

March, 2009 Minutes

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at Ashby City Hall. Mayor Thomas Grover called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with council members Carl Ulrich, George Jordan, Ronnie Jaenisch and Lynn Jensen present. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer; Alan Cassavant, Public Works Superintendent; Richard Walton, City Attorney, Dennis Helle and Thor Tollefson, Chief of Police. Visitors: Wendy Erlandson from New Dimensions

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

There was a discussion on a business in town that is half-demolished. Martin and Grover will check to see if there are still plans to finish demolishing and when that may happen. There was also a discussion on C & I and all the items they have on their property. It is becoming unsightly. The council did not come to any conclusions – this is a great business to have and we'll just keep our eyes on it at this point.

Business

Visitors

Todd Hagen from Ehlers was not in attendance. There was a plan to refinance the water bonds but the rates have gone up so he said that we need to delay the sale. He asked bond counsel to prepare a resolution that allows a committee of the Clerk/Treasurer, Mayor and Ehlers to set a date and time to accept proposals. The parameters that are set by the resolution allows the committee to accept the most favorable proposal from the purchaser of the bonds provided that the true interest cost results is at least \$24,000 in future value debt service savings. Ulrich moved to approve **Resolution #2009-08 A Resolution Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2009A and Pledging for the Security Thereof Net Revenues.** Jordan seconded. Roll call vote – those voting for: Ulrich, Jaenisch, Grover, Jordan and Jensen. Those voting against: none. MCU

Water Bond Sale

Consent Agenda

Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of all February minutes.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$21,409.74 and Claims for Approval: \$59,032.66 for a total of \$80,442.40. Jensen went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Consent Agenda

There were no outstanding utility bills at this time.

Outstanding Utility Bills.

Open Forum

Two residents were in attendance at Open Forum. They gave their view-points and appreciation on how the council is doing. They had some suggestions to help cut the budget and asked them to consider these items. They also suggested that posting agendas around town prior to council meetings will give people the opportunity to see what is going on and they can decide whether they would like to attend the meeting or not. They also discussed the part-time police – is there a need and is this something that should be cut?

Open Forum

Visitors

Wendy Erlandson joined the meeting from New Dimensions. Their organization will be talking care of the health-care part of the assisted living. They have been working with the owners to get everything up and running. She said that more information will soon come in the paper.

Visitor – Assisted Living.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Grover came back with some ideas from the last Mayor's meeting. One of the communities holds a monthly meeting with business owners to brain-storm ideas to help spur business and positive exposure for the City. The council felt that this was worth trying and we would plan on an initial meeting and see where it goes. This community also gives out a welcome packet to new residents that have purchased lots in the city's development. This packet has coupons and promotions from the area businesses to encourage the new residents to shop in the community. This idea will also be pursued.

Mayor's Report

Administration

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

- Central Lakes Trail meeting, along with preparation of balance sheet.
- Items related to cancellation of water tower contract
- Items related to TFC Variance request.
- Preparation of year-end financials for the council.
- Preparation of survey and newsletter – mailed items together.
- Update of TIF and assessment information for Country View Estates.
- Pre-bond items to financial advisor.
- Auditors were here February 9th-13th.
- Various reports to state.
- Report of 2008 income to the council.
- 2009 Payroll changes

Clerk's Report

- Regional safety meeting.
- Council packets.
- Monthly bills and reports.
- Utility bills and receiving payments.
- Waiting on customers, all financials including deposits, checks, reports; posting and publishing notices; payroll; minutes; policies, and more.

Public Safety

The Police Report was as follows:

Police Report

- Public/Motorist Assist-2
- Property Check Requests-1
- Open Door – 2
- Burglar Alarm – 2
- Animal Complaints – 3
- Snowmobile Violation – 1
- Unsightly premises – 1
- Education (DARE) -3
- Parking Complaints – 2
- Vehicle in Ditch – 1
- Warrant Arrest – 1
- Theft (\$500 or more) - 1

There was a discussion of crosswalk signs. Vehicles are not always stopping for pedestrians. Tollefson will continue to look into this.

Crosswalk signs

Jim Risbrudt and Paul Ellingson were in attendance The council discussed contract signing with the Townships – the date is tentatively set for April 7th. Martin has been working with the fire department on some changes to the contract – specifically the need to start charging for fire calls. Home owners insurance will cover the cost and it will help keep the cost to the City and the townships down. Jensen moved to allow Martin, Grover and the fire department committee to revise the contract with these additions as they see fit.

Township Contracts

All-Hazard Mutual Aid

Ulrich moved to approve the All County Hazard Mutual Aid Agreement with County Fire Departments.

Public Works

The public works report was as follows:

Public Works Report

- We have finalized the amount that will be paid to Utility Services to cancel the contract. It was a joint effort between Walton, Martin and Cassavant. Cassavant was able to reduce the amount by several thousand dollars by continuing to pursue the issue with the vice president of the company. Walton has provided his services free of charge. This item was greatly decreased in the water fund budget. We will continue to put money away for water tower improvements but it will not be as much as the contract was.
- Cassavant attended Minnesota Rural Water Conference. He had a discussion with some other operators from our area about water cleaning and trying to schedule cleaning within the same time period to save some money.
- Continuing to do preventative maintenance on the treatment plant.
- Still removing snow and sanding using the tractor and a shovel to reduce cost from the County.
- The City has again been awarded a Wastewater Achievement Award from Pollution Control.

MnWARN Resolution

Walton thanked the public works department for keeping the streets clean.

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution #2009-07 Resolution Authorizing Governmental Unit to be a Party to Minnesota Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN)**. Jordan seconded. Roll call vote – those voting for: Ulrich, Jaenisch, Grover, Jordan and Jensen. Those voting against: none. MCU

Water Ordinance

Alley Blading

There was a discussion on the Water Ordinance and the need to clarify the cost of water meters. More information will be available at the next meeting.

The alley by the elevator was discussed and trying to keep it bladed in the spring as it gets difficult for the trucks to come in and out of the elevator. Cassavant will work with the county on trying to keep it a little smoother.

Housing Rehab

Old Business

We have received word that we will not know if we have received a housing rehab grant until April or May. This is due to the chaos from the new Federal Stimulus money provided to the agency.

Country View Estates Committee

The Country View Estates Committee will be meeting with local contractors to discuss some ideas for the new development. Notices will be sent out and information will be in the paper. The meeting will be scheduled in May.

Board of Appeals

New Business

Board of Appeals and Equalization is scheduled for April 8th at 5:30 p.m. Jaenisch moved to change the April council meeting immediately following the Board of Appeals. This will save money on Council member wages. Ulrich seconded. MCU

Martin distributed materials to the council on the Federal Economic Stimulus money available to cities in Minnesota. There are a few grant avenues that will be pursued such as fire hall improvements, a COPS grant, a public works/police storage building, etc.

The 2008 audit report will be presented at the April council meeting.

The League of MN Cities Loss Control Workshop will be held April 8th in Alexandria. Councilmembers will let Martin know if they wish to attend.

Adjourn 7:15 p.m.

**Economic
Stimulus Program**

Audit Report

**Loss Control
Workshop**

Valerie Martin, Clerk