

Ashby City Council Meeting November 4, 2010

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Carl Ulrich, Lynn Jensen, George Jordan and Ron Jaenisch present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney; Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, Jim Karl, Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitors were Brad Barry and Darrin Froemming.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jordan moved to approve the agenda with additions. Jensen seconded. MCU

Visitors

Darrin Froemming from TFC was present to discuss the pretreatment agreement. They still have questions on the levels and the frequency of testing. Martin will check on frequency to see if there can be a change but the levels must remain the same to protect the sewer ponds and comply with MN Pollution Control requirements. Ulrich moved to approve the pretreatment agreement with TFC Poultry. Jaenisch seconded. MCU A copy of the Signification Industrial User notification to MPCA was distributed.

**Consent
Agenda**

Consent Agenda

Jaenisch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$28,891.67 and Claims for Approval: \$14,762.65 for a total of \$43,654.32. Jaenisch went through the bills ahead of time and gave prior approval.

Ulrich seconded. MCU

**Mayor's
Report**

Mayor's Report

The mayor reported on the following:

- Attended Mayor's Meeting
- Meeting with TFC Poultry, WSN, MN Rural Water and Staff

**Council
Reports –
Regional
Meeting**

Council Reports

None

Administration

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer for the previous month such as:

- Several items related to pretreatment agreement with TFC Poultry.
- Quarterly reports.
- Update to flex and health savings accounts.
- Arts budget committee meeting.
- Arts Commission meeting.
- Meeting the TFC, WSN and Rural Water regarding pretreatment meeting.
- Past due invoices for fire calls sent out.
- Economic Development meeting.
- Picked up and posted sample ballots.
- Reminder to liquor establishment for renewal and meeting regarding changes to liquor ordinance.
- Park Board meeting – MnDOT landscaping grant.
- Data requests.
- Monthly bills and reports.
- Utility bills and receiving payments.
- Web-site and Face book Page updated.
- Waiting on customers, all financials including deposits, checks, reports; posting and publishing notices; payroll; minutes; policies, compiling and delivering agenda packets to council members and more.

**Clerk's
Report**

Public Safety

Police Report:

The Police Report was as follows:

- Public/Motorist Assist – 7
- Speed – 5
- Traffic Direction – 1
- Open Door – 4
- Juvenile Use of Tobacco – 1
- Animal Complaints – 3
- Burn Permit – 1
- Driving After Revocation – 1
- Education/Crime Prevention – 1
- Stop Sign – 2
- Unsafe Equipment – 3
- Motor Vehicle Accident – 1
- Misc. Fire – 1
- Seat Belt Violation – 1
- Theft Less than \$500 – 1

**Police
Report**

The police department handed out several glow sticks Halloween night.

There were several questions on where the squad car is patrolling – discussion on why it is on Highway 78 – a few miles from Ashby. Tollefson explained that if they are in the process of a stop, it may take a while to get the plates run and get the person actually stopped. It was questioned why the squad was seen on the trail. Tollefson said that this has been done since he started. It is perfectly legal – they have found criminals in the past parked on the trail and are checking on that sort of thing. It is done late at night and does not interfere with trail use. Several questions continued on the issue – Tollefson will relay the concerns to Cederberg.

Police
Department
Issues

Jaenisch moved to approve the sale of the 2007 Taurus (forfeiture) and the old squad on Midstate Auction. Ulrich seconded. MCU

Sale of Squad
and Taurus

Jaenisch moved to approve the changes to **Ordinance 112 – Liquor Regulations as follows:**

112.31 RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE.

(H) Licensees will be required to have a person at the entrance to the establishment during all outdoor **liquor licensed events**. ~~dances and during indoor dances where turnout is expected to be 200 or more.~~ This person will check identifications and no person under the age of 18, unless accompanied by legal guardian, will be allowed to enter the ~~establishment during the dance~~ **event**. An easily identifiable stamp or wrist band must be worn by all persons that are 21 and over in order to be allowed to consume alcohol.

Liquor
Ordinance

Martin reported that not all liquor establishments have turned in their paperwork by the deadline – November 1st. Council would like her to hand-deliver a letter stating that they have until November 15th or their license will not be renewed for 2011. Renewals are due 60 days prior to the renewal period. Walton recommends that if renewal comes in after that time, they would be licensed 60 days late – i.e. – renewal comes in on December 1st – they would be licensed on February 1st.

Liquor
Renewals

The siren is not working and Tollefson has been working with Brandon Communications to try and determine the cause. More information will be available at another meeting.

Siren

Public Works

Public Works Report

- Tollefson has passed his Class D Water test.
- Mowing is done for the year and the parks are closed up.
- Tollefson is continuing to learn operation of the water plant.
- All valve boxes are repaired.
- Ready for snow removal – plow is on the truck and the push blade is on the tractor.

Ulrich moved to approve the public works report. Jaenisch seconded. MCU The council congratulated Tollefson on passing his test.

Public Works
Report

Part-time hours were discussed. They should be dramatically decreased for public works as mowing is done for the year. The two part-time public works employees will be used as needed in the next few months – mostly for snow removal.

Part-time
Hours

Jordan reported on the application for sanitary sewer – specifically the Small Cities application. We should know the first week of December if the pre-application is approved. This is a good indication that the full application will be accepted.

Sewer App

Martin discussed snowbirds and how to charge the monthly user fee – should it be prorated? Jensen moved to charge the full monthly user fee during the disconnect month no matter what day they are disconnected plus their usage. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Snowbird
Fees

Old Business

Martin gave an update on the Arts Commission. Council gave permission to use the council chambers for painting the mural if Pelican Lake Township approves use of their meeting room for council meetings. It would be for 2-3 months in the spring.

Arts
Commission

No update for residential rehab – we are just waiting for the last two jobs to be completed.

Residential
Rehab

Country View Estates was discussed. Martin has met with a home loan officer to find out if the assessments are an issue or if the price of the land is too low. This officer called two appraisers and they both said that the assessments are not considered in the appraisal. The loan officer also said that the price of the land is not an issue – they look at the total value with the home.

CVE

There is a formal request from Cathy Smith to switch lots at Country View Estates. More information, such as TIF, assessments, etc. will have to be checked out – it will be discussed at the December meeting.

CVE-Switch
Lots

Martin will start procedure for assessing past due utilities and other city charges to a couple of accounts that are no longer occupied.

Assessing
Utilities

The council received a report from Economic Development. They would like the council to consider a line-item for Economic Development in either 2011 or 2012 – possibly starting with \$1000. This would give the committee some freedom to explore possible ideas and projects in the future such as hiring someone to look at the nursing home to see what shape the structure is in. The council would like to hear more ideas before adding this to the budget. Martin said the committee also discussed a goal-planning session for the future of the City. This would involve the council, Economic Development and interested community members. It could be facilitated by staff from WC Initiative. The council suggested this be placed on the January agenda when the new council members have started. The nursing home was also brought up and if there is a possible use for it. The council was concerned about the costs involved and felt that if they were to become involved now – it could be a huge liability for the city. It will need to be discussed at a future meeting. It was also suggested that the council meet with area legislators to help with the situation.

EDA

The discussion moved to snow plowing on the south end of the nursing home – this area from the nursing home through to Iverson on the south side of the assisted living is used frequently and is needed for fire protection at the assisted living.

Martin reported on a meeting with League of MN Cities Insurance Trust. Staff will prepare some policies related to sewer maintenance and emergency response and special events for a future council meeting.

**LMC Insurance
Trust Meeting**

The League also has some training incentives for land use to help reduce possible land use claims.

Land Use Incentives

Jordan moved to approve **Resolution 2010-16 – Resolution Accepting Donations from Lake Region Threshermen’s Assoc. for the Ambulance Department in the amount of \$300.** Jensen seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for: Jensen, Jordan, Grover, Jaenisch and Ulrich. Those voting against – none. MCU

Donations

Ulrich moved to adjourn. Jensen seconded. MCU Adjourn 8:15 p.m.

_____ Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer