

April 24, 2013 Special Council Meeting and Public Hearing for Changes to Zoning Ordinance

The Ashby City Council held a special council meeting on April 24, 2013 at Ashby City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a change to the zoning ordinance (public hearing), consider a possible liquor license request, incentive for Country View Estates, and changes to the liquor ordinance. Mayor Thomas Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members George Jordan, Marcia Koefod, Jim Karl and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer, Judy Helle, Richard Walton, City Attorney. Visitors were Winnie and Adair Thompson, Tim Thompson, Bob Close, Chuck Moeller and Rand and Heidi Denzel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Public Hearing to consider changes to the zoning ordinance. Jaenisch moved to approve changes to **Ordinance 151 – Zoning Ordinance with changes as discussed**. Jordan seconded. MCU

The Public Hearing was closed and the special council meeting was open.

Bob Close and Chuck Moeller are realtors that have the former Murphy's Pub listed. They have a prospective buyer and are working out the details of a purchase agreement. They wanted to know the timeline in order to get licensed. It will take about 2 . 4 weeks after paperwork has been submitted to liquor control and it will have to be approved at a council meeting before this paperwork is submitted.

Country View Estates was discussed. The committee would like to continue with the incentives discussed last year but would like to propose the council change the lot prices to include the assessments. We would add \$10,000 to the original price of each lot and there would be no Tax increment financing. Jordan moved to approve the new prices which include assessments as presented. Koefod seconded. MCU There will be some advertising and Martin will send information to area contractors and other contractors outside of the Ashby area.

Jaenisch moved to approve the changes to **Ordinance 112 – Liquor Regulations**. This change would allow someone with a 3.2% and wine combination liquor license to sell strong beer without an additional permit. (A request was made by a business owner). Karl seconded. MCU

A violation from MN Dept of Health was received. The first quarter bacterial sample was not submitted. The council would like a few changes made to daily routines of public works:

- Log in when they come to work . either stop in the office or call in
- Work orders will be kept in the office . someone from public works will need to come in and check to see if there's anything that needs to be done. They would pick up the work order and fill out a log when the work is complete. It is important to get back to the customer and that will be a part of the log. A copy of the log will be presented to the council each month.
- They would like the Tollefson to include this information in his report to council:
 - What testing/reporting needs to be done each month.
 - Calendar of when he has done testing/reporting.

Jaenisch moved to adjourn. Karl seconded. MCU

Adjourn 5:45 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer

Work Session with EDA

The council held a work session with Greg Wagner and Dale Umlauf from WC Initiative, along with EDA members . Ken Johnson, Trever Schlosser, Val Martin and Richard Walton. Also present were Mike and Diane Bovee. The idea of the work session was to come up with some ideas to promote our community, attract new businesses and help keep the businesses we have now.

Dale made the following comments:

- Ashby is somewhat lucky as we have many of the essential businesses . i.e. grocery store, hardware, bank, convenience store and more.
- Succession planning is important part of economic development.
- Consider shop local campaign
- What's working well? Expand on that.
- Continue to market Country View Estates . this will help.

Some other ideas that were suggested:

- Have an EDA point person . council should consider naming Val Martin as Economic Development Director. She already does this work and it may be helpful to have a specific person for prospective business owners to go to.
- We need a strong EDA group. Consider meeting more often and find out who wants to put in an extra effort.
- Work with service clubs . they are a great resource.
- There are several resources available for existing businesses. This information should be sent to area businesses.
- Should we consider doing another survey?
- Maybe we should consider promoting the businesses with the shop local campaign. Encourage people to spend an extra \$50 each month in Ashby.
- Work with the school . they are a stakeholder.
- Consider redoing EDA Bylaws and Mission Statement