lot of discussion back and forth over the Councilmembers concerns for the citizens. Councilman Dexter expressed his understanding that it is a sort of slippery slope leading to the City being required to complete a project which would require a bond and thus a raise in rates. Councilman Rankin explained that although the Council does understand the need to keep in compliance, it seems that the problems that the DEQ and EPA seem to find are not worth the consequences to the citizens. Paul Scoresby explained that the City needs to keep working on keeping the regulatory agencies happy and delaying the issue will only make it so the City will lose a year to look for the best money available. The study would not need to start for two years. Councilman Dexter said that although he hates the idea, the City will probably have to go "merrily along the way" and submit a letter of interest. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she competed the letter for the water planning study and would be glad to complete this one. The Council agreed that they would like City Clerk Stegelmeier to complete the letter of interest. The Council asked Todd

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Martindale about the nitrate probes and whether everything is back on line. Todd explained that everything was covered under the City's agreement with HACH and it is all back in order. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there are still problems with the meters. When the meters were read this month, they would not connect with the software. Todd explained that the representative from Ferguson was able to make it work but that if the problem is not corrected, all the meters will have to be reprogramed. Councilwoman Hansen said that it seems that it has been hard to get Ferguson to work with the City. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that when the Ferguson guys come, they just show up with no advanced notice. She then made an appointment with Aldon so that everyone could be there and ask the questions they have been worried about. Aldon called and said he couldn't come until late in the day. This made for overtime expenditures, etc. Paul said he would contact them and see what is happening.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. Snow Removal @ Library – Library representative

Rachel Cardel is the new head librarian and since she could not attend the meeting she asked Melodie Hess to bring a proposal to the council. The Fremont County Library District is asking the Council to help with the removal of ice removal from the three roof valleys. Melodie went on to explain that they had tried contacting others to contract it out and no one has the equipment. Fall River Electric has the equipment but the insurance liability is too great. Mayor Stronks explained his thought that the City has done it in the past. Todd expressed his concern that the librarians let him know early so that he can take care of it before it becomes a danger. It was agreed that the City would help keep the ice out of the valleys on the Community Center.

B. Old City Building – Kathrine Stronks

Mayor Stronks excused himself from the meeting as Kathrine is his daughter-in-law. Councilman President Dexter acted as Mayor for this part of the meeting. Kathrine explained that her parents are interested in the building and would like to discuss making an offer on it. She asked if her father could speak to them by speaker phone. City Clerk Stegelmeier set up the phone and Dr. Crouch spoke with the Council concerning the building. Councilman Rankin has been in the building and new many details. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she could send a copy of the appraisal that was done in 2010. She then explained that any sale would have to be an auction. The City Council has to make a motion to have a public hearing concerning selling the building, then make a motion to sell it including setting a minimum bid. The sale would be by auction at a Council meeting. Bids would be made from the floor. The Crouches will contact the City again after reviewing the information.

C. Rails to Trails – Tamra Cikaitoga

Tamra Cikaitoga is going to get a grant application together to get a parking area completed at the railroad wye for the Rails to Trails. She is hoping to get the Mayor and City Council's support on getting a really good project together. She has already been to the County Commissioners and they have given their support. She would like to get the City, County and Ashton Community Foundation together to get this project done. The trail usage was discussed. The Council expressed their concern for getting people into Ashton businesses. Todd Martindale expressed his concern that signage will need to be a big part of getting things going. Mayor Stronks and the Council expressed their support for the grant application.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to give the City's full support concerning a grant application for the completion of the trail head at the railroad wye. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Customer Deposits – Deputy Clerk Warnke

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Deputy Clerk Warnke was not available as planned. She explained that with the raise in base rates, the deposit is not covering the bills owed when renters

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

move out of a property. Deputy Clerk Warnke will bring more information to the January meeting explaining the issue.

- E. Charge for Meter Lid Breakage – City Clerk Stegelmeier
City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the meters were getting broken by plowing. Many have not marked them, etc. Councilman Rankin expressed his concern that the rings are higher than the ground surrounding the meters and that maybe that should be changes. City Clerk Stegelmeier was asked to bring some information on costs back to the City Council.
- F. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier
City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the upcoming months schedule with the Council.

4. CITIZEN INPUT: (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.)

Kevin Harris of Forsgren, Associates explained that they used a different antennae on the meters in Arco to avoid the problems we are having in Ashton. He said he did not think it would be that hard/expensive to change them. Mayor Stronks thanked him for the information.

Tammy Lehmann is here to discuss an insurance claim she filed with the City concerning the water outages in the summer. She is frustrated because she feels like she has filled out all the paperwork (including additional information to show how she came up with the claim amount). The insurance claim was turned down. She feels blown off and frustrated. She is hoping the City Council would look into the claim. Councilman Rankin explained that the City could go back to the insurer and ask them to reconsider. Wade Lehmann and Tammy then talked with the Council about some drainage issues and a manhole that has been filled in. Councilman Pincock said he would talk to Todd about it and get back to them. They would probably have to wait until spring to work on it.

Councilman Dexter made a motion to petition ICRMP to reconsider the claim. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 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.

Advise Legal Counsel, Personnel

The Mayor had no business for executive session.

6. 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, January 8, 2014, 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