

Ashby City Council Meeting – April 11, 2013

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Ron Jaenisch, Jim Karl, George Jordan and Marcia Koefod present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton, City Attorney, Dennis and Judy Helle and Thor Tollefson, Public Works & Police Chief. Visitors were Trent and Darrin Froemming from TFC and Larry VanHout from WSN.

The pledge of allegiance was recited. The agenda was approved.

Larry VanHout reported on the water quality issues and the work that has been done. Charging the filter at the plant should help. Public Works will need to do some continued testing. Flushing the lines will need to be done as soon as possible. This may eliminate the continued water discoloration. It was suggested that a notice should be put on water bills or in the newsletter encouraging residents to call if they have issues.

WSN can put together a flushing program for us so the right sequence gets done each time and the lines get fully flushed. The approximate cost is \$5000. Council approved. WSN is still trying to resolve the issues with the lift station and generator. VanHout went over the study for the waste water system and TFC Poultry. There were 3 options that were explored. They will continue to work on the study.

Jerry Hennessey was in for the Ashby Farmers Elevator. They would like to put up a grain bin that goes above the height requirements in the zoning ordinance. The council voiced concerns about safety. No one will be able to enter the bin, there will be no entrance. He has discussed the plan with the closest neighbor. The motors will be quiet and face the elevator; they should not bother the neighbors. A public hearing for a proposed change to the zoning ordinance to allow this type of structure is scheduled for April 24th.

Heather Johnson was at the meeting to present the 2012 audit. All financials were in order. The audit was approved.

Trent and Darrin from TFC Poultry were present to discuss their plans for pretreatment. They will continue to work with WSN and the City on a plan.

Minutes were approved along with bills totaling \$1,067,597.56.

Mayor's Report - The mayor attended loan closing @ Rural Development for the Sanitary Sewer Project. Martin, Grover and Walton attended the closing. The interest rate was substantially lower than the preliminary rate and we do not need the additional funding as anticipated. This will decrease our yearly payment for the sanitary sewer project. The mayor also attended a meeting with TFC and WSN.

Jordan and Karl reported on the Country View Estates promotional committee meeting. It went well and after some research, they will return with some ideas for the sale of lots. The council voted to spend up to \$1500 for advertising the residential lots.

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. Martin worked on several items for GrOw Grant County along with submitting a grant application to WC Initiative. She also worked on items related to the sewer project, liquor licensing, web-site renewals, Grant County FunFest. Martin also attended MN Clerks and Finance Officers Conference, League of MN Cities Loss Control Works and several committee and regular council meetings.

The clerk's computer has been ordered. The public works computer is on hold until Tollefson finds out what is appropriate to work with the water plant's operating system.

Police Report:

- Animal . 1
- Agency Assist . 3
- Public Assist . 6
- Suspicious . 2
- Domestic . 1
- Police Information . 4
- Civil Process . 1
- Accident . 1
- Motorist Assist . 2

DARE kids will be going to the Twins game on Sunday pending weather.

There continues to be issues with people not cleaning up after their pets. Martin will put a reminder in the paper. They are also not allowed in the City parks. There is a sign at Thorson-Larson Park but not at Memorial Park. Tollefson will get a sign made.

Fire Department Report - Ambulance Runs . 17, 3 within the City. Fire and Rescue Calls . 0, 0 within the City

A report was received from Chad Smith, Arrow EMS Instructor - March was busy with the conclusion of First Responders course and instructing initial CPAP and Refresher for IV Therapy. The 3rd Tuesday of each month is designated as training for EMT's. Arrow EMS presented at the April Ashby Lions meeting. Arrow EMS will continue to instruct CPR and First Aid classes throughout the spring and summer.

Tollefson reported he is meeting with MN Pollution Control to go over requirements for the City. The electronic reporting of monthly sewer reports is going fine. Council made a request for WSN to pay for staff time dealing with the issues at the lift station.

The City council approved the purchase of an on-line type utility billing program. This will allow the office to e-mail bills, take credit card payments and electronic checks.

Grant County Funfest is April 27th. Councilmembers are asked to serve as greeters.

Pet Clinic is scheduled for May 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Council members were in agreement that we should do another City-wide clean up. It is already budgeted for 2013..

A letter from the League of MN Insurance Trust was discussed with some loss control recommendations. The council addressed their recommendations and Martin will report back to them.

A resolution was passed to certify past due utilities to a delinquent account.

There is a request from Coots Unlimited to hold a paint ball tourney (shooting at targets) during their banquet. It was approved contingent on Ashby Legion's approval and they must also provide a signed %Assumption of Liability+ waiver. Walton will draw up the paperwork.

An outdoor liquor permit was approved for the Coots Banquet on May 11th.

An off-sale liquor license for Heidi and Randy Denzel was approved.