

## **November, 2008 Minutes**

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 10, 2008 at Ashby City Hall. Mayor Thomas Grover called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with council members Carl Ulrich, Kristyn Fick, Peter Hoff and Lynn Jensen present. Also present were Richard Walton, City Attorney; Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer; Jamie West, Office Assistant and Thor Tollefson, Police Chief. Also present was George Jordan and Ronnie Jaenisch. Visitors-David Ford.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Hearing was opened for the Variance Request from David Ford. He is making a request to install a temporary handicap ramp to 206 Larson Street. His renters need access to the house by a ramp. This will change the set-back from 30 feet to 10 feet thus requiring a variance. Ulrich moved to approve the variance. Jensen seconded. MCU

Fick moved approve the agenda. Hoff seconded. MCU

### **Consent Agenda**

Ulrich moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of all October minutes.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$1,230,178.70 and Claims for Approval: \$21,258.32 for a total of \$1,251,437.02. Hoff went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

Hoff seconded. MCU

There was one outstanding utility bill. This person will be disconnected on Wednesday.

### **Open Forum**

No one was here.

### **Mayor's Report**

Grover attended the following:

- Working with a committee on issues with the assisted living.
- Will discuss same issue with legislators.

### **Administration**

Jensen reported on the Regional LMC meeting that she and Martin attended in Wheaton.

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was presented.

### **Public Safety**

The Police Report was as follows:

- Public/Motorist Assist – 1
- Animal Complaints – 1
- Alarms – 1
- Speed-1
- Property Check Requests – 5
- Suspicious Activity-3
- Vehicle Fire-1
- Improper Turn-1
- Passing in No Passing-1
- Assist Other Agency-2

Two speeders picked up by the Ashby Police Department were in the diversion class.

The Fire Department report was presented as follows:

- 19 Ambulance calls – 4 within the City of Ashby.
- 5 Fire Calls – 1 within the City of Ashby.

Martin reported on a meeting held with the three fire chiefs on their budget for 2009 and 2010. The idea was to work through the budgets to help start balancing receipts and disbursements. They also discussed an equipment replacement plan.

Martin also reported on the progress on the grant/loan with Rural Development. Stage II is almost complete. A public hearing is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Works**

- No report was available.

**Old Business**

There was a discussion on the possible Ordinance regarding outdoor wood furnaces. Ulrich moved to have a moratorium on outdoor wood furnaces until further notice. Fick seconded.

Hoff, Jensen, Martin and Walton reported on a meeting held to promote Country View Estates. Hoff reported that the meeting was very positive. The group is working on a billboard for Highway 78 to advertise the development. Because of the housing market slump, lots are not selling as well as predicted. There are also a few interested parties that need to sell their property before they can buy and build in the new development.

The issue on offering health insurance was discussed. After extensive discussion and reviewing information received from our health insurance carrier, it was decided that it would not be of benefit to the city. The benefit would need to be offered to all council members now and in the future and because rates are based on usage, it could take a toll on rates – if someone had high usage.

A resident survey was discussed. This would be a great opportunity to get positive information out to the community and help in goal planning for the future. A committee will look at what has been developed and decide what information we would like to get the committee is: Hoff, West, Martin, Donna Jean Grover, Jensen and George Jordan.

A new meeting time was discussed for 2009. Possibly 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 5:30 p.m. It will officially be decided at the January council meeting.

The council received a thank you from the Grant County Historical Society for the \$100 donation.

Fick moved to approve Carlson-Highland as auditors. Jensen seconded. MCU

Housing grant application has passed the first stage – a public hearing is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Fick moved to change health insurance to match personnel policy. The health insurance contract states that health insurance will start 60 days after employment begins and the personnel policy states: *Coverage will begin on the nearest first day of the month, but at least thirty (30) after employment begins.* Hoff seconded. Opposed – Jensen. Motion carried.

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution #2008-18 Resolution Accepting Donations as follows: Larry and Nancy Purdon – Fire Department - \$100 and for the horseshoe pits: \$100-Johnson/Nelson Masonry, \$100-Review Enterprises, \$100 Fergus Falls Medical Group, \$50 Ness Backhoe, \$100-Joe and Norma Hoff and Park Region Telephone-\$400.** Fick seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. MCU

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution #2008-19 Approval of Assessment of Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes.** Fick seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. MCU

Hoff moved to approve **Resolution #2008-20 Resolution to Adopt the Grant County all Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Ulrich seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. MCU

Fick moved to approve **Resolution #2008-20 Resolution Canvassing Election Results as follows:**

<b>CANDIDATES</b>	<b># OF VOTES</b>
George Jordan	216
Ronnie Jaenisch	167
Write-ins	38

Jensen seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. MCU

There was a written request from Fjoslien Animal Shelter regarding a County levy for animal maintenance/support. They were asking cities and townships to call their commissioners in support of this levy. MN Statutes allows cities/and or counties to levy \$1 per capita for animal maintenance/protection. This would eliminate the contract with the shelter for each city and would spread it out evenly over the county. It was suggested that each council member call their commissioners if they are in favor of it. Residents are also encouraged to talk with their commissioner on this issue.

Jensen reported that she had travelled to Wahpeton today to watch a program put on by members of the Ashby American Legion and other Ashby community members. This program was done here in Ashby during Memorial Day and the Superintendent from

Wahpeton was here to watch it. He made a request to have this same group do it for Veteran's Day. It was performed in front of the Wahpeton High School & Middle School students. Area veterans and their spouses were also invited. It was very well received and our community can be proud of the programs that our Legion does honoring veterans.

Jensen moved to adjourn. Fick seconded. MCU Adjourn 6:15 p.m.

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Valerie Martin, Clerk