

Ashby City Council Meeting – June 9, 2011

The council held a public hearing on the Safe Routes to School program and grant application. Those present: Tom Grover, Ron Jaensich, Jim Rylander, George Jordan, Peter Hoff - Ashby Public School, Dwight Walvatne – Grant County Sheriff, Thor Tollefson, and Richard Walton. There was general consensus that it was a good plan and to move forward with the application.

A public hearing was held on the rezoning request for the Ashby Elevator. Mayor Grover called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following council members present: Jim Rylander, George Jordan and Ron Jaenisch. Absent was Jim Karl. Also present Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney; Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, and Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitors included Scott Kamrath, Tim Thompson, Jonas Schwardt, Darlene and Marlo Nordlund, Darrin Froemming, Trent Froemming and others.

The mayor opened up the hearing for discussion. The request was for rezoning of the property located at 203 Larson Ave.; parcel ID of 17-0028-000. The Ashby Farmers Elevator recently purchased this property currently zoned as residential and wishes to rezone the property to industrial. The council received minutes from the Planning Commission and their recommendation to allow the rezoning. Some of the adjacent property owners expressed concern about a possible structure being built on the property and what type of materials this building may house. Richard Walton, City Attorney, reminded the council that this hearing was for a rezoning request. The elevator will have to submit a conditional use permit for the building as they are zoned industrial. Another hearing would be involved in this process before they would be allowed to build a structure. The details on the size and type of building, along with what use it would have would be included on that application. Jaensich moved to approve the request for the Ashby Farmers Elevator to rezone property at 203 Larson Ave, with a property ID of 17-0028-000 from residential to industrial. Jordan seconded. MCU

Mayor Grover called the regular meeting to order following the public hearing.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Visitors

Darrin and Trent Froemming presented a letter to the council withdrawing their intent to apply for the Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant. They requested a special council meeting to explain the reason for the withdrawal as well as some ideas that will offer cost-effective solutions to the wastewater issue. A meeting will be scheduled for the end of June.

The calculation of fines for TFC was tabled until the special council meeting.

Consent Agenda

Jordan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month with corrections.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid: \$14,806.21 Claims for Approval: \$27,982.15 and additional Claims for Approval: \$4165.17 for a total of \$46,953.53. There was a question on a taser purchase. The money from a DUI forfeiture was used for this purchase. This money can only be spent on items related to DUI enforcement. Grover went through the bills and the bank statement ahead of time and gave prior approval. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

Regional Mayor's Meeting in Ashby
Attended Public Works Commission Meeting

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:

- Public Works Commission and tour of TFC Poultry.
- Safe Routes to School application – work with Jordan on details of plan. We also met with WSN engineer and county engineer on a couple occasions. Contacted daycares, public health, school officials, etc. on details on their participation. Sent letters to property owners with easement request.
- Worked with TFC on deadline for applications.
- FEMA grant application submitted.
- Hosted a Grant County Economic Development meeting along with doing some research on options for the group. Attended Grant County Commissioners meeting related to Safe Routes to School and Grant County Economic Development.
- Paperwork related to rezoning request.
- Ashby welcome packets – prepared and printed items. Judy Helle put them together.
- 2nd Public Works Commission meeting.
- Volunteered time for Red, White and Blue committee.
- Arts Commission – volunteered time for meetings and projects. Spent some time during the work day on promotional items and posting to the web-site.
- Central Lakes Trail financials and meeting.

- Planning Commission Meeting
 - MCOFA newsletter and promotional brochure.
- 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 – 6
- Animal Complaints – 2
- Exhibition Driving – 1
- Welfare Check – 1
- Traffic Direction/Escorts – 1
- DARE – 3
- Motorist Assist – 4
- Burglar Alarm – 1
- Harassing Communications – 1
- Public Nuisance Disturb the Peace – 1
- Unsafe Equipment – 1
- Stop Sign – 2
- Seat Belt Violation – 3
- Hit and Run Motor Vehicle Acc. – 1
- Damage to property – 1
- 4th Degree DWI – 1

An Outdoor liquor permit was requested from Murphy's Pub for a Ribfest on August 13th. They are requesting County Road 82 in front on the bar and Firehall be closed for the event. Traffic will be rerouted to Norge Ave and Cedar Ave.. The County Commissioners approved the closing of the County Road as presented at their meeting earlier this week. Jordan moved to allow truck traffic only during the event on Norge and Cedar. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Jaenisch moved to approve the outdoor permit for Murphy's Pub on August 13th. Rylander seconded. MCU

Tollefson presented prices for a longer pole for the siren. These prices were quite high. It was decided to table the idea of a change to the siren and the pole holding the siren. The study showed that the siren, for the most part, covers all current residents of the City. It does not cover the eastern portion of the new development which does not have any homes at this point. Sirens are meant to warn people that are outside to take shelter, not for those inside their home. The siren also has some variables dependent on wind and other factors.

Public Works

Public Works Report

- Discharge is in the process.
- The ponds and fence have been sprayed.
- The mower has been in need of some repairs and has caused delays in getting mowing done.

Grover suggested the council consider looking at the lawn mower purchase again. There has been a fair amount of money spent on repairing the current mower. Tollefson will get new quotes.

A question on personal use of vehicles was discussed. The vehicle is driven home when Tollefson is working and is available for other personnel when he is not working. It is parked at his residence in case of call-outs, etc.

Old Business

The council received word that the City is in compliance with Pay Equity.

The FEMA Mitigation final grant application was submitted.

Board of Appeals training for council members is available this summer. Martin will register the council for the July 26th training in Morris.

The council received a letter from Susan Lohse regarding changes to the values that were changed during the Board of Appeals. The changes were beyond the allowable dollar amount for the City. She will work with the County and try to make those changes still possible.

Martin asked that a council member be a part of the Country View Estates promotional committee. They suggested Karl be asked to be a member of this committee.

The Arts Commission projects are going great. The work on the mural is being done in the art room at school and the Heart of the Beast workshop will be held this weekend.

New Business

Rylander moved to approve **Resolution 2011-07 County Hazard Mitigation Resolution**. Jaenisch seconded. Roll call vote - those voting for: Jaenisch, Rylander, Jordan and Grover. Karl was absent. Those voting against – none. Motion Carried.

Jaenisch moved to approve **Resolution 2011-08 County Mutual Aid Resolution**. Jordan seconded. Roll call vote - those voting for: Jaenisch, Rylander, Jordan and Grover. Karl was absent. Those voting against – none. Motion Carried. Rylander moved to approve Debbie Thormodson as City Assessor with the same rate of pay as last year. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Adjourn 8:30 p.m.

_____ Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer