

Ashby City Council Meeting and Board of Appeals

Mayor Grover called the Board of Appeals to order at 5:30 p.m. with council members George Jordan, Jim Karl, Marcia Koefod and Ronnie Jaenisch present. Also present was Val Martin-Clerk/Treasurer. Visitors were Karl Lindquist, Heather Jacobson, Brian Wing, Troy Johnson, Jackie Schmitz and Deb Thomodson.

Grover turned the discussion over to Karl Lindquist and Deb Thomodson.

Brian Wing was present representing the bank on the bed and breakfast property. It is currently listed at \$179,900 and not selling. It's been on the market a while and they have continued to reduce the price.

Lindquist explained the qualified sales in the City of Ashby and talked about the change in value to farm land. There are no major changes to legislation affecting property values.

Grover, Karl and Jordan will need training this year. There is training available through the township association on June 22nd and on-line training will be available soon. Members will be able to go to the county web-site and find a link on the assessor's page to the training.

The bed and breakfast appeal was discussed. It is difficult to assess a value to this type of property with no comparisons. Karl suggested that the council consider changing the economic factor from 18% to 45%. This will change their value to \$156,500. Jaenisch moved to approve this change. Karl seconded. MCU

Board of Appeals was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:10 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; Judy Helle, Deputy Clerk; Dennis Helle, Public Works and Jackie Schmitz. Visitors were Winnie and Alden Thompson.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Grover administered the oath of Office to Jackie Schmitz, new Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director. A big welcome to Ashby!

Visitors

None

Consent Agenda

Jordan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of minutes from the previous month.
- Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$63,498.65, Claims for Approval: \$30,167.31, Additional Prepaid Claims - \$0 and additional Claims for Approval \$3,781.23 for a total of \$97,447.19. Koefod went through the bills ahead of time and gave prior approval. Koefod seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

- Has met with staff individually on a weekly basis.

Council Reports

None

Administration

- Central Lakes Trail Meeting and Financials
- Audit – reviewed report
- Economic Development meeting
- Ashby Connection meeting
- Hiring Clerk/Treasurer – posted and published opening; hiring committee meeting to score applications; hiring committee –interviews; letters to applicants not getting job; work with new clerk on schedule for April.
- MCFOA Conference
- Business letter for calendar project, web-site renewal and request for movie donations.
- Newsletter
- Revised debt service spreadsheet
- Revised assessment spreadsheet
- Prepared items for council binders
- Council orientation
- Cleaned files/updated items on computer
- Updates to desk reference
- Amended and printed EDA brochure and Country View Estates brochure
- Special council meeting
- Designed calendar publication

Public Safety

Police Report:

- Agency Assist – 2
- Traffic Stop/Warning-Stop Sign – 2
- Traffic Stop/Warning-Speed – 4
- Traffic Stop/Warning – Equipment – 5
- Animal – 1
- Permit – 2
- Traffic Stop Citation – DAS and Expired Tags – 1
- Accident – 1
- Traffic Stop Citation – DAR
- Traffic Complaint – 1
- Harassment – 1
- Administrative Offense – 1
- Public Assist - 1

Both part-time officers continue to do a good job; sat in on Clerk's interviews, busy season approaching, getting clean-up letters sent.

Fire Department Report:

- Ambulance Calls – 20, 5 in City
- Fire & Rescue Calls – 1, 0 in City

Council members are still working on NIMS compliance.

Arrow EMS Report:

Arrow EMS Initial Emergency Medical Technician Course is nearing completion; provided training to Ripley's Construction; a thanks to Val Martin for the work she has done with Arrow EMS over the last four years.

Jaenisch moved to have Walton prosecute checks and bypass the County process and to give Walton the discretion on the amount of check he goes after. Checks will need to be submitted to him within 60 days. Jordan seconded. MCU

Public Works

Public Works Report:

- Fluoride report completed and mailed.
- DMR completed and mailed.
- Johnson Jet-Line came and cleaned out the storm sewer basins and said everything looked good.
- Working with ProSweep to get the streets swept.
- Ness Backhoe has picked up the loader that they loaned us over the winter.
- Requesting funds for part-time summer help.

The work order report was reviewed.

Public Works is planning to flush hydrants next Wednesday.

Karl moved to approve the advertising and hiring of summer help for public works up to \$1000 and to be paid at minimum wage. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

TFC Poultry has paid their fine for the month. Jaenisch made a motion that TFC Poultry's fine payment of \$1000 is due by 10:00 a.m. the day after each regular monthly council meeting.. If they do not pay by that time, their water will be shut off. This applies to every time their payment is due. They will no longer receive a reminder each month. Martin will notify them of this. Karl seconded. MCU

Old Business

The City Hall air conditioning was discussed. It was tabled until we get more information from Country Heating.

Ashby clean-up day is May 13th. We do not have someone to pick up electronics. The public works department will take care of collecting and transporting the electronics to Elbow Lake. There will be no charge to city property owners for this with the exception of TV's. Karl moved to charge \$10 for each TV during the clean-up event. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Jordan, Karl and Martin reported that Ashby Connection has discussed the idea of merging with Community Club. Members will attend the next Community Club meeting where this will be discussed. The calendar project has been completed and has been printed in-house.

Staff has been working with WSN on a property owners issue related to the sewer project.

Tax forfeiture sale is scheduled for April 30th at 10:00 a.m.

The bid opening for the lift station generator will be April 22nd. The council discussed ideas on what to do with the old generator.

New Business

League of MN Conference is June 24th – 26th. Council members should let office staff know if they wish to attend by May 1st.

Jordan moved to approve Resolution 2015-17 Donation- \$2000 from Park Region for the squad camera and a wireless gas meter was donated to the Fire Department by Bobby Reardon. Koefod seconded. Roll call vote: those voting for: Jordan, Koefod, Grover, Karl and Jaenisch. Those voting against: none. MCU

Jordan moved to approve outdoor liquor licenses for Ashby Legion: May 9th – Coots Banquet, outdoor permit; July 18th – Ashby Appreciation Days, outdoor dance permit; and August 8th – Ribfest, outdoor permit. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Karl moved to change the May council meeting to May 21st at 6:00 p.m. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Jaenisch moved to approve the installation of a deck at Frog Lake. Materials will be donated by Coots Unlimited with volunteers doing the work. Koefod seconded. MCU

Koefod moved to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy as presented. Jordan seconded. MCU

The Farmers Market and Community Festival was discussed. We don't have all the donations needed but we are coming close to it. Martin will send out an e-mail to the businesses making the request again. Jordan moved to proceed with planning the Thursday evening events. Jaenisch seconded. MCU

Koefod moved to adjourn. Jaenisch seconded. MCU Adjourn 7:10 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer