

Ashby City Council Meeting-March 11, 2010

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at Ashby City Hall. Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Lynn Jensen, George Jordan, Carl Ulrich and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer; Thor Tollefson, Chief of Police; and Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitors were Jeff Kuhn, Kim Karl and Ben Oseien.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Visitors

Jeff Kuhn from WSN was present to give an update on the possible sewer project. He has been working with staff and one of the industrial business owners on future projected use. As part of the project, we want to be sure that we are considering all the needs of the community.

Consent Agenda

Ulrich moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$20,182.03 and Claims for Approval: \$21,390.89 for a total of \$41,572.92. Jensen went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

Jaenisch seconded. MCU

There were no outstanding utility bills this month.

Mayor's Report

The mayor reported on the following:

- Attended regional Mayors' meeting. The area mayors will be traveling to the capital on March 24th to meet with state legislators.
- Hiring committee meeting/interviews.
- Meeting with WSN, Martin and TFC.

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 and preparation of financials.
- Safety meeting in Fergus Falls.
- Several items related to Public Works position.
- Hiring committee meetings/interviews.
- PERA annual exclusion report.
- Fire/police reports to state.
- Radio user meeting in Elbow Lake.
- Meeting with WSN, Grover and TFC.
- 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, compiling and delivering agenda packets to council members and more.

Public Safety

Police Report:

The Police Report was as follows:

- Parking Complaints – 2
- Unlocks – 5
- Open Door – 1
- Assist Other Agency – 2
- Property Check Request – 2
- Hit & Run – 1
- Ordinance Violation – 1
- Public Assist – 1
- 10-50 Accident – 1
- Alarm Call – 1

At the January Economic Development meeting, one of the members suggested that the council think about prohibiting the use of engine brakes in town. Tollefson said that it was already addressed and prohibited in our Traffic Ordinance and all we needed to do was put up some signs. He will get pricing before the next council meeting.

The council held a lengthy discussion on the proposed changes to the liquor ordinance, specifically what age should be allowed into a street dance without a parent/guardian. There had been a request from the Legion manager to allow 16 and 17 year olds in without a parent/legal guardian. The council felt that it would be okay with 18-20 years in the dance but not younger than that. Jordan moved to approve the change to **Ordinance 112 – Liquor Regulations**. Ulrich seconded. MCU The changes are as follows:

112.26 DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES.

The application shall specifically describe the compact and contiguous premises (structural building) within which liquor may be dispensed and consumed. The description may not include ~~any parking lot or sidewalk~~ any outdoor area except on a temporary basis, no more than three consecutive days, and only with prior Council approval. The Description shall contain the street address and description.

112.31 RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE.

(H) Licensees will be required to have a person at the entrance to the establishment during all outdoor dances and during indoor dances where turnout is expected to be 200 or more. This person will check identifications and no person under the age of 18, unless accompanied by legal guardian, will be allowed to enter the establishment during the dance. An easily identifiable stamp or wrist band must be worn by all persons that are 21 and over in order to be allowed to consume alcohol.

Ulrich moved to approve an Outdoor Liquor Permit for the Ashby American Legion on May 15, 2010 for the Coots Banquet and to approve an Outdoor Dance Permit for the Ashby American Legion on July 17, 2010 for Appreciation Days.

Walton asked for clarification on the Check Diversion Program. He has had a request to prosecute a bad check without using the program. The council felt that there would be no benefit to the business owner or the City by not using this program. No action was taken.

Fire Department Report

- 27 Ambulance calls – 1 in the City.
- 2 Fire call (Both were car accidents)

Public Works

Tollefson reported that he has been helping Jerry Buse with fixing some issues with the back wash filters. Parts have been ordered and replaced and things seem to be working properly. Maintenance has been done on both the trucks and the tractor.

Martin reported that there have been some issues with the meter reading equipment and software. The system is now 10 years old and the council may need to consider replacing it. Martin will do more research and get back with some pricing.

The council received a quote from Driggins Electric to replace several lights throughout the City Hall and the Fire Hall. They were also presented with rebate information from Otter Tail Power and cost savings for each fixture. Jaenisch moved to accept the bid and replace the fixtures. Ulrich seconded. MCU

Jensen informed the council that someone has tripped on the sidewalk close to the grocery store. Tollefson will spray some orange paint on the area that has heaved. It was noted that at this time of the year, sidewalks do heave and will usually settle after the frost is out of the ground.

Old Business

House Rehab Update:

We have received 21 applications from Ashby residents and 12 applications from Wendell residents. The status of the applicant households:

Ashby Households:

- 3 jobs have been completed
- 3 construction jobs are in progress.
- 2 additional homes have been inspected and the jobs are out for bids and will be awarded shortly.
- 6 households: we are waiting for complete applications, or more information on income and/or property verifications.
- 7 applicants have been found to be over-income, ineligible, or have withdrawn their applications

Wendell Households:

- 3 jobs have been completed
- 2 construction jobs are in progress.
- 6 additional households are on the waiting list
- 1 applicant withdrew her application

The information has been sent to the grant writer for the commercial rehab grant application. Two more forms from businesses have been received and sent off. This application will be filled out in conjunction with the sewer application.

Reminder that the assessment hearing/board of appeals will be April 8th and 5:30 p.m.

The architectural report for the police/public works storage building was presented to the council. The council gave Martin the okay to continue with the application.

The MnDOT Tree Program will happen in the fall rather than this spring.

There has been a request from the school staff to name the new trail shelter after Justin Woldahl. Jordan made this a motion. Ulrich seconded. MCU The family will be notified for approval.

Most residents have probably already received their Census 2010 material and are encouraged to get it filled out.

Morgan Turner will be honored at the April council meeting.

Martin informed the council that the garbage contract price for the county was lower than last year and lower than the budgeted amount.

The council approved setting a date for a City-wide clean up. Martin will contact Denzel's and set a date.

The pet clinic is scheduled for May 18th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Ashby City Hall.

The council received an update from the Hiring Committee. 8 applications had been received, with only one applicant being fully qualified. The committee interviewed this individual, and asked him to come to the council meeting for a second interview.

The council had an open interview with this candidate. After several questions, the council thanked him for coming and discussed options for the job.

It was decided to advertise the position a second time with options of hiring someone that is not licensed. The council and committee will consider licensed applications first but will also consider someone to come in as a trainee. If the council would hire a trainee, we would need to hire a licensed operator to oversee and train this individual and to be responsible for paperwork and the system. It takes one year of experience and the need to pass an exam to be licensed for Class D Wastewater. It takes three years of experience and the need to pass an exam to be licensed for Class C Water. Martin and Grover will meet with Evansville to discuss the need to extend the Mutual Aid Agreement for their operator and options for the future.

Adjourn 8:00 p.m.

_____ Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer