

July, 2009 Ashby City Council Meeting

The Ashby City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at Ashby City Hall. Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with council members Lynn Jensen, George Jordan, Carl Ulrich and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer; Richard Walton, City Attorney. Visitors: Ruth Benson, Tim and Holly Thompson and Megan Jensen.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Grover opened the Public Hearing for changes to the Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance.

The Planning Commission's recommendations for the zoning map were as follows-most of these changes were due to discrepancies in the map when it was first amended:

- Excess railroad property purchased by Ruth and Arlen Benson should be zoned residential rather than industrial.
- Ashby American Legion should be zoned commercial rather than residential.
- Barry's Short Stop should be zoned commercial rather than residential.

The Planning Commission's recommendations for changes to the zoning ordinance are as follows:

- Fences will be allowed in the front yard with prior council approval for unique situations.
- Eliminate the set-back fence requirement of 6 inches. It should state that it needs to be on the resident's property.
- Changes to the set-back requirements for residential. It is not clear on accessory building and their set-back requirements. The way it reads now, someone could build an accessory building in the front yard 18 inches from the property line. The change should read that accessory building should be in the side or back yard. They will be allowed in the front yard with a 30 foot set-back.

Jaenisch moved to approve the planning commission's recommendations to the zoning map and zoning ordinance as presented. Ulrich seconded. MCU

The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting was opened.

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

Part-time help was discussed. Jamie West will be done the end of August. Jordan approved offering the part-time position to Judy Helle. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Holly and Tim Thompson were in attendance to discuss a fence that they put up. Walton said that the council could issue a Right Of Way permit on a temporary basis to allow them to have it for daycare purposes. Ulrich moved to approve a Right of Way permit to expire one year from now. It will only be allowed for the time-period that they have daycare and must be renewed once a year. They also must sign a waiver of liability for snow issues. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Ruth Benson joined the meeting. She has an issue with the excess railroad property that they own being zoned residential as they have some future plans for it. Ulrich moved to change the zoning to commercial. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Consent Agenda

Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$17,504.03 and Claims for Approval: \$37,741.50 for a total of \$55,245.53. Jordan went through the bills prior to council and gave pre-approval.

Jordan seconded. MCU

There were no outstanding utility bills scheduled to be disconnected tomorrow.

Open Forum

There were no residents in attendance at the Open Forum.

Mayor's Report

The mayor attended the following:

- Community Club Meeting
- Planning Commission Meeting
- Park Board Meeting
- Regional Mayor's Meeting

Administration

There were no council reports.

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.
- Local users meeting for radios.
- Red, White and Blue Parade meeting.
- Items for housing rehab grant.
- Mock OSHA inspection.
- Community Club Meeting
- Newsletter.

- Posters and press releases for Red, White & Blue Parade and Farmers Market.
- Park Board Notice.
- Updated web-site with Appreciation Days info.
- Planning Commission.
- Meeting with DOT on Roadside Beautification program.
- 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.

Office security was discussed. Council directed the clerk to check options.

Public Safety

The Police Report was as follows:

- Civil Mater -2
- Animal Complaints – 3
- Motor Assist – 5
- Speed – 1
- Assist Other Agency - 2

Ulrich moved to approve the **Transient Merchant Ordinance and Application**. Jordan seconded. MCU

Jaenisch moved to approve the change to the Nuisance Ordinance as presented. Jensen seconded. MCU

The Fire Department report was as follows:

- 13 ambulance calls – 2 in the City of the Ashby.
- 1 Fire Call – Pelican Lake Township Fire Alarm

Public Works

Public Works Report:

- Johnson Jet-Line was here to clean a few sewer lines. They cleaned 2420 ft. of sanitary sewer and 325 ft of storm sewer.
- The curbs and crosswalks have all been painted. The park shelter is being stained and will be done by Appreciation Days.
- All reports for the quarter have been completed. They include bacteria samples, tile line samples from around the ponds, chlorine levels and fluoride samples.
- Had a mock OSHA inspection held by the safety director. Only a couple of minor things were noted and we are in the process of making those changes.

Rural Development Applications were submitted last month and Martin reported that the next steps are in order. The council tabled the sewer project until more information on the stimulus program is available. They directed Martin to proceed with the next steps of the application for the public works/police storage building.

The council received a report from the parks board. The Board had met to finalize plans for the horseshoe dedication and tournament.

Martin suggested that the council look into a DNR grant for the property located along the trail for a possible park. This would be a good draw for prospective buyers for the new development. The council asked her to continue looking into grant opportunities for this possible project.

Old Business

The council received an update on the housing rehab grant as follows:

- 3 homes will be inspected on July 9th.
- 2 additional homes are ready for inspection.
- More information is needed on 4 more homes.
- 1 applicant was ineligible.

More Ashby applications are needed in Ashby. Martin will put more information in the paper.

New Business

Jensen moved to approve **Resolution #2009-17 Accepting Donations for the Central Lakes Trail Shelter - \$85 from Fergus Falls Medical Group, \$200 from Coots Unlimited, \$85 from Otter Tail Power, \$75 from Review Enterprises, \$250 from Eagle Lake Sportsmen's Club, \$85 from Thrifty White and \$500 from Ashby Community Club**. Jordan seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for – Jensen, Jordan, Grover, Jaenisch and Ulrich. Those voting against – none. MCU

Adjourn 6:25 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk