

### **September 1, 2009 Special Council Meeting**

The Ashby City Council held a Special Council Meeting on September 1, 2009 at Ashby City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2010 budget, future plans such as a possible sewer project, public works/police storage building and the purchase of a new squad car. 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 was Val Martin – Clerk/Treasurer, Thor Tollefson, Chief of Police, Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitors were Jim Karl, Mark & Marcia Koefod, Don Larson, Al Boe, and Winnie & Adair Thompson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The budgets for General Fund and all the Enterprise Funds were discussed. The budget committee has met on August 31<sup>st</sup> to go through the budgets and will be recommending a wage freeze and several items either removed from General Fund or moved to the Enterprise Funds in order to keep the levy to a very small increase. There was also a discussion on utility rates. It looks as though rates for water, garbage and storm sewer would remain the same and there will probably be a need to increase sewer by 50 cents per thousand gallons. The budgets were distributed to the council and visitors.

Some of the visitor has questions regarding the police department and territory. These questions were answered by Chief Tollefson and he would also discuss the items with our part-time officer. Some visitors also questioned the continued need for a part-time officer. It was noted that his hours have been reduced by 20%. There was also a request for police presence on the first day of school.

Country View Estates was discussed and the need for possibly changing some of the covenants. It was discussed that a few are too restrictive. Some items that were mentioned included a larger accessory building and poured cement sidewalks. Ulrich moved to contact property owners to meet regarding these changes and to also contact the League of MN Cities for possible help in this situation. Jordan seconded. MCU Martin will contact property owner and schedule a meeting. A meeting for the promotional committee will also be scheduled.

The public works/police storage building was discussed. The next step would be to have a preliminary report from an architect (Rural Development requirement). Martin will find out prices on this report.

The possible sewer project was discussed. The next step would be to get a preliminary engineering report. The cost could run \$15,000-\$20,000. There is a balance in the sewer fund in excess of \$30,000 so the money for this report is available. If the sewer project does not happen, this information is still available for future use. Ulrich moved to do a RFP for engineering to do this preliminary report. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

There was a question on Murphy's Pub and the smoking patio that he is building. He got the proper permits for the construction and he does own that portion of the sidewalk. There will be a need to change his liquor license to include that new addition. Martin will take care of this.

Jaenisch moved to adjourn. Ulrich seconded. MCU

Adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

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Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer