

**MINUTES**  
**March Regular Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

- Regular Meeting** A regular council meeting of the City of Ashby, MN was held at Ashby City Hall with the following members present: Mayor Scott Ellingson, Jake Dahle, Amy Johnson, Ryan Kari and Wayne Stierlen. Absent: None. Also present: Clerk Mike Thormodson. Agenda visitor: Sheriff Jen Vipond. Public Comment: Tom Rudd. Mayor Ellingson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- Agenda Approval** Upon motion from Dahle, seconded by Johnson, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved.
- Visitors:**
- Sheriff Jenn Vipond** Sheriff Vipond spoke about the upcoming annual city mayor meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Budgets, procedures and other issues will be covered then. Sheriff Vipond mentioned the DARE program that just completed in Ashby, led by Deputy Logan Nelson. DARE is a 13-week program taught to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The Grant County Sheriff's department is currently understaffed but Sheriff Vipond believes it shouldn't affect coverage. Johnson inquired about the illegal semi parking in town. Dahle heard from a local resident that was unable to move his truck due to a semi blocking his way and Dahle voiced his concern that someone might get into an accident due to not being able to see around the semi. Sheriff Vipond encourages residents to call the Sheriff's department to report them. Mayor Ellingson said that he has noticed that the illegal semi parking is better than it's been in the past. Johnson inquired about law enforcement's ability to access the school in an emergency. Sheriff Vipond informed council that they have key fobs that allow them access.
- Public Comment:**  
**-Tom Rudd** Mr. Rudd asked if there was a plan in place to remodel the Community and Senior Center's bathrooms. He mentioned that on the weekends, when he and others are playing pool, people will stop and ask to use the restrooms. Mayor Ellingson and Johnson mentioned that there has been conversation about upgrading the restrooms and making them available to the general public. Mr. Rudd also stated that some of the senior citizens have an issue with the odor coming from TFC Poultry. He noted that the odor affects the community members and that it can be common with manufacturing plants. Mayor Ellingson explained that TFC Poultry has hired a person to manage the wastewater system, which should help improve the situation. Clerk Thormodson gave Mr. Rudd contact information for TFC Poultry so further questions can be directed to them.
- Consent Agenda Minutes/Claims** Upon motion from Dahle, seconded by Kari and unanimously carried, council approved the consent agenda which includes minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and the claims and prepaid disbursements of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 as presented and reviewed by Ellingson.
- Mayor's Report** Nothing to report
- Council Report** Nothing to report
- Administration** The Board of Appeals meeting will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 pm. Clerk Thormodson presented the signed purchase agreement for the nursing home from TFC Poultry for council's review. There were no questions so Clerk Thormodson was directed to sign and deliver the nursing home purchase agreement to Anderson Law Office. An AARP Flagship Grant was applied for to help fund the proposed Community and Senior Center restroom remodel. Dahle proposed that the city look into an OSHA safety grant as well.
- Public Safety** The Grant County Law Enforcement Report and the Fire/Ambulance report were reviewed. There were 20 Ambulance Calls (6 in the City) and 2 Fire Calls (0 in the City) in February.

## **Public Works**

Stierlen asked how much it cost to hire Ness Backhoe to spend a day removing snow from the city. Clerk Thormodson hadn't received an invoice for it yet, but informed council that the city was within its snow removal budget for the year. Clerk Thormodson received a call from a resident complaining about a strong chlorine smell in his water. Public Works was informed and adjustments were made to the chlorine input.

## **Old Business**

### **-Ordinance 71: Parking Regulations**

A resident expressed concern over semis parking illegally in front of his property this winter. He proposed amending Ordinance 71 to make clear that parallel parking in a diagonal parking zone is illegal. Upon motion from Kari, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved to amend Ordinance 71: Parking Regulations to include "Angle parking shall be required in areas which have been marked or signed for angle parking. In these areas, every vehicle shall be parked with the front of the vehicle facing the curb or edge of the traveled portion of the street at an angle approximately 60 degrees or as specified in M.S. Chapter 169, and the Minnesota Uniform Traffic Control Guidelines as it or they may be amended from time to time and facing between the painted or other markings on the curb or street indicating the parking space. On all other streets, cars shall be parked parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway in accordance with law. Mr. Rudd also brought up the issue of handicapped spots being marked. Council informed him of the city's plan to have them repainted.

### **-Norge Street road reconstruct assessment**

Mayor Ellingson and Clerk Thormodson spoke on the planning commission's recommendation that the city should assess 5% of the cost with a 10-15 year term of the Norge Street reconstruct to the 4 property owners on the affected section of Norge Street. Nick Olson (one of the affected residents) shared that he thought 5% was a fair assessment for the reconstruct. Mr. Olson asked about what the interest rate would be. Clerk Thormodson said he would find out and let the affected property owners know. Cari Jo Ripley and Jackie Wolff (two more of the affected property owners) were contacted earlier for their thoughts on a 5% assessment and they both expressed that they thought it was fair. Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Kari and unanimously carried, council approved to assess 5% of the Norge Street reconstruct to the 4 affected property owners.

## **New Business**

### **-Request Approvals**

#### **\*Resolution 2026-05: City Fire Contract transfer of funds**

The City of Ashby has a contract for fire protection services with the Ashby Fire Department. The total due for the contract is \$15,500. Stierlen moved to approve Resolution 2026-05: City Fire Contract transfer of funds and it was seconded by Dahle. Roll Call Vote conducted, those voting for: Dahle, Johnson, Ellingson, Kari and Stierlen. Those voting against: None. Resolution 2026-05 passed.

#### **\*Resolution 2026-06: Donation to the Ashby Fire Department Relief Fund**

The City of Ashby received a donation from the Lang Family Charitable Fund in the amount of \$10,000 for the Ashby Fire Department Relief Fund. Johnson moved to accept the donation and it was seconded by Kari. Roll Call Vote conducted, those voting for: Dahle, Johnson, Ellingson, Kari and Stierlen. Those voting against: None. Resolution 2026-06 passed. Council expressed their appreciation to the Lang Family for their generous donation to the Ashby Fire Department Relief Fund.

#### **-Off Site Liquor License Approval for Ripley Benefit**

A benefit is being planned for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in the remodeled Ashby Ambulance bays for Cari Jo Ripley who received a double lung transplant. The Sons of the American Legion will be hosting the event. Upon motion from Johnson, seconded by Kari and unanimously carried, council approved of the off-site liquor license for Cari's Transplant Benefit.

**-Grant County Humane Society dog and cat contract**

The City of Ashby contracts with the Grant County Humane Society to board lost dogs and cats from the city. Upon motion from Johnson, seconded by Kari and unanimously carried, council approved of the contract with the Grant County Humane Society to board lost dogs and cats.

**April Council Meeting**

The April meeting will be on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 starting at 5:30 pm at Ashby City Hall.

**Adjourn**

Upon motion by Dahle, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

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Scott Ellingson, Mayor