

## **Ashby City Council Meeting – September 8, 2011**

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members George Jordan, Jim Karl, Jim Rylander and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney; Thor Tollefson, Public Works and Police Chief; Matt Cederberg, Police Officer, and Dennis and Judy Helle. Visitors were Trent Froemming from TFC Poultry and Wayne Stierlen representing the Ashby American Legion.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Tollefson need to leave early so Public Works was moved up on the agenda.

### **Public Works**

#### **Public Works Report**

- Will be discharging the ponds soon.
- Dwight Walvatne took a tree down in the park, the limbs and debris will need to be removed by the City. The stumps will be removed by a tree service.
- It is finally dry enough to dig and pour footings for the Ashby sign that is part of the MnDOT project.
- The council requested that public works keep an eye on Birch Street down by the school for potholes.

Bids for a new lawn mower were reviewed. Two were received. A lease was checked out but would not be cost effective. Jaenisch moved to purchase the Kubota package from Alex Power as presented. Karl seconded. MCU This package includes a broom. Tollefson will contact businesses to see if they are interested in the City removing the snow from their sidewalks for a fee.

### **Visitors**

Wayne Stierlen was present to discuss a patio that the Legion is considering building on the backside of their establishment. It will be a 20 x 24 and they would like to allow alcohol and possibly smoking on this patio. The current ordinance states that the patio cannot have an exit to the outside to discourage drinking off premises. The council said to go ahead with the project and they will work with the Legion to make some changes so they can make use of this patio.

The wastewater project is moving ahead as scheduled. Martin will check on assessment options for those people that would like their personal line replaced but don't have the money up front.

TFC is on schedule with their remodel project.

### **Consent Agenda**

Jordan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month as amended.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$34,361.56, Claims for Approval: \$18,604.11 and Additional Claims for Approval: \$243.20 for a total of \$53,208.87. Karl went through the bills and the bank statement ahead of time and gave prior approval.

Karl seconded. MCU

### **Mayor's Report**

Regional Mayor's Meeting in New York Mills with Legislators  
Garbage contract renewal meeting in Elbow Lake  
Attended Board of Appeals and Equalizations training with Karl and Rylander.

### **Council Reports**

Karl and Grover have been working with the fire department on roof replacement.

### **Administration**

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

- Prepared debt service schedule.
- Background information related to possible bond sale.
- 2011 General Fund outlook and sample 2012 budget for budget committee discussion.
- Several items related to bond sales sent to financial advisor.
- Garbage contract renewal meeting in Elbow Lake.
- MnDOT project – submitted bill and other information.
- Grant County EDA meeting.
- Radio training.
- Land use permits to assessor.
- TFC invoicing and other related items.
- Homestead exclusion information reviewed and sent to council.
- Part I of Wellhead Protection plan reviewed from hydrologist, sent confirmation letter.
- Prepared spreadsheet for donation fund.
- Discussion with state on Safe Routes to School grant application.

- 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 -13
- Animal Complaints – 2
- Motorist Assist – 3
- Unsafe Equipment – 1
- Stop Sign – 1
- Open Doors – 1
- Property Check Requests – 1
- Sick Cared for – 1
- Civil Matter – 1
- Malicious Punishment of Child – 1
- Suspicious Activity – 1
- Traffic Direction – 2
- Underage Drinking and Driving – 1

There may be more speed stops this month but it is related to the safe and sober campaign in August. Cederberg reminded the council that these numbers are contacts or stops. It is not the number of tickets written. The police department will show this information on the next report.

#### **Fire Department Report:**

Ambulance Calls: 17 - 2 in City

Fire Calls: 0 Calls – 0 in Town

#### **Arrow EMS Report:**

None

There is a new defibrillator in the firehall donated by the Community Healthcare Auxiliary from Elbow Lake. It was placed right outside the council door so both the fire department and city hall have access to it.

### **Old Business**

The Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed. Jordan moved to add \$3000 from General Fund for future street repairs. Rylander seconded. MCU Rylander moved to approve the plan with this addition. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Martin and Grover reported on the garbage contract renewal meeting. The commissioners and city officials met to discuss any issues or changes before it is sent out for bids.

There is a commercial account that has become severely delinquent. The council discussed options for this account. Jaenisch moved to deliver a letter to the owner with the following stipulations to avoid disconnection: pay \$1500 by September 15<sup>th</sup> and pay the balance on October 15<sup>th</sup> including the October charges. Karl seconded. MCU This will be delivered by a police officer with to the owner and he will be asked to sign that he has received this information.

Martin received a letter from the MN Dept. of Health regarding Part I of the Wellhead Protection Plan. A confirmation letter was sent back and the process will continue.

### **New Business**

The general fund budget was reviewed. There are very few changes over last year. Jaenisch moved to approve. Jordan seconded. MCU

The preliminary levy was discussed which included the debt service schedule. Jordan moved to approve **Resolution 2011-16 Resolution Adopted Proposed Tax Levy**. Jaenisch seconded. Roll call vote: Those voting for – Jaenisch, Jordan, Rylander, Grover and Karl. Those voting against – none. MCU The levy is the same as both 2009 and 2010. Some residents may see changes to their taxes with the elimination of homestead credit. It will affect nonresidential properties more as the residential property values will be lowered as part of a formula set up by the state.

Jordan moved to approve **Resolution 2011-17 Accepting Donation of \$1000 from Ashby American Legion to the Ashby Fire Department for Equipment and the Donation of a Defibrillator for the Firehall/City Hall from Community Healthcare Auxiliary in Elbow**. Karl seconded Roll call vote: Those voting for – Jaenisch, Jordan, Rylander, Grover and Karl. Those voting against – none. MCU

There is a League of MN Cities Regional meeting in Henning on September 29<sup>th</sup> for those council members that would like to attend. Martin and Grover are currently registered.

An e-mail received from Ashby, Mass. was received. They were impressed by our web-site and will adopt some of our ideas for their own web-site.

There was a request from a disconnected utility account to reduce their bill owed. They moved out 2 months prior to the disconnection. The city disconnected for nonpayment in June and actually threatened to do this in May but it did not get done at that time. Their usage was at 0 for those two months. Jaenisch moved to reduce their bill from \$331.72 to \$200 if paid within 10 days. Karl seconded.

LP contracting was discussed. The council directed Martin to contract with Ashby Equity for the full contract amount used last year at the rate presented or less, if they are willing to negotiate.

Adjourn 7:25 p.m.

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Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer