

Ashby City Council Meeting – October 9, 2014

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; Troy Johnson, Public Works; Jeremy Obright, Chief of Police; and Richard Walton, City Attorney. Visitors: Trent and Darrin Froemming.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Koefod moved to approve the agenda. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Visitors

Trent and Darrin Froemming were here from TFC Poultry. The council received economic impact information from them such as number of employees, how many live in town, money spent in the community, etc. The discussion moved to their testing results over the last few months. WSN cannot determine at this point if they should still be considered a "Significant Industrial User" as the testing results are very close to the line. They are recommending continued testing of one time per month until the end of the year and re-evaluate. Jordan moved to approve these testing recommendations (once per month) until the end of the year. Koefod seconded. MCU TFC will need to notify the City what dates they will be testing. As some point the Pretreatment Agreement will have to be reviewed but the council felt it should be done after the end of the year and this additional round of testing.

Consent Agenda

Karl moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$26,681.72, Claims for Approval: \$22,579.30, Additional Prepaid Claims - \$0 and additional Claims for Approval \$0 for a total of \$49,261.02. Jaenisch went through the bills and the bank statement ahead of time and gave prior approval. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

- Grover reported that he has not had staff meetings over the last month but has met with each department head separately.

Council Reports

- Jordan reported on the upcoming school operating levy renewal question which will appear on the November election ballot.

Administration

- Business Networking committee meeting
- Made arrangements for business networking meeting on October 28th, sent postcards to businesses, etc.
- SRTS-Confirmed open house
- Compost Site Expenses and info for council
- Levy submitted to County
- Fire Truck Contract
- Vacation 9/12 to 9/21
- NIMS info to council and Troy
- Info to TFC requested by council
- SAM Update
- New Hires Reporting form
- Increase to water rates
- TIF fund transfers
- City Clerk meeting at LCSC
- Clarified to garbage containers – in paper and posted
- Water issues – posted info and Facebook, fielded questions
- Opened quotes with Tom, Jeff & Troy – Troy and I discussed further with Larry

Public Safety

Chief of Police Report:

- Both part-time officers are doing well. There are continued positive comments from the community.
- ICR's are increasing.
- Obright has been accepted into a BCA class for certification on the breath test machine.
- Continued scheduling of different shifts for the department.
- Obright will get something to pass out to kids on Halloween.

Police Activity Report:

- Traffic Stop Warning – Equipment
- Traffic Stop Warning – Speed and Stop Sign
- Traffic Stop Warning – Speed
- Agency Assist – 4
- Suspicious Activity – Citations issued for fleeing on foot, possession of a small amount of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia - 1
- Traffic Stop Citation – Stop sign violation – 1
- Family Services – 1
- Weapons Complaint – Charges pending - 1

- Public Assist – 3
- Traffic Stop Warning – Driving after suspension – 1
- Lost and Found – 1
- Traffic Complaint – 1
- Motorist Assist – 1
- Alarm – 1
- Accident – 1
- Alarm/Agency Assist - 1

Fire Department Report:

- Ambulance Calls – 22, 5 in City
- Fire & Rescue Calls – 2 false alarms, 1 in City

The new fire truck is ready. We are just waiting on the funding from FEMA. The council was in agreement that the best way to sell the old tanker would be through MidState Auction in New York Mills.

Arrow EMS Report:

The Heartsaver CPR class that took place on September 22nd for 2 organizations went well. Classes are being scheduled for the next several months. January, February and March will be the busiest months. Arrow EMS will also be helping some small businesses with their training needs. The license for Arrow EMS has been renewed.

The Emergency Management plan was reviewed. Koefod moved to approve with corrections. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Public Works Report:

- In the process of fall discharge.
- Still working with Ness Backhoe on arrangements for use of the loader.
- Roof on the warming house is complete.
- Worked with other staff members on street lights that need to be replaced.
- Final section of the new sidewalk has been seal-coated.

Two quotes were received for the replacement of the control panel, computer and software at the water plant. Jaenisch moved to reject both quotes because of the cost. Koefod seconded. MCU Staff will discuss changes to the quote document with WSN, simplify the process and bring back to next council meeting.

Karl moved to accept the quote of \$6300 for water town cleaning and work. Jordan seconded. MCU

Johnson gave the council a detailed explanation on the issue surrounding the pink water in town. *"We have water filters that need to be generated every 6 months. For this process we need to fill the tower, fill the clear well, drain down the filters and spread the chemical that removes the manganese from our water and let it soak in for 12-24 hours. All of this had been done. Where we think the problem occurred is a valve may not have shut properly. When the tower needed water, the pump turned on and a valve opened up just enough to bleed a little in the clear well and then closed again when the pump shut down."* The council would like to see staff communicate with the residents a little quicker in this type of situation. It was suggested that we may be able to use the Code Red system which the county is currently setting up.

The work order report was reviewed.

Old Business

Jaenisch reported that the work done by Johnson-Nelson Masonry was more expensive because there was more damage than anticipated and it was very labor intensive.

Martin will write an article for the paper on increase in taxes and utility rates and will send it to the council prior to publication.

The League of MN Regional meeting is October 29th in Vergas. Martin and Koefod will attend.

The Safe Routes to School community open house is scheduled for October 27th at City Hall.

The area business meeting, funded and facilitated by West Central Initiative will be held on October 28th at the Ashby Legion.

The damage to the lift station this summer has been covered by insurance.

New Business

Jaenisch moved to approve Martin's attendance at the Business Retention and Expansion program held at West Central Initiative. Koefod seconded. MCU Martin will try and recruit other team members from the community.

Martin and Johnson reported on a visit from the League of MN Cities Insurance trust. We currently have "No Fault Sewer Backup" coverage. Martin will check to see that we continue to be a part of the incentive program if we drop it. There is also a Land Use training type program that could save the city money in claims down the road. We will revisit this in March.

Martin reported that there is a serious prospective owner of the bed and breakfast that would like to open it this fall. The prospective owners asked about the high taxes on the building. Martin reported is very difficult to provide incentives to a retail/restaurant type business but the council can certainly offer free utilities. Jordan moved to approve 12 months of free

water and sewer (capped at \$150 per month) to this prospective owner to start the day it opens for business. Jaenisch seconded. MCU The EDA was not consulted on this specific issue because of the late timing. The council requested that the EDA look at this type of incentive for new businesses and also to discuss some other ideas to create retail type incentives.

Adjourned 6:57 p.m.

_____ Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer