

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 13, 2020

**Public Hearing on
Public Nuisance**

A Public Hearing of the Ashby City Council was held at Ashby City Hall with the following members present: Tom Grover, Heather Rossum, Wayne Stierlen, Carrie Obright and Jeremy Obright. Absent: None. Also Present: Attorney Justin Anderson, Clerk Schmitz and Deputy Clerk Helle. Absent: None. Visitor's Present: Sheriff Mark Haberer, Troy and Corrine Hart, Alden and Winnie Thompson.

Attorney Anderson discussed the legal abatement process for a property that violates the Public Nuisance Ordinance. Sheriff Haberer informed the council of the notification of the Public Nuisance that he provided to the property owner at 305 Melby Avenue. Council indicated that the most crucial issues that they expect to be rectified are to have the Sheriff go through the property with the owner to ensure that there is no access to the building, and to clean up the overall appearance of the exterior; to include snow removal on the sidewalk (per city ordinance) and control the grass and overgrown trees. The property owner was present and agreed to the requests that the council made.

Regular Meeting

A regular council meeting of the City of Ashby, MN was held at Ashby City Hall with the following members present: Tom Grover, Heather Rossum, Wayne Stierlen, Carrie Obright and Jeremy Obright Absent: None. Also present: Attorney Justin Anderson, Clerk Schmitz, Superintendent Johnson, and Deputy Clerk Helle. Absent: None. Visitor's Present: Donna Jean Grover and Sarah House of Century 21 Vista, Mary Jo Knutson of Grant County SWCD, Alden and Winnie Thompson. Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Agenda Approval

Upon motion from J. Obright, seconded by Stierlen, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

**Visitors:
Attorney Anderson
– Approval: Ashby
Coop Elevator
Easements**

Attorney Anderson presented the council with three easement requests from the Ashby Coop Elevator regarding encroachments onto city property. The requests are to continue permitted use. Upon motion from J. Obright, seconded by Rossum and unanimously carried, council approved to authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to execute the three Encroachment Agreements as presented and approved by Attorney Anderson.

**Donna Jean Grover/
Sarah House –
Century 21 – Re:
CVE Lot Listings**

Donna Jean Grover and Sarah House of Century 21 Vista were present to discuss the Country View Estates lot listing renewal. Grover and House are interested in co-listing the lots with an emphasis on Marketing. House would like to work with videography in the development and presenting something new and fresh every two weeks to monthly starting in March. They would like to introduce new fresh ideas and sell Ashby as a community. Upon motion from C. Obright, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved to renew the contracts for the sale of the Country View Estates Lots with Century 21.

**Mary Jo Knutson –
Grant SWCD – Rain
Barrell Program**

Mary Jo Knutson of the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District was present to inform the council of a new Rain Barrel Program the district is engaging in. The program will help to collect more rain water to use for gardens and flowers, etc. and to help keep rain water out of the storm sewer system. The program would provide rain barrels to residents at a reduced cost to the user. The SWCD is asking for assistance from the cities by providing cost share assistance or helping with promotion of the program. The council tabled the topic to gather some additional information before making a decision on what the city's commitment will be.

**Minutes/Claims/
Consent Agenda**

Upon motion from C. Obright, seconded by J. Obright and unanimously carried, council approved the consent agenda which includes minutes of the regular council meeting of January 9th, 2020, and the claims and prepaid disbursements of February 13th, 2020 as presented and reviewed by Council Member Jeremy Obright.

**Mayor Report
Dumpster Rates:
Weight vs. Yards**

The city received a report of significant amounts of compacted garbage being put into the dumpsters causing difficulty for the hauler to empty. This also brings the issue that the city dumpsters are charged by the yard and not by the weight, but the process of compacting the garbage causes the total tonnage for Ashby to go up significantly. Council requests that the

garbage in the dumpsters be weighed by the hauler to determine what the average weight is and will then determine how to accurately bill for the garbage produced.

Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was reviewed.

The Ashby City Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 5:00 pm at Ashby City Hall.

Approve: Carlson SV Fieldwork Payment

Upon motion by Rossum, seconded by J. Obright and unanimously carried, council approved for Clerk Schmitz to pay the First Payment Installment to Carlson SV for completed Field Work as agreed upon in the Management Letter.

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Report

Council reviewed the log report as presented by the Sheriff's Department.

Fire/Ambulance Department

The Ambulance and Fire Report was reviewed as presented.

Approval: 2020 Officers

Upon motion by Rossum, seconded by C. Obright and unanimously carried, council approved the 2020 Officers of the Ashby Fire/Ambulance Departments as presented.

Approval: 2020 Fire Call Rate Increase

Upon motion by Stierlen, seconded by J. Obright and unanimously carried, council approved the 2020 Fire Call Rate Increase to \$200 per hour after the first two hours.

Public Works

The work order report was reviewed. Superintendent Johnson reported that the newly hired meter reader didn't work out. The city should start looking towards a radio read system and the cost that will be incurred. The Snow blower is in the shop waiting for parts for repairs. The man door at the shop is rusting out at the bottom and needs to be replaced. Council instructed Johnson to find a contractor that would be able to replace the door and get the cost that the project would incur.

Old Business Garbage Container Damages

Council Member Stierlen will go and speak with Jim Standish to discuss what options the City has going forward regarding the damaged garbage containers by West Central Sanitation. Stierlen will report back to the council at the March meeting.

New Business Resolution 2020-02 Donation

Upon motion from J. Obright, seconded by Rossum - **Resolution 2020-02 Resolution Accepting Donation for the Fire Department.** Roll Call Vote, those voting for: J. Obright, C. Obright, Grover, Rossum, Stierlen. Those voting against: None. Carried

Approval Request: Pay Equity Report

Upon motion from Rossum, seconded by C. Obright, and unanimously carried, council approved the 2019 Pay Equity Report as presented.

Approval Request: Grant County Humane Society Contract

Upon motion from J. Obright, seconded by Rossum, and unanimously carried, council approved the 2020 contract with the Grant County Humane Society as presented.

Garden Planters

The city has received several requests for use of the garden planters. There has not been any additional interest in the last 4-5 years. Upon motion by Grover, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council agreed that those residents that were renting the planters in previous years will be guaranteed two planters and those that had three in the past will give one up for more residents to be able to utilize the planters.

Adjourn

Upon motion by J. Obright, seconded by Rossum and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST: _____
Jackie Schmitz, City Clerk

Tom Grover, Mayor