

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 9th, 2023

Regular Meeting

A regular council meeting of the City of Ashby, MN was held at Ashby City Hall with the following members present: Amy Johnson, Ronnie Jaenisch, Wayne Stierlen and Scott Ellingson Absent: Heather Rossum. Also present: Clerk Thormodson and Deputy Clerk Helle Absent: Public Works Superintendent Johnson. Visitor's Present: Randy Leuthard, Emily Nelson, Robby Risbrudt, Tim Amundson, Mark Zlotnick, Commissioner Walvatne, Sheriff Jon Combs and Deputy Sheriff Jennifer Vipond. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Agenda Approval

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

Visitors:

Randy Leuthard

Mr. Leuthard voiced his concern about a fire that was put out on his property on November 1st, 2022. He had a burn permit but did not contact the sheriff's department to let them know he was burning that day. Mr. Leuthard said that he believed that the fire wasn't big enough to call in. He also expressed concern about the toxicity of the foam used to extinguish the fire. Fire Chief Risbrudt called the sheriff's department to find out if there was a burn permit called in for the address and found out that their wasn't...so the fire department put it out. The foam used is approved for use by the DNR.

Emily Nelson
-Ashby 1st Grade
Teacher

Emily Nelson asked the council to approve the placement of 2 Little Libraries in the city. One will be located in Thorson/Larson Park and the other next to the shelter by the pike path. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen, and unanimously carried, the motion was approved.

Sheriff Jon Combs
and Deputy Sheriff
Jennifer Vipond

Sheriff Combs spoke about the speed signs located at 3 points that enter town. People are still going too fast as they enter the city. Sheriff Combs will keep council updated as to their effectiveness.

Mark Zlotnick
-First Assistant Fire
Chief

Mark Zlotnick requested council's approval to spend up to \$3000 from the ambulance fund to update their 10+ year old computer equipment. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved the use of up to \$3000 from the ambulance fund to upgrade their computer system.

Minutes/Claims

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the consent agenda which includes minutes of the regular council meeting of February 9th, 2023 and the claims and prepaid disbursements of March 9th, 2023 as presented and reviewed by Mayor Johnson.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Johnson attended the LMC Elected Officials training. She recommends the other elected officials attend it in the future.

Council Reports

Council Members Ellingson and Jaenisch spoke about expanding the clerks and deputy clerk's office to allow for an emergency exit. The remainder of that area would be used for file storage. Council also discussed expanding the council meeting area to be able to handle larger groups at meetings. Jaenisch and Ellingson discussed possible options for storing equipment and chemicals for wastewater treatment.

Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was reviewed. The Senior Citizens Center is in need of insulation on the outer wall. The city plans to insulate the wall when the construction is done on the front of the building this Spring/Summer. Board of Appeals is scheduled for April 3rd starting at 5:30 pm.

Public Safety -
Law Enforcement
Report
Fire/Ambulance
Department

Commissioner Walvatne spoke about the need for a new Law Enforcement Building. The Grant County Law Enforcement, Ambulance and Fire Report were reviewed.

**Old Business:
-PT Public Works**

Council decided to open up applications to fill the vacant Part-Time Public Works position. The position will be posted on the City's website, the Grant County Herald and the Battle Lake Review.

New Business

Request Approvals:

-Add Mark Zlotnick to Public Safety Committee

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved to add Mr. Zlotnick to the Public Safety Committee.

-Add James Hustad to Strategic Planning Committee

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved to add Mr. Hustad to the Strategic Planning Committee.

-Outdoor Permit for Coots Banquet

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the Outdoor permit for May 13th, 2023.

Compost Site Hours

Council discussed options for hours of operation for the Compost site. A decision on this will be made at the April 13th regular council meeting.

**Request Approval
-Grant County Human Society Donation**

The city received a letter from the Grant County Humane Society asking for a donation. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved to donate \$500 to the Grant County Humane Society.

2023 Final Solid Waste Budget

The Final Solid Waste Budget was reviewed. The City's bill is up over \$17,000 from the previous year. Garbage fees will need to be reviewed and updated to handle the increase in cost.

Spring Clean-Up

Stierlen brought up getting ready for Spring Clean-up day. This typically happens in the middle of May. Clerk Thormodson will work with Superintendent Johnson to line everything up.

April City Council Meeting

The next City Council Meeting will be on April 13th, 2023 starting at 5:30 pm at Ashby City Hall.

Adjourn

Upon motion by Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

Amy Johnson, Mayor