

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

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: Tadd Atchley
PLEDGE LED BY: Becky Harrigfeld

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Teresa Hansen, Becky Harrigfeld, Tadd Atchley and Jerry Funke.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Deputy Clerk Warnke, Chief Mattingly, Garth Blanchard, Rachel Hatton, Michelle O'Malley, Sheryl Hill, John Grube, Marvin Fielding, Todd Martindale, Dave Peterson, Curt Stegelmeier, Brandon Hoffner, Amy Verbeten, David Sharp, Kathy Sharp, Rogers and Anthony Rogers.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

1. AMEND AGENDA:

Any items added less than forty eight (48) hours prior to the meeting are added by Council motion at this time.

- A. **3. Presentations, Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements: B. P & Z Appointment Nominations – Mayor Stronks**

Mayor Stronks asked the Council to also consider moving the Museum discussion prior to the Audit discussion.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to accept the Amend Agenda as presented and also have the museum discussion first. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 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 Regular Council Meeting Minutes 2-10-2016.
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As submitted
- E. **Budget Report** – Worksheet showing the revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year to date

Councilman Atchley made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Committee Assignments – Mayor Stronks
- B. **Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment Nominations: Mayor Stronks**
Mayor Stronks nominated Matt Brady and Robert Reimann to the P&Z Commission. Robert will be the appointee from the City's Impact Area.

Councilman Harrigfeld make a motion to appoint Matt Brady and Robert Reimann to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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4. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

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

A. Audit for Fiscal Year 2015 – Sheri Poulson

Sheri Poulson is here to go over the 2015 audit with the Mayor and City Council. As an independent auditor meaning she gives no material support to the City she has given the City finances an unmodified opinion. There is no better opinion than an unmodified opinion. Sheri went on to explain that the finances of the City went very well in 2015. This year, City Clerk Stegelmeier and Sheri analyzed the cash flow history. Disparity in the cash came from general fund resources being used during projects for construction costs and the general fund was not reimbursed. There were also street repairs that were charged to the Street Fund when it should actually be charged to the Water or Sewer Funds for repairs to the Streets due to a water or sewer issue. The City's governmental funds all did well with only one (Parks & Recreation) having a loss. The propriety funds are the still the primary cash flow for the City. They are also still 40 percent of the cash reserves. In the proprietary funds, the rates are covering expenses, including depreciation. Water & Sewer are in a really strong position. There are two problems Sheri noted. The first is that there needs to be more adherence to the purchasing policy. The second is that she still thinks that Cathy would benefit from Caselle training. Councilman Funke inquired as to when the trainings are offered. City Clerk Stegelmeier said that the trainings are usually in June in the Salt Lake City area. Councilman Funke expressed his concern that if something happened to City Clerk Stegelmeier, someone else should also attend the training. Mayor Stronks thanked Sheri for her time.

B. Audit Engagement for 2016 – Sheri Poulson

Sheri presented the Mayor and Council with an engagement letter for the next appraisal. Mayor Stronks signed the letter.

C. Museum, Fremont County Historical Society – Tom Howell

Tom is here to discuss again with the Council the Museum proposal. He has been chipping away on the idea for a couple of years. The goal is to create a museum. The idea of the City gifting use of the old City Building has been talked about. The Fremont County Historical Society would like a 4 year commitment from the City. The CHC Foundation Grant was obtained but the City and the Society have not been able to come to terms. The roof has been repaired but if the project does not go through the grant will not be used. The grant expires in June. The Society has \$5000 in the CHC grant coming to update the interior. The grant is \$28000 dollars and it will just go away in June. The grantors do not look favorably when you look back and the City does not want to default. The Society is only asking for \$13100 per year and the moving of the Archives to the building. The Society has a commitment for \$5000 from the Vasaak Fund; the Fremont County Commission might be agreeable to \$3000 and the Ashton Seed Growers has \$10,000 for this project. The Historical Society would be staying within the budget given from the City. The building would remain under direction of the City. The City would provide insurance. Councilwoman Hansen explained that the money has all been talked about before but if there is no plan, how can the City Council approve giving thousands of dollars? Also, until the Archives move, why would the City give the entirety of the Archives funding? The Council thought that there was an agreement that the Society would get a plan together. Councilman Atchley asked if the Society could get the museum up and running without the Archives. Councilman Funke expressed his opinion that the Council and the Society should study it a little bit more, have a working meeting. Councilwoman Hansen said that there have been several meetings with no resolution. She also explained that she does not think the City should jump into something simply because of a deadline. Councilwoman Harrigfeld added that the amount discussed included wages for the Archivist and that amount would definitely not become cash to use for their project. Mayor Stronks asked Councilman Funke and Councilwoman Hansen to meet with

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the Society again. They will get with Tom to set up a date. Darrell Reinke made it clear that the Archive could move over to that building easily. He thought Councilman Funke gave a helpful suggestion by suggesting they take one last look at this.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. DEQ 319 Project – Brandon Hoffner, Amy Verbeten, Marvin Fielding

Marvin Fielding with Keller Associates introduced them Amy and Brandon to the City Council. He explained that they had asked him to come and explain what their project would mean for the City. He explained that the DEQ has a funding mechanism call a 319 project that is a project unrelated to the public works projects but that benefits the general area. In this case it would benefit the watershed. This 319 project sort of 'piggy backs' on the public works project. The way this works is that the DEQ will give the City a lower loan rate that will cover the cost of the additional monies needed for the 319 project. Agreeing to do this will not tie the city to a particular fund agency. If there are other funding options that are more advantageous – the 319 project would simply not get funded. Amy Verbeten then explained that the project is simply the Friends of the Teton River partnering with the Teton Soil Conservation District in purchasing a no till drill that they can then lend to farmers to promote no till drilling. No till drilling will help reduce soil erosion. Councilman Funke explained that in this area, grass waterways and soil erosion control dams were better tools to combat erosion than no till drilling. No till drilling is not viable because of the soil type. This drill will not be able to be used in the Ashton area. It will only be used in the Teton Soil District. Brandon Hoffner said that maybe in the future the Henry's Fork Foundation will look into it for the Ashton Area. Councilman Harrigfeld explained that the Henry's Fork has helped the City in the past. Marvin Fielding said that it may help the ranking of the project and will surely help with the interest rate. Mayor Stronks thanks them for their time.

Councilman Funke made a motion to go with the 319 program as long as it doesn't further obligate the City. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. City Owned Main Street Properties – Councilman Atchley

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the information she had gathered for the Council. They will go over the information throughout the month. Mayor Stronks asked Councilman Atchley to take point on the project by formulating a way to come up with a good minimum bid.

C. Fireworks Letter for School District – Rachel Hatton

Rachel is here to ask for City sponsorship in providing insurance coverage for the 4th of July Fireworks. The fireworks fundraiser dinner was incredible last year – they made more than \$2,500. The fireworks show is a show for the whole community. She cannot pull off the project without the help of the fire department, police and City crew. She will now go to the school board with this letter. Mayor Stronks thanked Rachel for her work on this wonderful project.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion that the City provide insurance coverage for the 4th of July Fireworks. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. City Job Application Forms – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Police Chief Mattingly, Officer Griffel

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that she gave the police a couple of different application forms for them to go through in order to come up with one that they liked for applicants. She also explained that the cities that she modified the forms from also have the applicant fill out their regular job application. City Clerk Stegelmeier has updated both forms with the correct information for the City of Ashton.

Councilwoman Harrigfeld made a motion to approve the new job application forms. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Nuisance Properties – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Police Chief Mattingly, Officer Griffel

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City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that Chief Mattingly had proposed that the Council declare the properties in their packets as nuisance properties.

Councilman Atchley made a motion that the proposed properties be declared nuisances. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the upcoming month’s schedule with the City Council. Councilman Funke said that he feels that it is really great for the Council to attend the employee meeting. Just to keep up on what the employees have been working on. Councilwoman Hansen also thought it is a good way to keep informed.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING

- ♦ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 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