

February, 2009 Minutes

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 5, 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; and Thor Tollefson, Chief of Police

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Consent Agenda

Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of all January minutes.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$20,822.25 and Claims for Approval: \$22,531.45 for a total of \$43,353.70. Jordan went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

There was a discussion on the bill from Kratochwill and Anderson. The council would like to see more detail on these bills. Martin will notify them of this request.

Jordan seconded. MCU

Consent Agenda

There was one outstanding utility bill. The council directed the Clerk/Treasurer to notify the property owners that they would have 2 weeks to pay their account in full.

Outstanding Utility Bills

Open Forum

No one was here.

Open Forum

Mayor's Report

- Grover did not attend any meetings.

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.
- Data requests sent out.
- Fire/Ambulance yearly reports.
- W-2's
- 1099's
- Items related to cancellation of water tower contract
- Planning Commission meeting
- Items related to TFC Variance request.
- 2009 Payroll changes
- Attended Disaster and Recover training in St. Cloud.
- Attended Regional Clerk's meeting.
- Economic Development meeting
- Pre-audit
- Unemployment reports
- Several year-end reports
- Items related to TFC Poultry expansion.
- 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.

Clerk's Report

There was a discussion on the senior discounts for garbage and rental property. Because we do not necessarily know who is moving in and out of rentals, the council agreed that the following should apply:

- You must be 65 or over
- Own and live in your own home
- Have a small garbage container

Senior Discount for Garbage

Ulrich, Jordan, Jaenisch and Jensen report on the League of MN Cities training for newly elected and experience officials. They all felt that it was very valuable training.

Report on LMC training for Council

Public Safety

The Police Report was as follows:

- Public/Motorist Assist-5

Police Report

- Property Check Requests-2
- Welfare Check-3
- Open Door-1
- Property Checks-1
- Missing Person-1
- Juvenile Use of Tobacco-1
- Sale of Tobacco to Juvenile-2
- Forged Check-1

Tollefson also reported that he attended DARE Training in St. Paul the first two weeks of the month. He started teaching the program today in Ashby. He will also be teaching the program in Herman with the County helping to pay for training, etc.

Report on DARE Training

The Fire Department report was presented as follows:

Fire Dept. Report

- 18 Ambulance calls – 4 within the City of Ashby.
- 1 Fire Call – Chimney fire in Pelican Lake Township.

Ulrich moved to appoint the following officers to the Fire Department for 2009: Mark Zlotnick, Chief; Paul Ellingson, 1st Assistant Chief; and Jim Risbrudt, 2nd Assistant Chief. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Fire Dept. Officers

Public Works

Public Works Report

The public works report was as follows:

- Robertson Well Drilling was here and we pulled Well #4. We found corrosion of pipes and it was eaten away in places where pump bolts to motor. It was recommended that pump, motor and pipe be replaced. This project has been planned and money has been set-aside to pay for the repairs.
- Some sanding has been done using the tractor and a shovel. This has been done instead of calling the county.
- Preventative maintenance has been done on the water plant.
- Touch pads have been repaired in a few locations. Everything seems to be working now.
- Went through inventory at the shop, rearranged and organized supplies.

The council discussed snow removal and budget cuts. Should we wait to plow when there is 3 inches or more of snow? It was decided that it was a safety factor for the most part and the staff should use common sense when removing snow – trying to keep costs down when possible.

Snow Removal

Jaenisch moved to approve membership in the MnWARN program. Ulrich seconded. MCU This program is a state-wide emergency mutual aid program for public works. There is no cost involved to be members and it enhances access to specialized resources when you are dealing with an emergency.

MnWarn

Old Business

Possible cuts to Local Government Aid were discussed. With the Governor's plan, we are looking at possible cuts of around \$15,000 in 2009 and \$30,000 in 2010. It was suggested that councilmembers contact legislators to let them know the burden this will be on our City. The staff and budget committee will also look at other items that could be cut from the budget.

Cuts to LGA

New Business

Jensen moved to approve Ulrich as check signer for the City checking account at the First State Bank of Ashby. He will replace Kristyn Fick. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Ulrich to sign checks

Ulrich moved to approve the end of probationary period for Jamie West. Jordan seconded. MCU

Approve end of probation for Jamie West

Jaenisch moved to go ahead with refinancing of the water bonds. It could save approximately \$25,000 over the life of the bonds. Ulrich seconded. MCU

Refinance Water Bonds

Martin and Grover reported that the Ashby Economic Development Authority has waived their meeting fees to help the City save some money.

EDA waives meeting fees

Year-end financial reports were distributed to the Council.

Year-end financials

Adjourn 6:45 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk