

Ashby City Council Meeting and Assessment Hearing – October 10, 2013

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Ron Jaenisch, George Jordan, Jim Karl and Marcia Koefod present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer; Richard Walton, City Attorney & Police Chief, Jeremy Obright, Police Officer, and Judy Helle. Visitors: Jeff Kuhn

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Grover called the assessment hearing open for the 2012 Wastewater Project and 2012 Birch Street Improvements project. Those present for the hearing were Bob Boren, Darlene & Marlo Nordlund, Marilyn Beyer, Gayle Langlie, Bob and Kathleen McNeely. Jeff Kuhn gave a general overview of the project and the assessment process. Someone made a request to make a partial prepayment and have the rest placed on the tax roll. This will not be allowed due to the number of assessments and the small amount. Residents do have the option of paying off their balance any year after it's been placed on the tax roll. Marilyn Beyer has received notice that she would be assessed for two connections on her property. She stated that the house is inhabitable and has no plans for future use. She requested that the connection to the old house be postponed. That way, if a future owner wants to utilize it, the assessment could be applied at that time. Jaenisch moved to approve. Koefod seconded. MCU A letter was reviewed from Marla Turner appealing her assessment due to an inability to pay and she stated that she would not be able to make changes to her property in response to the work. Jordan voted that her assessment will stand as is with no change because this was not a valid ground for appeal. Jaenisch seconded. MCU Bob McNeely thanked the council for all their hard work. Koefod moved to approve **Resolution 2013-14 Resolution Adopting Assessments for 2012 Wastewater Project and 2012 Birch Street Improvements**. Jaenisch seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for: Koefod, Jordan, Grover, Karl and Jaenisch. Those voting against – none. MCU

The hearing was closed and the regular meeting was opened.

Karl moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Jeff Kuhn stated that he received a price for trees that need to be replaced on the property located at Highway 78 and Iverson Ave. now owned by Aaron Duenow. Jaenisch moved to pay up to \$1500 to the project with Riley Bros. paying the balance. Karl seconded. MCU

Water Quality Issues

Quotes were due today for the work on the water treatment plant. Only one was received and much higher than anticipated. It may have something to do with the short timeline. WSN recommends rejecting this quote and re quoting and extending the timeline to spring. Koefod moved to approve. Jaenisch seconded. MCU Martin will work with WSN to write an article for the paper and newsletter letting residents know the situation.

TFC Poultry

TFC was not present with a report. Their account is delinquent and due to be shut off tomorrow. Karl moved that their account be shut off unless they pay that amount needed to keep their service on. Jordan seconded. MCU

Consent Agenda

Jaenisch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$13,065.94, Claims for Approval: \$20,234.85, Additional Prepaid Claims - \$0 and additional Claims for Approval \$1,375.58 for a total of \$34,676.37. Koefod 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
- Greeted City Clerks at a regional training at the Ashby American Legion.

Council Reports

Jaenisch reported on the public works meeting. Council discussed the council/staff work session.

Council requested that staff fill out a vacation/comp-time request form when taking time off.

Karl will talk with the lumber yard on doors for the shelter bathrooms for an update.

Administration

The Clerk/Treasurer's Report was accepted. The report details work done by the Clerk/Treasurer September 18th to October 7th. These are in addition to regular monthly activities.

- Assessment – prepare roll, questions for financial advisor and engineer, published, posted and mailed notice, prepare affidavit of publication, fielded questions from residents.
- Represented MCFOA Board at retirement party in Alexandria.
- LP contract.
- Ashby Showcase – prepared items and attended planning meetings, prepared letter and registration, prepared press released and posters.
- MCFOA Regional meeting in Ashby,
- Arrangements made for sale of red pickup at Midwest Auction.
- Notification requirements per Affordable Care Act.
- Scheduled/posted special meeting/attended meeting.

- GrOw Grant County – meeting in Elbow, prepared items for survey,
- DEED meeting in Fergus Falls.
- Doug Wood event – press release, printed posters, attended planning meetings.
- EDA – letter to businesses with \$50 challenge, resources available, showcase info, Met with Lonnie and Dallas at the bank for input.

Public Safety

Police Report:

- Animal – 1
- Agency Assist – 3
- Public Assist – 3
- Traffic Stop – 3
- Suspicious – 1
- Accident – 1
- Alcohol/Minor/Small Amt. Marijuana – 1

It was noted that a compliance check from the MN Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training was conducted and the department is in compliance.

The red pickup was sold at Midwest Auction with net proceeds of \$1261. As this was a DUI forfeiture, a portion of this needs to be paid to the County Attorney minus expenses.

Obright and Jaenisch attended a meeting with legislators and MnDOT officials regarding the junction of Highway 78 and Cty 82 and the concern for the safety of the intersection. They found it does not meet the minimum requirements for a 4-way stop. I.e. need of a minimum of 5 crashes in a year or a death. There have been 11 crashed in 20 years. There is a possibility of some other type of caution/advanced warning system, especially on the county road.

Fire Department Report:

Ambulance Calls – 22, 4 in the City

Also did standby at Lake Region Threshers Reunion in Dalton (12 people at 4 hours each)

Provided standby at home football games – 3 people at 3 hours each.

Fire Calls – 0, 0 in the City

Arrow EMS Report:

Arrow EMS has completed a Health Care Provider CPR class for the Tintah and Campbell First Responders on September 16th. Arrow EMS is advertising the courses that will be taught over the winter months. It appears there will be an initial Emergency Medical Technician course, an EMT refresher and possibly a First Responder refresher. Arrow EMS would like to offer the community training on basic emergency skills and steps to employ in the case of an emergency. If the council has some thoughts, please contact Martin with ideas.

Public Works

Public Works Report:

- Parks – bathrooms will be winterized and locked for the season, park shelter is locked up. Mowing has slowed down and the ponds/CVE has been mowed for the last time.
- Wastewater ponds – bio bugs continue, transfers are beginning to get ready for fall discharge.
- WINS report was completed and mailed.
- DMRs are due each month on the 21st.
- Main lift station – replaced bather in the emergency generator.
- Water – fluoridation report is due on the 10th – has been mailed in.
- Streets – working with Ness Backhoe to get on their list to get the valve/manhole covers lowered.
- Skating rink – it has been tilled and Ness Backhoe will come in to level/pack the dirt before the side boards can be put up.
- Work orders – left a message with a resident to set up apt. to get meter touch pad installed.
- Storm sewer – public works will take a fire truck to flush out the storm sewer at the corner of Cedar/Norge. There have been complaints that it drains slowly.

Martin is waiting on contact info to send in bills to MnDOT for damage they did with mower.

Work orders were reviewed.

The council will move forward with the plan to remove snow on downtown commercial property and will include T & B's Short Stop on the list that was generated this spring.

Council requested that Tollefson get pricing for lettering or magnetic sign for the white pick-up.

The Ashby Area Showcase is scheduled for November 6th from 5-8 p.m.

Jaenisch moved to contract 1500 gallons of LP from Ashby Equity at \$1.45/gallon. Karl seconded. MCU

The ag class at school does not have time to do the roof on the warming house this fall but may have time in the spring.

The League of MN Cities fall workshop is on October 31st in Wadena. Martin and Grover will attend.

Karl moved to allow the County Highway Department to place a shelter on the City's property located north of the Central Lake Trail. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Karl moved to adjourn. Jaenisch seconded. MCU Adjourn 7:30 p.m.

_____ Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer