

MINUTES–CITY OF ASHTON

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

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

In Attendance: Teddy Stronks, Teresa Hansen, Becky Harrigfeld, Tadd Atchley and Brett Pincock.

Also in attendance: City Clerk Stegelmeier, Britney Stegelmeier and Christina Hatch.

Mayor Stronks opened the meeting at 6:56 pm.

1. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Brief Council Discussion on Sign Code Concerns

Mayor Stronks has consulted with City Attorney Lookabaugh on whether he should still preside at this meeting because his son owns one of the businesses that has been complaining about the sign ordinance. City Attorney Lookabaugh told him that it is important for him to tell the council that he will be unbiased in the discussion. Mayor Stronks said that he could be unbiased. He went on to say that there have been several businesses that have complained about the sign ordinance being hostile to their business. Councilman Pincock said that the issue is troubling. He said that the P&Z Commission has worked hard on cutting down the ordinance and now the ordinance is mainly definitions. He does not feel that there is anything that is out of line or too strict in the ordinance. City Attorney Lookabaugh said that the concern is that the complaints are ongoing and that businesses have said that they feel that the ordinance is impinging on their business. Councilwoman Harrigfeld explained that she was on the P&Z Commission when the commission spent hours and hours going through the ordinance and cutting it down. She went on to wonder in that people are complaining/calling but had not attended any – not one – P&Z meeting, let alone the P&Z or Council public hearings. The P&Z had asked people specifically what they wanted but no one attended anything. Councilwoman Hansen explained that she had been thinking about this issue all week. A rule is a rule until the rule is changed. Maybe there is a way to present that rule that would work better for businesses. Councilman Atchley expressed his opinion that the sign ordinance is too large – surrounding cities are using 2 to 3 page documents to do the same thing. Councilwoman Hansen that she thinks that there is a lot of misinformation. Councilwoman Harrigfeld explained that she thought the P&Z would be willing to work on it again but that this time, the Council needs to read it and give guidance to the commission so that they are aware of what they should be going over. Councilwoman Hansen explained that just complaining doesn't help. Everyone needs to read it and give good suggestions for change – not just throw out something that has been worked on several times. Councilman Pincock thinks that the thought is that we are rednecks and just don't want to be told what to do. Mayor Stronks explained that businesses say it is not business friendly. It comes back again to whether they have read it or if it is just hearsay. City Attorney Lookabaugh wondered if changing the way we communicate the rules to incoming businesses would help – such as a sort of checklist when they inquire about business licenses. She then went on to say that it seems that they have exhausted the sign ordinance conversation and should think about it after more discussion at the next meeting.

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2. EXECUTIVE SESSIO

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.*

(f) Advise Legal Counsel (b) Personnel

Councilman Pincock made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilman Atchley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called: Pincock - aye, Atchley - aye, Hansen - aye and Harrigfeld - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilwoman Harrigfeld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Councilman Atchley made a motion to get a bid or figure out bidding to get trees on Main Street so signs are more visible. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Mayor Stronks and Councilman Pincock will meet with an employee about a personnel issue.

3. 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, June 10, 2015, Council Chambers. 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