

## **Ashby City Council Meeting – May 12, 2011**

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Jim Rylander, Jim Karl, and George Jordan present. Absent was Ron Jaenisch. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney; Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, and Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitor was Brian Wing from Rylander Insurance.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

### **Visitors**

Bring Wing from Rylander Insurance discussed options for insurance renewal. Karl moved to continue no fault sewer coverage for an additional year, waive the liability tort limit, add coverage for city volunteers and insurance personal vehicles for Tollefson, Grover and Helle. Rylander seconded. MCU

Jordan moved to approve **Resolution 2011-04 Sewer Back-up Coverage to Include Water Main Breaks**. Rylander seconded. Roll call vote. Those voting for: Rylander, Jordan, Karl and Grover. Those voting against – none. Absent was Jaenisch. Motion Carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Jordan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month with corrections.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$12,982.02 Claims for Approval: \$19,491.95 and additional Claims for Approval: \$0 for a total of \$32,473.97. Rylander went through the bills and the bank statement ahead of time and gave prior approval.

Rylander seconded. MCU

### **Mayor's Report**

None

### **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:

- Country View Estates Meeting.
- Public Works Meeting.
- Information meeting – Economic Development at West Central Initiative.
- Rural Development Program.
- Paperwork for MnDOT tree program.
- Prepare general city information and presented at Ashby Community Club meeting.
- Items related to pretreatment agreement with TFC.
- Publicity for arts commission projects.
- Requests for donations for Ashby sign.
- MCFOA regional meeting and training in Starbuck.
- TFC testing to engineers.
- Items for FEMA grant application.
- Web-site renewals to businesses.
- Engineering for Nonengineers workshop.
- Newsletter.
- MCFOA executive board meeting.
- Insurance renewal items.
- 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 – 4
- Dog Running at Large – 1
- Suspicious Activity – 3
- Welfare Check – 2
- Traffic Direction/Escorts – 1
- DARE – 5
- Motorist Assist – 1
- Civil Matter – 1
- Controlled Burn – 1
- Driver After Revocation – 1
- Parking Complaints – 2
- Accidental 911 Call – 2
- Juvenile Use of Tobacco – 1

- Assist Other Agency – 1
- Unsafe Equipment – 2
- Unightly Premises – 2
- Vehicle in Ditch – 1
- Court Order PBT Checks – 1

Two property owners were sighted for unsightly premises. They are working on cleaning it up.

The council commented that it was nice to see police officers walking around the community.

Prom went great – no problems were encountered. DARE graduation was held and 15 students completed the course.

One quote was received for the siren – the cost was quite high to replace the equipment. The council discussed installing a higher pole for our current siren to have better distance coverage. Rylander moved to have a 50 foot pole installed for the siren and to not spend more than \$1000 on the project. Grover seconded. MCU

**Fire Department Report:**

15 Ambulance Calls – 4 in the City  
 4 Fire and Rescue Calls – 0 in the City

Jordan moved to approve Thor Tollefson as a new member of the fire department with a 6 month probationary period. Rylander seconded. MCU

**Public Works**

Public Works Report

- Mowing has started for the year.
- Sewer pond discharge was done and levels were allowable.
- Street sweepers will be here in the next couple of weeks.
- The parks are ready to use and the bathrooms are open.

The council discussed TFC Poultry and their plans for pretreatment. The timeline is getting close for the grant application and timing is critical. Jordan moved to send a letter to TFC with the following:

- Invoice for January and February fines needs to be paid immediately and invoices that follow must be paid by the due date.

By June 6<sup>th</sup>:

- They must meet with Ashby Equity regarding the truck washing. They must also provide the City with a plan for drainage into the sanitary sewer rather than the storm sewer, if they continue to wash trucks behind their building.
- The addendum to the pretreatment agreement must be signed.
- List of items provided by Pat Conroy for the grant application must be submitted.

Karl seconded. MCU

Karl moved to approve the Minimum Connection to City Water as presented. Rylander seconded. MCU

The council discussed the timeline for the MnDOT landscaping program and approved the purchase of the sign insert.

**Old Business**

An e-mail was received from Cathy Smith regarding her request for the lot switch. She is requesting that the City consider refunding her more than originally agreed upon. The price difference between the two lots was \$2978.50 and the council previously voted to refund them \$1500 with a balance of \$1478.50. In Cathy's e-mail, she asked that the council reconsider the amount of the refund and come to a fair compromise. Rylander moved to refund an additional \$1000 to Cathy Smith. Karl seconded. MCU

Jordan moved to approve the new Arts Commission members as follows:

- Miles Wing
- Tristan Korkowski
- Shania Gullickson
- Amber Sundal
- Bailey Funkhouser
- Chelsey Ness, Substitute
- Alexis Ness, Substitute

The council received a copy of a letter from the property owners of the nursing home requesting the county take the property for back taxes. This was for information only.

**New Business**

Jordan moved to approve **Resolution 2011-06 Accept Donations from Ashby Community Club - \$200 for Central Lakes Trail Membership and \$100 Donation for the Porta-Potty at Memorial Park.** Rylander seconded. Roll call vote – those voting for: Karl, Jordan, Rylander and Grover. Those voting against – none. Jaenisch was absent. MCU

2010 Census as listed on the web-site is 446. This is down from the 2000 census of 472. Although we have several new homes that were built in the last ten years, the closing of the nursing home had a huge impact on the census.

The council received an update from Ashby Economic Development.

Jordan and Martin presented information on a grant application for Safe Routes to School. Notification and grant application just became available in the last few days. The timeline is tight and the application is extensive but the council felt it was worth pursuing. Jordan will assist Martin as needed. Jordan moved to move forward with the application. Karl seconded. MCU

Rylander had a request from a property owner to consider changing the due date of utility bills. It was decided that changing the due date would not be beneficial – there are other people that may have an issue with a new due date and changing the system could create other problems such as when late fees are applied, etc. The council decided to keep the due date the same.

Some questions arose about finances for the sewer project. Martin has been researching the best deal for interim financing and will have information available soon.

Adjourn 8:30 p.m.

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Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer