

Ashby City Council Meeting and Public Hearing for Changes to Zoning Ordinance and Map – May 10, 2012

Mayor Grover called the Public Hearing 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, Thor Tollefson, Police Chief and Public Works, & Judy Helle. No visitors in attendance.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The changes to the zoning map were discussed. The proposal is to zone all industrial zoned properties as commercial. These properties have a better fit under the commercial zoning as described in the zoning ordinance rather than industrial and the change will make it easier for the businesses to make improvements without applying for a conditional use permit. The industrial classification will remain and may be used in the future. Jaenisch moved to approve the changes. Jordan seconded. MCU

Jordan moved to approve the amendment to **Ordinance 151 – An Ordinance Establishing a Zoning Code** as presented. Rylander seconded. MCU The amendment changes the rear set back requirements for commercial from 15 feet to none.

The Planning Commission met on May 8th to discuss these proposed changes and made this recommendation to the council.

The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting was opened.

Jaenisch moved to approve the agenda with changes. Karl seconded. MCU

Wastewater Project

Construction easements will be prepared and sent out for signatures. The easement from the bank has been completed and was sent in for recording.

The Capital Improvement Plan will be presented at the June council meeting. It needs to be completed by July 1st.

TFC Poultry

No report.

Visitors

None

Consent Agenda

Karl moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$10,323.89, Claims for Approval: \$20,440.17 and Additional Claims for Approval: \$5,878.28 for a total of \$36,642.34. Jaenisch 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
Easement Meetings

Council Reports

None

Administration

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer for April 7th – May 7th.

- Easements – sent in for recording, letter sent to property owner that has not signed.
- County 4 project – discussed options with council for easements, sent letter to property owners – worked with engineers and County attorney.
- Collateral worksheet.
- GrOw Grant County – prepared press release and survey and items for meeting. Attended meeting in Wendell (volunteer time).
- Grant County Fun Fest – prepared items and volunteered time manning booth.
- Prepared list of commercial properties for sale – posted on web-site.
- Advertised and organized Central Lakes Trail clean-up. Volunteered time on clean-up.
- Zoning changes – advertised and posted, sent info to affected property owners and council.
- Web-site renewals prepared – Judy mailed.
- MCFOA Regional meeting – organized speakers and location, sent info to members.
- MCFOA Board meeting in Edina.
- Organized Pet Clinic and City clean up – advertised and posed.
- Prepared newsletter – Judy mailed out.
- Census Bureau payroll report.
- 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:

- Dogs running at large – 2
- Welfare Check – 3
- Suspicious Activity – 1
- Traffic Direction Escort – 2
- Civil Matter – 2
- Driving Complaint – 1
- DARE – 3
- Vehicle Checks – 1

Jaenisch moved to hire Jeremy Obright for the police position at the proposed step/grade salary range with the authority of the police commission to negotiate further, if needed. Jordan seconded. MCU

The council discussed an unsightly property within the City. The police department has made attempts to get it clean up but it continues to be a problem. A letter will be sent from the council, signed by the mayor to see if this will get results.

Fire Department Report:

2 Fire Calls – 0 in Town.

23 Ambulance Calls – 9 in Town.

Arrow EMS Report:

EMT students are now in the testing stages and have completed classroom training.

Public Works

Wellhead Protection Plan update is completed. Jordan moved to approve the Wellhead Protection final plan and to request approval from the MN Department of Health. Karl seconded. MCU

Karl suggested that the public works department set up a project priority list so part-time people can work on those items, especially with the upcoming project.

Old Business

Karl and Rylander were not able to meet with Jim Borgrud again. Rylander talked with him on the phone. Borgrud made a request for another 5 to 10 years of deferral on the assessments. Council was not prepared to do another deferral and asked Karl and Rylander to meet with him and discuss a possible purchase price.

The nursing home building was discussed. Martin discussed possible grant funding with Kathy Sletto. If grant funding is pursued, there needs to be a specific use for the structure. The council discussed forming a task force to look into a use for the building. More information will be gathered prior to the next council meeting.

Jaenisch moved to approve the Country View Estates promotions as presented contingent on discussing refund of property sale price with home loan officer to make sure it does not affect the loan. Karl seconded. MCU

Ashby Country View Estates 2012 & 2013 Promotions

- Lot prices rebated back to the purchaser after they have built their home.
- Waive the water and sewer hook-up fees. (\$750 for each)
- Free utilities for 12 months – includes, water, sewer and garbage up to \$120 per month.
- Waiving the assessment for contractors until their house has been purchased with a two year limit after they have purchased the lot.
- Give purchasers an option of reduced assessments or full assessment with Tax Increment Financing.

Jaenisch moved to set the assessment at Country View Estates at \$35,000. Jordan seconded. MCU

New Business

Birch Ave. payment options was tabled.

Jaenisch moved to advertise for election judges for the upcoming election at an hourly wage of \$8.00 and \$9.00 for the head election judge plus meals. Karl seconded. MCU

Karl moved to approve a tobacco license for Todd Finkelson. Jordan seconded. MCU

First quarter financial reports were distributed to council.

The council discussed a delinquent commercial account after a letter was received. A letter will be mailed requesting a plan for a payment schedule to get caught up,

Pet Clinic is scheduled for May 22nd from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. All-Town Clean-up is May 16th 5-8 p.m.

Adjourn 9:25 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer