

**MINUTES**  
**January Regular Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Regular Meeting**

A regular council meeting of the City of Ashby, MN was held at Ashby City Hall with the following members present: Wayne Stierlen, Scott Ellingson, Jake Dahle and Ron Jaenisch. Absent: None. Also present: Clerk Thormodson, Deputy Clerk Klinkner and Public Works Superintendent Johnson. Acting Mayor Ellingson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Agenda Approval**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved.

**Visitors:**

**Emily Johnson with  
the Battle Lake  
Review**

Emily Johnson spoke about the benefits of using the Battle Lake Review and Ashby Post verses other options. Council asked if it could be possible to have the council minutes posted in the paper like we used to.

**Fire Chief Robby  
Risbrudt**

Fire Chief Risbrudt informed council about the progress on the Ambulance addition (90% done) and the fire truck purchase. The new fire truck will be put into service later that evening. Sealed bids will be used to sell the old truck in the spring.

**Public Comment:**

None given.

**Consent Agenda  
Minutes/Claims**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, council approved the consent agenda which includes minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 12th, 2024 and the claims and prepaid disbursements of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented and reviewed by Stierlen.

**2025 City Council  
Meeting Days and  
Time**

Upon motion from Dahle, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council decided to continue holding Regular City Council Meetings on the second Thursday of the month starting at 5:30 p.m. at Ashby City Hall.

**Request Approval:  
Resolution 2025-01  
Accepting Mayor's  
Resignation and  
Filling Vacancy**

Mayor Amy Johnson's resignation letter dated December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was viewed stating the following: "Please accept this as my letter of resignation. My last day as Mayor of Ashby is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. It has been an honor to serve." Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle - **Resolution 2025-01 Accepting Mayor's Resignation and Filling Vacancy.** Roll Call Vote, those voting for: Dahle, Jaenisch, Ellingson and Stierlen. Those voting against: None. Carried. Mayor Amy Johnson's resignation has been accepted and Acting Mayor Scott Ellingson has been appointed to the fill the Mayor position until the term ends in 2026. Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, council set a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 for interested residents to apply for the newly vacated council position that will go through 2026. This spot will be filled at the February Council meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Request Approval  
for 2025**

**-City Attorney**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved Justin Anderson to be the City Attorney.

**-Official Depository**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the Official Depository to be Viking Bank in Ashby.

**-Official Newspaper**

Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Jaensich and unanimously carried, council approved the Official Newspaper to be the Battle Lake Review/Ashby Post.

**-Official Web-site**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved to continue with the official Web-site: [www.ashbyminnesota.org](http://www.ashbyminnesota.org)

**-Commission and  
Committee  
Appointments**

Jaenisch and Stierlen will join Clerk Thormodson on the Personnel Committee. Mayor Ellingson appointed Jaenisch to be the Acting Mayor. Dahle will replace Clerk Thormodson as the Fire Department Liaison. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, council approved the aforementioned changes to the Committees for 2025.

<b>-Commission and Committee Appointments cont.</b>	The remaining open spots will be filled once the vacant council position is filled in February.
<b>Mayor's Report</b>	The State of the City letter was discussed. Stierlen commented on how well written it was, Jaenisch concurred. Council would like to continue this in the future. No Mayor report given.
<b>Council Reports</b>	None given
<b>Clerk's Report</b>	The Clerk's report was reviewed.
<b>Public Safety -Law Enforcement</b>	The Grant County Law Enforcement 2024 Year-End Contracted Hours reports were reviewed. The 2025 Law Enforcement Contract with the Grant County's Sheriff's department was reviewed. There will be a three percent increase for 2025. Upon motion from Dahle, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the 2025 Law Enforcement Contract for 2025 with the Grant County Sheriff's department.
<b>-Fire &amp; Ambulance</b>	The Fire and Ambulance report was reviewed. There were 29 Ambulance Calls (7 in the City) and 2 Fire Calls (1 in the City) in December.
<b>-EMS Continuation of Care</b>	Upon motion from Dahle, seconded by Jaenisch and unanimously carried, council approved the addition of four Fergus Falls Fire Department paramedics to the Ashby Ambulance payroll to ensure continuation of care for patients.
<b>Public Works -Wi-Fi at Water Treatment Plant</b>	Installation of Wi-Fi at the Water Treatment Plant was discussed. It was decided to look into hardwiring in the spring once the ground thaws.
<b>-Wi-Fi at Community and Senior Center</b>	Council discussed the need for installing Wi-Fi at the Community and Senior Center. Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, council approved to have the city install Wi-Fi at the Community and Senior Center for the residents.
<b>-Ice Rink</b>	Jaenisch asked Dwight Walvatne about tree removal at the ice rink. Walvatne said there are a couple trees that could be taken down that would allow sufficient light to reach the ice rink. Walvatne plans to flood the rink to increase the pond size in the next couple weeks.
<b>Old Business: -Purchase Updates</b>	Clerk Thormodson informed council that the old Nursing Home and Hotchkiss purchases should be completed by the end of the month. Widseth engineers are putting together a demolition bid packet for the old Nursing Home.
<b>New Business: *Request Approval: Resolution 2025-02 Accepting Donations</b>	Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen - <b>Resolution 2025-02 Accepting Donations.</b> Roll Call Vote, those voting for: Dahle, Jaenisch, Ellingson and Stierlen. Those voting against: None. Carried. The City of Ashby appreciates and accepts the donations from Debra Braud in the amount of \$300 and Michael Youngblood in the amount of \$250 to the Ashby Ambulance.
<b>Ordinance 91: Regulating Animals</b>	Clerk Thormodson told council about a resident's complaint about a neighbor's dog defecating in their yard. Thormodson asked for direction from council on how they would like him to proceed. Council stated they would like an ordinance violation letter to be followed with a \$100 fine for a second violation. Thormodson will put something together for the next meeting for council to review. Pet licensing is also an issue in the City. Life time licenses, ordinance enforcement and pet clinics were discussed.
<b>February Council Meeting</b>	The next regular City Council Meeting will be on February 13th, 2025 starting at 5:30 pm at Ashby City Hall.
<b>Adjourn</b>	Upon motion by Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Ellingson, Mayor