

# MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

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

**PRAYER OFFERED BY: Brett Pincock**  
**PLEDGE LED BY: Becky Harrigfeld**

**Present:** Mayor Stronks, Councilwoman Hansen, Councilman Pincock, Councilman Atchley, and Councilwoman Harrigfeld.

**Also Present:** City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Susan Baker, Todd Martindale, John Scafe, Tom Mattingly, Tom Howell, Mamie Jorgensen, Chad Cherry, Sonja Cherry, and Shilo Hill.

**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 1-8-2014.
- 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 Pincock made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Atchley 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. American Dog Derby News – John Scafe  
John came to Council to let everyone know what the Dog Derby Committee has planned. The race will start downtown. There is enough snow to run the 60 mile race but the 100 mile race has been cancelled. He went on to explain the City has been a great help to have the historic event. This race has a great history and ABC news has called to discuss it with the committee. It is really neat for this small town to have this race. The race will start on Main & 5<sup>th</sup> and run north. The Mutt Race and weight pulls will be on Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. The race will start at 8:30 am. The vet checks will be done across 2<sup>nd</sup> Street by Trails Inn restaurant. Police Chief Mattingly asked John to remind the racers to move their vehicles as soon as possible following the race each day. John explained that the racers should be in by about 12:45 pm and the award ceremony is scheduled for 2pm. Councilman Atchley asked John if he would make sure that the business owners on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Dan & KC are aware that the road will be closed. John expressed his appreciation for everyone's support and patience. Mayor Stronks thanked John for all he does and asked him to thank the committee on behalf of the City.
- B. Customer Deposits – Deputy Clerk Warnke  
Deputy Clerk Warnke has drafted the letter and sent it on to the City Attorney. She will bring it to the City Council for their approval in March.
- C. Illegal Road – Councilman Atchley  
Councilman Atchley spoke to the property owner, Jed, concerning the illegal road. He then came in and discussed a solution with City Clerk Stegelmeier and City Attorney Lookabaugh. It was decided that having some signs at each end and a trailer parked in the driveway so that the neighbors don't

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use it. Councilman Atchley explained that City Attorney Lookabaugh said to try this first and if it doesn't work there will have to be another solution.

Councilman Atchley made a motion to put signs at either end of the drive at the Jed Nichol property. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:**

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

#### **A. Transient Fund – Mayor Stronks**

Mayor Stronks has met with the local clergy concerning both emergency preparedness but also transient assistance. They talked to the Salvation Army representative who explained that there is \$250 dollars that Ashton is eligible to use for transient assistance. Mayor Stronks would like to have the City make a fund and keep that in it to pay for transient assistance. City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she did not have experience with the Salvation Army where they sent the money without a receipt. Her understanding is that the City would have to pay for the motel, etc. and then be reimbursed. Mayor Stronks explained that the Churches talked about donating to the fund.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that the City Clerk develop a fund that is front end loaded through donations and develop a policy for its administration. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Audit Report – Sheri Poulsen**

Sheri Poulsen of Jensen Poulsen & Company came to Council to go over the City's audit. She brought a written report for the Mayor and Council. Sheri went over the funds that are in trouble. The Street Fund is in a negative position and lost money in 2013. The General Fund is the only fund that can give to other funds and it does not have enough to bail out the Street Fund. There are some ways to save in that fund that Sheri has gone over with City Clerk Stegelmeier which will be implemented for 2014. The Parks & Recreation Fund is still in a negative position but did not lose money in 2013. The General Fund gained in 2013 and is doing much better. Sheri would like to delete the Community Center and Centennial funds as the work in each are complete. The enterprise funds are still doing well but that is because of strict management. Mayor Stronks thanked Sheri for her time.

#### **C. City Ball Field – Shilo Hill**

Shilo is here to discuss the City's Ball Field. She would like to bring more money into the City businesses through baseball tournaments. Currently the kids are going to St. Anthony to play softball. The Ball Field needs some improvements to be an official field. It needs a home run fence, backstop, etc. Ashton is big enough to have its own program. City Councilman Pincock asked about liability. Chad Cherry said that a waiver would be required to pay. Councilwoman Hansen has helped in the past to get the field ready for games. The Council supports getting the field up to game level. Mayor Stronks mentioned that the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council could help getting things done. It was discussed that there is probable a scout who could work on an Eagle Project at the Ball Park.

#### **D. Update on HUD Grant – Jan Brown**

Jan Brown is here to talk to the Council about an idea the consortium has for transportation. The idea is to have a pilot project for a bike trail from Tetonia to Ashton. A bus will bring bike riders from Rexburg to Tetonia then pick them up in Ashton later that day. It would be called the Upper Valley Connector and would also serve others who wish to ride the same route without the bike ride portion. Jan explained that after hearing the discussion about the audit, she will not ask for money but does ask for support. Jan also discussed the HUD grant and suggested that a consortium voting member attend the meetings to represent Ashton. Mayor Stronks thanked Jan for her time.

#### **E. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier**

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City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the Council schedule. Councilwoman Hansen explained that she would not be able to attend the March meeting. Mayor Stronks encouraged the other councilmen to let City Clerk Stegelmeier know if they would not be able to attend so that if a Special Meeting is needed it can be planned.

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

Mayor Stronks explained that Herb Drexler talked to him about his sewer hookup. Jan explained that as far as our information shows, he is hooked up. Todd Martindale said he would check it out.

Tom Howell gave the Council an update on the Fremont County Historical Society which is getting formed and organized. They have their 501c3 done and are working on finding a location for a Museum. They will be coming to Council with more information soon.

#### **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.*

Personnel

Councilman Pincock made a motion to enter executive session. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to exit executive session. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Pincock made a motion that the City work with the Chamber at the Visitor in conjunction where the Chamber provides volunteers and the City provide a director on one year trial basis. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **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, March 12, 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:

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Cathy Stegelmeier  
City Clerk

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Theo R. Stronks  
Mayor