

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

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: Tom Mattingly
PLEDGE LED BY: Tadd Atchley

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Teresa Hansen, Tadd Atchley and Tom Mattingly.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, City Attorney Angell, P&Z Admin Kyle Baldwin, Greg Griffel, Brandon Hoffner, Herb Drexler, Deborah Drexler, Rachel Hatton, Terri DeLong, Leann Yancey, John Scafe, Rachel Hatton, Sheryl Hill and Sheri Poulson.

Mayor Stronks welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:02 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.

3. PROCLAMATIONS: A. Fair Housing Proclamation – Mayor Stronks, City Clerk Stegelmeier

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS: D. Plat Amendment – P&Z Administrator Kyle Baldwin, Herb Drexler
F. Personnel Manual Update – Mayor Stronks, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Councilman Mattingly made a motion to accept the amend agenda. Councilwoman Hansen 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 Meeting Minutes 2-15-2018, Special Meeting Minutes 2-26-2018
- B. **Treasurers Report** - 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

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented without the special meeting minutes 2-26-2018. Councilman Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Fair Housing Proclamation – Mayor Stronks, City Clerk Stegelmeier

Mayor Stronks explained that he has proclaimed April as Fair Housing month. This is a requirement for some of the federal funding the City has been granted.

4. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Ashton Resolution 18-1: Adoption of Police Policy Manual

City Attorney Angell explained that Chief Griffel is recommending the new policy manual that ICRMP has formulated. It is a workable policing policy – easy to use and to carry with them. It gives the officers information in facing certain situation. Having a policy affects the liability coverage through ICRMP.

Councilman Mattingly made a motion to adopt resolution 18-01 adoption of police policy manual. Councilwoman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Ashton Resolution 18-2: Establishing Coordination Between the City of Ashton and Federal Agencies and State Agencies Involved with Federal Agencies

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Mayor Stronks told the Council that he was going to amend the agenda (if they had no objection) and have Leanne Yancey give some background on the Targhee Pass prior to consideration of the Resolution. (The resolution was brought to him by Leanne Yancey and he wanted the Council to hear information before consideration.) **GO TO ITEM 5A.**

Back from ITEM 5A

Councilwoman Hansen asked what the affect the resolution will have. Mayor Stronks explained that it will basically support the County position. City Attorney Angell asked if the County passed the resolution. Leanne said they had not but she feels that once the agencies are put a position they will have to solve the inconsistency. Fremont County has just verbally asked the ITD to lower the speed limit and cut back trees. Brandon Hoffner asked if it is just reasonable to ask what the agencies have coordinated. He explained that he knows they emailed the City. Leann said the burden is on the ITD to make a public opportunity to coordinate. Coordination was required but has not happened. The ITD cannot go back and rewrite the problem. It is the Langdon’s group’s role. There have been internal things that have failed, that is not coordination.

Councilman Mattingly made a motion to adopt resolution 18-2. Councilman Funke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

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

A. Targhee Pass Information – LeAnn Yancey

Leanne Yancey is here to talk about Targhee Pass. Leanne is a citizen and has been studying the Targhee Pass area. The Idaho Transportation Department is planning 3 wildlife overpasses, each 1 mile apart from the other. There will need to be solid wildlife fencing both sides from where Hwy 87 takes off to the west to Montana line. There are some homes/people in that section who will be directly affected. The idea is to connect wildlife corridors to make crossing the highway easier for lynx, wolverine, elk, moose, wolf and grizzly bear. The projected cost is 3 to 5 million for each structure, 23 million dollars all together. This will be a precedent setting project for the State Highway 20 corridor. If this is set, then they have recommendations for the entire corridor from the Ashton Hill on up to this project. There was more information about different states and their projects. The City Councilwoman Hansen asked if there is a place she could see an example of what is planned. Leanne explained that she could google wildlife overpass. Councilman Mattingly asked if this will change the hunting regulations. Leanne said that Idaho Fish and Game will not say yet as the overpasses are not built and they don’t know the impact. Councilwoman Hansen asked how many accidents have happened. Leanne explained that the best data is from the Fremont County Sherriff’s office. In the last 6 years there have been 5 deer, 3 elk and a grizzly cub killed. The Fremont County Commissioners have sent their recommendation that the speed limit be lowered and that the vegetation be cut back prior to any further work.

Mayor Stronks thanked Leanne and then explained that he would like anyone in the audience who would like to comment to come up to comment.

Brandon Hoffner explained that he would like to comment. Brandon has lived here for 7 years. He is not on the same page as Leanne. Although he does work at the Henry’s Fork Foundation, he is not here in that capacity. He is here because he loves public lands. The discussion around these overpasses is shocking to him. He worked prior to coming here with the Wyoming lands department

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on the path of the pronghorn. There are several crossings in Wyoming. He explained to the audience that the animals do not WANT to migrate; the MUST migrate to survive. They move across the landscape. Long distance migrations are unique and right in our backyard. He explained more about his work in Wyoming and explained that the projects work well and the locals have come around to appreciating them. He is worried and surprised that the discussion on this project has been so divisive. He encouraged the City Council and everyone to participate in the process.

John Scafe wanted also to talk about the wildlife crossings. From his count there was not enough animals that people couldn't just slowdown. The fences are going to cause problems for homeowners as well as snowmobilers, etc. The public should also be considered. This could really effect the economy like it has in Wisconsin. He said "20 to 30 thousand cars a day, 24 animals in 6 years. I'll go to Vegas with those odds". He is worried that the hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and access to public lands is that going to be closed.

Sheryl Hill explained that the Council won't be surprised to hear her say that this project is work in the process. There have been meetings all along with a 30 day comment period. What has been described tonight is just one of 5 alternatives. The City needs to be part of the process. If you google for Targhee Pass Project you will get an abundance of information on this project. Sheryl wonders what is the role of the resolution is in relation to this issue. In what way will that resolution affect the process? Councilwoman Hansen explained that she had not heard of the issue until now. Sheryl explained that the process was initiated by the Idaho Transportation Department. Highway 20 has not been updated since it was built in 1953. It needs updating and this update will last for 50 years. This is not just to address wildlife process. The entire project is 120 million dollar project. This is the focus of the environmental assessment. Councilman Mattingly asked what the possibilities they are considering. Sheryl said there are several and that he will have to look at the alternatives. Go to the website and look at each alternative. The overpasses are higher for safety. The data that is quoted from the Sherriff's department about animals is only if the damage was over \$1500. If just hit something then it is not reported. The actual amount is higher than what the Sherriff's department is quoting.

Leann explained that that the ITD and others have talked about the process but until now have not involved any locals. This idea was brought from outside of the area to us. Coordination is codified in several federal laws. These agencies need to get together with everyone in that jurisdiction. This process has been going on since 2011 and has been unknown to most of us. They did a 3 year study. The Patty Cramer study and wildlife corridor study. This was a collaboration outside of the agencies. They should have notified elected leaders, etc. What is their purpose to dedicating all of this money? The agencies have failed to coordinate.

Councilwoman Hansen says the information is overwhelming and wants to find out more. She is not sure right now. Councilman Mattingly said that the resolution is just to establish coordination. Councilman Funke explained that he has traveled Highway 20 every day in the past for work. He has seen more animals in the lower part get hit than in the area under consideration. He feels that with signage and speed reduction, most of the problem can be solved. He explained that in Wyoming there has been issues with the animals going to the end of the fence to go around so the problem hasn't been solved. He feels that the speed problem needs to be solved.

BACK TO 4B

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B. Economic Development – Scott Johnson

Mayor Stronks introduced Scott Johnson who works for the City of Rexburg. He is really excited to hear from Scott. Scott explained that he is the Executive Director for Madison Development. He explained some of the issues and successes happening in Rexburg. For Ashton to have success with economic development we will need to figure out what we are (like an inventory) and what we want for the future. We will need to recognize the customers/businesses that we are looking to bring to Ashton. Scott is willing to come and help at any time. He suggests putting a group together of citizens and business owners to work with the City in getting a plan together. Mayor Stronks explained that he is working with the Chamber to do a Community Review update. Scott explained that it is really important to understand Ashton and what opportunities we haven't even looked toward. Councilwoman Hansen agrees that we need to work on economic development. Mayor Stronks thanked Scott for his time.

C. City Park Project Grant Administration Contract – Rick Miller

Rick Miller is at council to discuss an administration contract for the City Park Project. It will cost \$10,000 total for administration, they donated the application services. There will be environmental work, project monitoring and project closeout. Once the environmental paperwork is complete, the Dept. of Commerce will release the funds and the City can go out to bid to complete the work this summer. Rick also updated the Council on the CDBG for Phase II of the Wastewater Facility project. He has just submitted the addendum to the application and the City should hear shortly on a decision.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the contract with the Development Company on the City Park project. Councilman Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Plat Amendment – P&Z Administrator Kyle Baldwin, Herb Drexler

P & Z Administrator Kyle Baldwin presented the Drexler plat amendment for Herb Drexler. This property is at the corner of South 5th Street and Walnut Street. The City Code requires that both the administrator and the City Council approve this sort of amendment. The line dividing the lots is now running north and south and the amendments changes that to dividing it running east and west. The applicant has enough property and City services are accessible from both new lots without crossing private or public property. Administrator Baldwin is recommending that the City council approve this amendment.

Councilwoman Hansen made a motion to approve the plat amendment for Herb Drexler with Administrator Baldwin's recommendation. Councilman Mattingly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Investment Information – City Clerk Stegelmeier, Chris Bateman

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that the City does have some money it could invest and get quite a good return. Chris Bateman from TVI sent some information but since the meeting has gone long, she is unsure whether he is available. She will bring this back for discussion with the Council next month.

F. Personnel Manual Update – Mayor Stronks, City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier explained that there is bereavement leave allowed in the Personnel Policy but it does not list specifically 'father-in-law or mother-in-law'. There was an employee that had a death in the family that fit that scenario. Both City Clerk Stegelmeier and Mayor Stronks feel that bereavement leave should be able to be used for these situations. City Attorney Angell said that it could be used but that he will look into some changes he thinks the City needs to implement in the City's Personnel Policy.

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6. 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 – John Scafe

John Scafe explained that the dog race was quite a challenge. The race was dedicated to Dave Harmon (Rosey). He reported how it went and how the problems were solved. The Mayor and City Council thanked John and his committee for all their hard work.

B. Service Kiosks at Visitor Center – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier asked the Council if she should hire someone to put the electrical lines in for the new kiosks but they directed her to have the public works department work on the project.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS/EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

A. Scheduling – City Clerk Stegelmeier

City Clerk Stegelmeier went over the schedule with the Council

8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers will bring items to be discussed with the other Councilmembers & Mayor. No action should be taken on these items as they have not been specifically listed on the agenda.

Councilman Funke (by phone) told everyone to have fun in the snow. He will be back before Forrest puts the mower on the tractor.

Leanne Yancey explained that she has been made aware that she had been filmed she was talking and asked Sheryl Hill why she had recorded her. Sheryl replied that she did not film her, only recorded her testimony. Sheryl has hearing problems and it helps her to record something and listen later. Leanne asked City Attorney Angell if it was legal for someone to record others. He said Idaho is a one party knowledge state in general but that he had no comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting ended at 8:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING

- ◆ Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 11, 2018, Council Chambers, Ashton City Building – 714 Main, Ashton.
- ◆ Questions concerning items appearing on these Agendas or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meetings 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