

Ashby City Council Meeting – August 13th, 2015

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with council members Jim Karl, Ron Jaenisch, and Marcia Koefod present. Council member George Jordan was absent. Also present was Jackie Schmitz- Clerk/Treasurer, Richard Walton– City Attorney. Visitors were Jim Risbrudt, Ashby Fire Department, Scott Ellingson, Heather Thormodson, Alden and Winnie Thompson.

Koefod moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Jaenisch. MCU

Visitors

Heather & Mike Thormodson are purchasing the B & B property to be used for groups to hold gatherings and parties. The name of the facility will be North Star Retreat Center. The Thormodson's are not going to prepare food in the kitchen but catering is allowed by groups and guests will have the opportunity to use the kitchen. A wine license is being pursued for approval at the next council meeting. Thormodson asked the council if there are any incentives for utilities. Motion made by Koefod to approve a waiver of water, sewer and storm sewer for one year at a maximum of \$200/month. All garbage will be paid for by the owner. Jaenisch Seconded. MCU

Jim Risbrudt with the Ashby Fire Department requested an increase in the annual PERA Relief Contribution. Koefod moved to increase the benefit level from \$700/year to \$900/year. Karl Seconded. MCU

Scott Ellingson presented the council with several questions regarding verification of the Country View Estates Covenants. Attorney Walton recommended that Mr. Ellingson submit his plans to the Building Committee and the Building Committee will then provide recommendations to the council on if they feel the covenants are being met.

Mr. Ellingson also made an offer to the council of \$8,000 to purchase Lot #4 of Country View Estates. The offer was rejected. Walton stated that the sale of the lots is covered under bonded funds making negotiating the price difficult.

Consent Agenda

Jaenisch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

*Approval of minutes from the previous month.

*Approval of bills: Prepaid Bills: \$86,110.56 Claims for Approval: \$21,287.07 Additional Prepaid Claims - \$0 and additional Claims for Approval \$0 for a total of \$107,397.63. Mayor Grover went through the bills ahead of time and gave prior approval. Karl seconded. MCU

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grover reported that he meets with the Department Heads weekly.
- Meeting with the County Engineer and Jeff Kuhns regarding the 2016 County Road 82 project. There will be some Safe Routes to School sidewalks that the County will install as part of grant funds. Improvements for the road will run from County Line to County Line. During this project there are several City Projects that will be addressed to determine a priority for repairing during this project.

Council Report

Jaenisch reported that the Public Safety Committee held a meeting regarding part-time help with the Police Department. The County is still working on hiring their full-time deputy and once that hire has been made they will discuss the option of utilizing the County Staff for assistance in Ashby.

Administration

- Country View Estates Committee Meeting 7/27
- Farmer's Market/Movie In the Park Preparation/Advertising
- Preparation for Bond Sale
- Information preparation to Ehlers regarding 2014 TIF Reporting
- 2016 Budget Preparation
- TFC Pre-Treatment Agreement Meeting 7/22
- City Policies and Ordinance Review
- Organized Special Council Meeting Regarding CVE Lot Sales 8/10 – Meeting was cancelled.
- Field questions regarding CVE Covenants
- 2016 CR 82 Project Meeting 8/12

Public Safety

Police Report:

- Suspicious – 1
- Harassment - 1
- Traffic Stop Warning – Speed – 4
- Domestic – 1
- Traffic Stop Warning – Equipment - 6
- Agency Assist – 9
- Motorist Assist – 1
- Public Assist – 5
- Alarm – 1
- Animal – 1
- Alcohol Offense/Detox -1
- Family Assist – 1
- Domestic 2 Citation for Disorderly Conduct – 1
- Neighborhood Disturbance – 1
- Animal Admin Citation – 1
- Animal Offense VW Golf Cart - 1

July has been a busy month for the Police Department. Appreciation Days went well. Meeting was held with the Public Safety Committee regarding staffing. Chief Obright assisted in Elbow Lake during Flekkefest. Chief Obright will attend the Police Chief's Retreat in Detroit Lakes September 10 – 11.

Fire Department Report:

- Ambulance Calls –21, 11 in City
- Fire & Rescue Calls – 2, 1 in City
- The Ashby Fire Department informed the council that they have suspended an EMT on their roster due to an on-going investigation.

Arrow EMS

- Currently Arrow EMS is instructing an Emergency Responder Refresher for the Tintah Responders. Lynn Siegel & Kim Muenchow are assisting with the course.
- Ben Johnson has completed all necessary requirements to become an American Heart Association CPR Instructor.
- Ashby Ambulance is always looking for ways to get EMT's on as many calls as possible. Many have small children, which causes a problem for child care. Looking for Community Members to help play a role to assist our EMT's while they are needed on calls.

Public Works

- Johnson was absent from the meeting as he is attending Wastewater Training in Brainerd.
- The Work-Order report was presented to the council.

Old Business

The setback requirements for Accessory Buildings was discussed at previous meetings and the council recommended to leave the ordinance the way it is. Variances are allowed with the existing setback requirements for those interested.

New Business

- The City received the first of two state payments intended to help fund city street maintenance. Ashby will receive \$10,849. The first payment of \$5,419.50 was received in July.
- Second Quarter Financial Reports were reviewed by the Council.
- The City received a Thank you note from Summer Rec Director, Jenny Tollefson in regards to the donation the City made to the Summer Rec Program.
- The City received a Petition to Change Real Property Zoning request from Cody Johnson. All proper paperwork and documentation will need to be received by Mr. Johnson to move forward with this process.
- Jaenisch moved to approve **Resolution 2015-16 – Resolution Approving Gambling At Leo’s Pub**. Second by Koefod. Roll call vote: Those voting for: Karl, Jaenisch, Koefod and Grover. Those voting against: None. MCU
- Jaenisch moved to approve the group coming to Ashby for the Hospice Run to camp in the City Park. Karl Seconded. MCU

Karl moved to adjourn. Second by Jaenisch. MCU Adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Jackie Schmitz, Clerk/Treasurer