

December, 2008 Minutes

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at Ashby City Hall. Mayor Thomas Grover called the meeting to order at 7:00 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; Alan Cassavant, Public Works Superintendent; Thor Tollefson, Police Chief; George Jordan and Ronnie Jaenisch. Visitors: Jim Risbrudt, Mark Zlotnick and Kathy Sletto.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The public hearing for the fire truck was called to order. General information was distributed. Questions were answered. Ulrich moved to accept proposal and continue to work with Rural Development. The truck is a first response/grass fire rig. The City is hoping to receive a \$20,000 grant from USDA Rural Development, along with a \$30,000 loan and \$25,000 fire department contribution. The fire truck replacement money that the Fire Department is getting from the General Fund and the townships will support the contribution and loan payment. Hoff seconded. MCU

The clerk/treasurer administered the oath of office to George Jordan and Ronnie Jaenisch. Their official duties will start the first Monday in January.

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

Consent Agenda

Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of all November minutes.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$15,919.60 and Claims for Approval: \$11,866.10 for a total of \$27,785.70. Grover went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

Fick seconded. MCU

There were two outstanding utility bills. If no payment is received, they are scheduled to be turned off tomorrow.

Open Forum

No one was here.

Mayor's Report

Grover attended the following:

- Hosted the Regional Mayor's meeting

The public hearing was open for the housing grant. Information on the following topics were presented and discussed: scope of project, implementation schedule, overall cost of project, funding sources, cost to community residents, and potential displacement. Jensen moved to approve the City's in-kind commitment of \$3000 to the project. This contribution includes clerk/treasurer's time, postage, communication, photo copies, publication requirements, etc. Hoff seconded. MCU

Hoff moved to approve **Resolution 2008-22 Local Government Application Resolution**. Jensen seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Administration

Ulrich moved to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's report. Fick seconded. MCU The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer for the previous month. Such as:

- Election preparation/administration and election judge duties.
- 2009 renewals such as health insurance, flex spending, etc.
- New Councilmember orientation.
- Central Lakes Trail meeting, along with preparation of balance sheet.
- Budgets.
- Assisted with election recount in Elbow Lake.
- Council packets.
- Monthly bills and reports.
- Utility bills and receiving payments.
- Put together survey and presented to committee.
- Public Works and Budget committee meetings.
- Liquor and cigarette renewals.
- 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:

- Public/Motorist Assist – 1
- Alarms – 1
- Property Check Requests – 2
- Education & prevention - 2
- Traffic direction-1
- Unsafe equipment-1
- Welfare check-1
- Unlawful Deposit of Garbage-1

Fick moved to allow Tollefson to go to DARE training. Ulrich seconded. MCU The Sheriff's Department will pay for ½ of the training expenses.

The Fire Department report was presented as follows:

- 17 Ambulance calls – 2 within the City of Ashby.
- 4 Fire Calls – 1 within the City of Ashby.

Public Works

The public works report was as follows:

- Completed 2nd discharge of ponds and they are ready for winter storage.
- Calibrated pumps at the lift station.
- Truck and tractor maintenance is done and plows are ready for winter.
- Went over tower maintenance program and did some checking with other companies.
- There is a recall for certain water hydrants – checking to see if any of ours fall into this recall.
- All 4 Water/Wastewater reports have been done and sent to the state.

Fick & Hoff reported on public works commission. There was a lot of discussion on the water tower maintenance agreement. The idea was great but probably cost-prohibitive to continue fitting it into our budget. We can pay for work done to the water tower to this point and get out of the contract. Cassavant reviewed some information that he had received from other water tower maintenance companies. One of the companies has agreed to come next year and check the tower for any future needed repairs. Ulrich moved to get out of the contract with Utility Services. Hoff seconded. MCU

Old Business

Survey Committee reported on their meeting. They went through the proposed survey – several questions were added to the survey. The committee will meet again and approve the final one. This is a great planning tool for the City for the upcoming years.

The budget committee of Fick, Hoff and Martin presented their report. Several cuts were made to the General Fund that will reduce the general levy by \$5000. There was a discussion on more cuts that could possibly be made. More information will need to be gathered before the final levy will be sent to the County Auditor.

Ulrich moved to table budget approval, the 2009 Fee Ordinance and the Final Levy Resolution until the 16th of December at a special council meeting. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Fick seconded. MCU

Ulrich moved to make changes to disbursements/deposits for 2008 as presented. Jensen seconded. MCU

Jensen moved to not renew the interstate billboard sign. Fick seconded. MCU

Ulrich discussed some negative feedback that he has received from residents after the 2009 proposed tax statements were received. "I have heard comments from community members about some so-called white elephants in our community. What about the new water system that was done in the past? – we maybe could consider this a white elephant, as we are at 1/3 capacity, we have lost storage for public works because of the location of the water plant and the actual cost of the water plant seemed quite extreme. People have commented that the Ashby Country View Estates is a white-elephant. Who knew that was going to be a financial melt-down in the housing market? I believe that these two so-called white-elephants should be part of the way the city council's proactive approach to our future. They go hand in hand. We have some beautiful new residential lots and we have the capacity to provide water to these properties. Let's look at them as great growth potential and be positive about our future. We have a lot of things to offer potential residents and let's tell them how great our community is. We are investing in our future."

New Business

Council checks will be disbursed tomorrow.

Council training is available for new elected and experienced officials from the League of MN Cities. Ron Jaenisch, George Jordan, Carl Ulrich and Lynn Jensen will attend trainings.

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution 2008-24 Fund Transfers and Closeout of Construction Funds**. Fick seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Hoff moved to approve **Resolution 2008-25 Liquor License and Tobacco Renewals**. Ulrich seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Fick moved to approve **Resolution 2008-26 Fund Transfer for Flexible Spending**. Jensen seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution 2008-27 Fund Transfer for TIF**. Fick seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Hoff moved to approve **Resolution 2008-28 Accepting Donations from Pat Brown - \$20 for the Horseshoe Pits and \$20 for the Compost Site**. Ulrich seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Fick moved to approve **Resolution 2008-29 Fund Transfer for Capital Improvement**. Jensen seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

Fick moved to approve changes to the Capital Improvement Plan and Fund Disbursements. Hoff seconded. MCU

Ulrich moved to approve **Resolution 2008-30 Fund Transfer for Water Bond Payment**. Hoff seconded. Roll call vote: Jensen-yes, Fick-yes, Grover-yes, Hoff-yes and Ulrich-yes. Motion carried.

The council discussed a holiday get-together. We will wait until the January meeting to decide.

Appreciation was expressed to the out-going councilmembers on their service over the last four years.

The meeting was closed to discuss employee negotiations. The meeting reopened. Ulrich moved to approve the changes to the personnel policy, the step/grade plan for 2009, 2010 and 2011 and to continue with the same health insurance benefits for the next three years. Hoff seconded. MCU

Jensen moved to adjourn. Fick seconded. MCU Adjourn 9:15 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk