

Ashby City Council Meeting February 10, 2011

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Jim Rylander, and Ron Jaenisch present. Absent were George Jordan and Jim Karl. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney; Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, Matt Cederberg, Police Officer; and Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitor were Jeff Kuhn from WSN and Trent and Darrin Froemming from TFC Poultry.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Visitors

Jeff Kuhn was in attendance to discuss the possible sewer project. The City received a letter from USDA Rural Development stating that the Preliminary Engineering Report was approved after their requested changes were made. We are now on to Stage 2 of the application. A meeting with Rural Development, WSN and City staff will take place before the next council meeting to discuss the next steps.

Consent Agenda

Jaenisch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$13,815.74 and Claims for Approval: \$60,542.61 for a total of \$74,358.35. Jaenisch went through the bills ahead of time and gave prior approval.

Rylander seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

The mayor reported on the following:

- Attended Regional Mayor's Meeting
- Attended meeting with TFC and Ashby Equity at City Hall.

Council Reports

None

Administration

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer for the previous month such as:

- Research and prepare changed to Fire Call Charge Ordinance.
- Prepare Fire Protection contracts with townships.
- Letter to delinquent account for Cederberg to deliver.
- State and federal quarterlies.
- Meeting with TFC and Ashby Equity.
- Public Works Commission.
- Regional Clerk's meeting and training in Hancock.
- Budget report to state and published.
- Report of Outstanding Indebtedness to county auditor.
- Bank and bond items for auditors.
- Pre-audit for one day.
- Economic Development meeting.
- Submitted Pay Equity report to state.
- Radio users meeting in Elbow Lake.
- Rural Development compliance meeting.
- 2010 Broker Certification for auditors.
- W-2's and 1099's.
- Work out several issues with meter reader – equipment problems.
- Research Federal EDA grant.
- More research on pretreatment for TFC – sent to engineers.
- Several items for Arrow EMS.
- Public Works/EDA meeting.
- Auditors here 1/31 – 2/3.
- Update investment balances.
- OSHA 300 log.
- Business license information to state.
- Central Lakes Trail financials and meeting.

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:

- Speed – 3
- Open Door – 3
- Dog Running at Large – 2
- Vehicle in Ditch – 1
- Welfare Check – 3

- Drive after Revocation – 1
- No Proof of Insurance – 1
- Alarm – 1
- Motorist Assist – 2

Jaenisch moved to approve the amendment to **Ordinance 33 – An Ordinance Establishing Fees for Fire Protection**. Rylander seconded. MCU This change will allow the City to charge delinquent fire calls to a property owners taxes, whether they live in the City or not.

The siren has been repaired and installed. The company has determined that the cause was a power surge, possibly caused by lightening. We will turn the bill into the insurance company after we receive it.

Grant County Emergency Management made a request that the siren not be used for fire calls and that all cities in the county use the same tone for tornadoes. The council is okay with the change but will leave the final determination up to the Fire Department.

Public Works

Public Works Report

- The weekly measurement and reports are done for the wastewater ponds.
- The reports are done and sent in for the water system.
- Tollefson has pushed back snow in a couple of intersection due to some complaints.
- Tollefson will take care of some of the ice issues on the streets when the weather warms up.

Quotes were requested from several companies for snow removal and mowing. Only two showed interest in actually submitting a proposal. They were both asked to get this information to the City by this council meeting. One proposal was received. Martin distributed a spreadsheet that showed the actual cost for the City to do snow removal and lawn mowing taking into consideration equipment costs, maintenance, and replacement along with wages for city employees. The cost was significantly less than the proposal. The council discussed the possible lawn mower purchase – can it wait? Rylander moved to table discussion on purchase until the fall. Jaenisch seconded. MCU Jaenisch moved to continue doing our own lawn mowing and snow removal and to not contract it out. Rylander seconded. MCU

The council received minutes from the Public Works Commission meeting along with a combination Public Works and Economic Development meeting. Both meetings were called to discuss pretreatment for TFC Poultry and possible expansion. Trent and Darrin Froemming informed the council that they are working on their future projections and new business plan. Several ideas were discussed on the expansion.

The council tabled the Minimum Requirements for Connection to Water System.

Old Business

The council tabled the discussion on a City goal-planning session with West Central Initiative.

A Special Events Application was tabled.

The delinquent account discussed last month has been paid in full.

The request from Cathy Smith to switch lots at Country View Estates can be done. Martin talked with both the county auditor and the financial advisor to see if it was an option because of the Tax Increment Financing and assessments. Both said that we can make it work. The lot they are requesting is smaller and the purchase price is less. Jaenisch moved to okay the switch with a refund of \$1500 to the owners. The actual price difference on the lots is \$2978.50. Rylander seconded. MCU

New Business

Board of Appeals is set for April 14th at 5:30 p.m. (prior to council meeting)

The council was presented information on workers comp for elected official as an option. Rylander moved to not consider at this time. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

A request was made to add contractor information on the land use permit application. The ordinance states that if the state requires licensing, the property owner must have a licensed contractor. The council asked that Martin check with the League of MN Cities on the legalities.

League of MN Cities Loss Control Workshop is March 30th in Alexandria for those council members that wish to attend.

An e-mail was distributed to the council with some ideas for Country View Estates. This was tabled for the full council to discuss.

Possible LGA cuts discussed at the legislator would amount to \$9457 for 2011 which is the same as 2010.

Martin distributed 2010 financials to the full council.

Minutes from Ashby Economic Development Authority were reviewed. A letter was received from Randy Catoe, president of the AEDA. They are making a request for the council to consider an Economic Development line item in the City budget. This was tabled.

Jaenisch moved to adjourn. Rylander seconded. MCU Adjourn 7:30 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer