

Ashby Council Meeting – October 15th, 2015

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with council members Jim Karl, Ron Jaenisch, George Jordan and Marcia Koefod present. Also present were Jackie Schmitz – Clerk/Treasurer, Troy Johnson – Public Works Superintendent, Richard Walton – City Attorney, and Judy Helle – Deputy Clerk. Visitors were Heather Rossum, Alden and Winnie Thompson.

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

Visitors

Heather Rossum was present to discuss with the council the potential of re-zoning property at 200 Norge St from residential to commercial. Once the property has been purchased the steps can be taken to move forward with the change request.

Consent Agenda

Jaenisch moved to add items regarding the Personnel Policy and Public Works Department to the agenda. Second by Jordan. MCU

Mayor's Report

Mayor Grover reported that he attended the Regional Mayor's Meeting in Battle Lake. He also met with Larry VanHout from WSN, Public Works, the City Clerk & TFC regarding the Pretreatment Agreement that is in the process of completion. There are a couple of items that WSN is waiting on from TFC regarding some verbiage to go in the agreement.

Administration

- Safe Routes to School Meeting
- Levy Submitted to County
- SAM Update
- 2016 Water/Sewer Fund Budgets
- Solid Waste Collection Meeting
- Utility Billing Assessments
- Public Meeting Organization (Cancelled)
- TFC Pretreatment Agreement Meeting & Organization
- Meeting at WCI regarding SRTS grant application process
- 2015 Farmer's Market SHIP Grant Reimbursement Requests
- State-Wide Trail Count Volunteer Organization
- 2016 Liquor License Renewals

Schmitz presented information to the council regarding a more solid and secure back-up system for the data maintained at City Hall. She has received one quote for the cost to store the data. The council requested that Schmitz obtain one or more quotes for the cost to back-up the data off site. Council wants to ensure that Data Privacy is protected.

Public Safety

Police Report:

- Animal – 2
- Public Assist – 6

- Alarm – 1
- Sex Crime – 1
- Suspicious – 1
- Theft – 1
- Motorist Assist – 1
- Traffic Stop Warning – Equipment – 1
- Agency Assist - 3

Chief Obright reported that he attended a Chief's retreat in Detroit Lakes and found it very good for networking with other Chiefs and receiving feedback on similar issues in other cities. Calls have been down the last couple of months but are still up overall.

Council member Jordan discussed with the council that he had attended a training which addressed the carrying of firearms in public buildings; specifically employees and council members. Our current policy reads that employees and council members cannot carry firearms in city hall. The council will be looking at this policy and determining if there needs to be a change.

Fire Department Report

- Ambulance Calls – 27, 5 in City
- Fire & Rescue Calls – 1, 0 in City

Public Works

- Superintendent Johnson reported there was a water leak in the water plant. The proper repair supplies were found and the leak was fixed without any problems with water to the city.
- Two dehumidifiers were switched from the lower floor to the upper floor of the water plant which has dramatically helped with the humidity.
- The skating rink has been dug out and leveled in preparation for the winter skating season.
- Some street maintenance is scheduled for October on Larson, Birch Meadow Lane and Prairie Drive and hydrants will be flushed.
- The work-order report was presented to the council

Council member Karl reported that there have been several garbage bags of leaves being left out at the compost site and they are not being emptied and the bags taken away. Compost is to be emptied out of the bags and the bags

Old Business

Mayor Grover and Clerk Schmitz will be attending the League of MN Cities Regional Meeting on October 21st. If there is anybody else interested in attending contact Jackie. She needs to register attendee's on-line. We are in the final stages of rolling out a new pretreatment agreement with TFC. Larry VanHout is waiting to get more information from Trent Froemming of TFC with some updated verbiage for the agreement.

New Business

- Karl moved to approve **Resolution 2015-21, A Resolution Certifying Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes.** Second by Jaenisch. Roll Call Vote: Those voting for: Karl, Jaenisch, Koefod, Jordan, Grover. Those voting against: None. MCU

- Jaenisch moved to approve **Resolution 2015-22, A Resolution Acknowledging Donations**. Second by Koefod. Roll Call Vote: Those voting for: Karl, Jaenisch, Jordan, Koefod, Grover. Those voting against: None. MCU
- A letter was received from Tina at Grant County Emergency Management regarding the decline in the amount of people willing to volunteer for public safety. Being a First Responder and serving on a Fire Department or Ambulance Crew is a crucial role to public safety. Please encourage anybody who you think may be interested in serving.
- A request was received from the National MS Society regarding a Bike MS TRAM that is taking place in the summer of 2016. The request is to utilize the Ashby City Park as a rest stop for the bikers on their way through our community. The city council approved for the group to utilize the city park for their needs. The TRAM will run from July 20th – 21st and will be in Ashby on Thursday, July 21st.
- Schmitz notified the council that a resignation was received from Katy Hokanson as the meter reader for the city. Hokanson last read the meters in August and a resignation notice was received at the end of September. Hokanson is still in possession of the keys for City Hall. A notice was sent for the return of city property. Chief Obright will collect the keys. The council requested that Schmitz run a help wanted ad as soon as possible.
- Council Member Jordan updated the council on the trail survey for connecting the trail from Ashby to Battle Lake. There appears to be enough funding to move forward and get a plan together.
- Dustin Jante at 407 Larson Ave submitted a request to the council for a waiver of sewer charges at his property as there was a large amount of water that went into the back yard due to a plumbing mishap from several years ago. Karl moved to forgive the sewer charges on the September bill beings the water did not go into the city sewer and Mr. Jante has not even been able to move into the property until all of the plumbing issues are corrected. Second by Jaenisch. MCU The total sewer charges to be credited are \$141.07.

Jaenisch moved to adjourn. Second by Karl. MCU Adjourn at 6:45 pm.

Jackie Schmitz, Clerk/Treasurer