

Ashby City Council Meeting and Board of Appeals April 12, 2012

Mayor Grover called the Board of Appeals to order at 5:30 p.m. with council members George Jordan, Jim Karl, Jim Rylander and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, Richard Walton, City Attorney Dennis & Judy Helle. Visitors were Bob Boren, Suzie Lohse, Deb Thormodson, Donna Jean Grover, Linda Walton, and Al Boe.

Grover turned the discussion over to Suzie Lohse and Deb Thormodson. There were no questions from the visitors present. Susie Lohse explained the difference between Homestead Credit and the new Homestead Exclusion. No correspondence has been received in regard to property value. There is going to be a Board of Appeals training on June 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Elbow Lake Extension Room for those council members still needing the training. The Board of Appeals was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Grover called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Additional visitors were: Gayle Langlie, Rosie Nissen, Jenny Tollefson, Mark Koefod, Peter Hoff, Dwight Walvatne, Kristin Spangler, Julie Jordan, Curt Hokanson, Marie Shores, Rich Williams, Carol Koefod, Craig Koefod, Heather Rossum, Bill Shores, Donna Lindemyer, Winnie Thompson, Alden Thompson, Ken Johnson, Allen Johnson, Chris Ray, Arlen Benson, Ruth Benson, Ron Woltjer, Trever Schlosser, & others.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Police Informational Meeting was opened for discussion. A spreadsheet was distributed with general information on costs, history, coverage and other information related to the police department. Comments and questions were made by the visitors and council. Items covered were:

- Insurance coverage for commercial property would go up without a full-time police officer.
- Some residents stated that the police department was one of the very reasons they moved here.
- Do we need full-time coverage?
- The business climate is very different than it was many years ago and police protection is vital.
- How can we lower the amount of budget?
- It was noted that the budget has decreased dramatically over the last few years due to the change in Tollefson's position, elimination of a part-time officer and the squad car grant.
- Continue to think out of the box while keeping the police department.
- Response time is important; our location in the county could mean a 45 minute wait for a deputy compared to 5 minutes with our own department.
- People are willing to pay for a higher level of services and what we are getting for what we are paying is a bargain.
- Sheriff Walvatne answered several questions on how the county contracts work and what is included.
- We need to support our police officer; it's stressful on the department to continually bring up the subject of the future of the police department.

It was the consensus of the group that the police department is an important and vital part of the City. They asked the council to continue working on keeping costs down and some visitors made a request of the council to make a clear statement or possible resolution that will remind future council members that the residents support and want the police department in hopes of eliminating future discussions as the subject causes animosity in the community. The informational meeting was closed and the council meeting was opened.

Karl moved to approve the agenda. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Visitors

Jeff Kuhn from WSN was at the meeting to update the council on the wastewater project. Things are moving forward and we getting close to the point where we can advertise for bids. As the bank currently has been eliminated from the project, Kuhn suggested the council continue to try and come to an agreement with them and it can be changed back. The council recognizes that the bank is only looking out for their best interest as is the council looking out for the best interest of the City residents.

Jaenisch moved to approve **Resolution 2012-07 Ordering Improvements and Preparation of Plans**. Karl seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for – Rylander, Jaenisch, Karl, Jordan and Grover. Those voting against – none. MCU

Jaenisch moved to approve **2012-08 Resolution to Approve Plans and Specs and Ordering Advertisement for Bids**. Jordan seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for – Rylander, Jaenisch, Karl, Jordan and Grover. Those voting against – none. MCU This resolution will authorize the call for bids once we get Rural Development approval.

Jordan made a motion to approve **2012-09 MnDOT State Aid Resolution**. Jaenisch seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for – Rylander, Jaenisch, Karl, Jordan and Grover. Those voting against – none. MCU

Jordan moved to approve the 2012 Contractor Application for the sanitary sewer project with a one-time \$25 per contractor charge. This is the form a contractor would fill out prior to working on those personal services for the sewer project. Rylander seconded. MCU

Jordan moved to approve the Homeowner Sanitary Sewer Application specific to the 2012 project. Rylander seconded. MCU This form can be filled out by their contractor and it is for those residents wanting to replace their personal service.

Jordan moved to approve the **Minimum Requirements for Connection to City Sewer**. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Karl moved to hire Nagell Appraisal and Consulting to do an Appraisal Opinion for the Sanitary Sewer and Street project assessments for a fee of \$1200. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Darrin Froemming from TFC Poultry was in attendance and gave an update of their progress. They are now starting to store their higher strength waste in a large container in the building and will soon start hauling it out on a tanker.

Jaenisch moved to approve the County installation of an antenna on the water tower as presented. The antenna will be used for our emergency responders' paging system. The County will pay for the equipment and installation but the City will have to pay for needed electricity to run the equipment. This will provide a much larger coverage area for our emergency responders. City engineers have reviewed and are okay with the installation. Rylander seconded. MCU

Heather Johnson from Carlson-Highland presented the 2011 audit report. Karl moved to approve. Rylander seconded. MCU

There was a concern about credit card receipts not being turned in on time. Council directed the clerk to withhold paychecks until receipts have been turned in.

Donna Lindemyer was present to discuss the issue of feral cats. She would like to participate in a program that traps, neuters, vaccinates and returns cats. Their ears are tipped so you would know this has been done. This program is supposed to help control the growth of the population. The council was in agreement that they will support the program and allow Donna and volunteers to proceed. She will seek financial help with the project.

Donna also wanted to discuss the need for a cleanup day on the Central Lakes Trail. Martin will schedule and advertise a cleanup day. Council and staff are asked to volunteer time to help out.

Consent Agenda

Rylander moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$45,191.68, Additional Prepaid Bills: \$4971.48, Claims for Approval: \$52,302.29 and Additional Claims for Approval: \$761.14 for a total of \$103,226.59. Grover went through the bills and the bank statement ahead of time and gave prior approval.

Karl seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

Loss Control Workshop

Council Reports

None

Administration

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer for March 6th – April 6th.

- Police Department – Prepared sample survey, prepared spreadsheet with general information.
- HR items related to Cederberg leaving.
- Easements – Finished contacting those that haven't signed yet.
- Wellhead Protection – go through changes, send notice of meeting, attend meeting.
- Police commission meeting.
- Audit – prepared management, discussion and analysis, review audit report and discussed with auditors.
- MCFOA Conference.
- LMC Loss Control Workshop.
- State financial reporting form – prepared summary and sent in for publication.
- Public Works meeting.
- Map and resolution for election redistricting.
- Special council meeting.
- Sewer project – prepare forms: minimum requirements for sewer, contractor application, homeowner application.
- Prepared list of commercial properties available for sale and posted on web-site.
- Antenna on water tower – discussed with Thor, Jeff Kuhn, MRWA.
- 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 – 1 Warning
- Civil Matter – 1

- Property Check Requests – 2
- Property Checks - 6
- Found Property – 1
- Sick Cared For – 1
- DARE - 2

20 students are in the DARE program this year.

The Police Commission reported that they have done with interviews for the police officer position and have narrowed it down to two candidates. Tollefson will do backgrounds on both of them. Karl moved to allow the Police Commission to choose the best candidate and negotiate a salary within the salary range advertised. Jordan seconded. MCU

Fire Department Report:

3 Fire Calls – 0 in Town.
18 Ambulance Calls – 4 in Town.

Arrow EMS Report:

The initial EMT course is in the last stages of completion. They will take the appropriate exams soon. The Ashby Ambulance recently completed their required annual variance medication practical skills review. Individual and businesses continue to inquire about educational opportunities through Arrow EMS Education.

AED training was tabled.

Jaenisch moved to approve the contract with Grant County Humane Society. Karl seconded. MCU

There is an issue with dogs running at large. Tollefson suggested people call in when they are having an issue so the police department can handle it right away.

Public Works

Parks - Bathrooms and shelters are ready.
Wastewater ponds – Transfer is beginning.
Water Treatment Plant – Weekly water tests continue. Hawkins Chemical was in and looked at the filter, doing some testing.
Streets – Minor Repairs will be done.
Tollefson has received a tester from MRWA to do some baseline testing for TFC.

Jordan mentioned that a homeowner has some concerns about strong chlorine smell in the water. Residents should call City Hall when this happens so Public Works can investigate.

Jaenisch moved to advertise for part-time summer help capped at \$1000 total with Tollefson making the decision on whom to hire. Jordan seconded. MCU If more time would be needed, request can be made at another council meeting.

Old Business

Karl and Rylander met with Jim Borgrud and did not come to any sort of resolution. Martin will pull together costs associated with the property and they will meet with him again.

New Business

Jaenisch moved to approve **Resolution 2012-06 Fund Transfer for Fire Protection and Truck Fund**. Jordan seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for – Rylander, Jaenisch, Karl, Jordan and Grover. Those voting against – none. MCU

Jaenisch moved to authorize Martin to schedule a City-wide clean-up with West Central Sanitation. Jordan seconded. MCU

Pet Clinic is scheduled for May 22nd from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn 9:25 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer