

MINUTES
July Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, July 11th, 2024

- 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, Scott Ellingson, Wayne Stierlen, Jacob Dahle and Ron Jaenisch. Absent: None. Also present: Clerk Thormodson, Deputy Clerk Klinkner, Public Works Superintendent Johnson, Tom Grover, Rob Larsen and County Commissioner Walvatne. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- Agenda Approval** Mayor Johnson made a motion to add Appreciation Days Table to new business on the agenda. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen, and unanimously carried, the amended agenda was approved.
- Visitors:** Rob Larsen spoke about the upcoming Hero Day that will be held in Ashby on September 14th, 2024 at the Ashby Legion. This event celebrates the contributions of Emergency Personnel from the area.
- Public Comment:** None
- Consent Agenda Minutes/Claims** Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle and unanimously carried, council approved the consent agenda which includes minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting of June 13th, 2024, and the claims and prepaid disbursements of July 11th, 2024 as presented and reviewed by Jaenisch.
- Committee Report** Ellingson spoke about the Planning Commission meeting held earlier that week. The Commission recommends proceeding with the purchase of 3 acres from Donald Hotchkiss to be used to develop future senior housing. Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Ellingson, and unanimously carried, council agreed to proceed with purchasing 3 acres from Donald Hotchkiss for future senior housing. The Planning Commission wants additional information about the cost of developing the old Nursing Home before moving forward with purchasing it. The city has engineers working on a cost estimate for converting the facility into apartments.
- Council Reports** Dahle reached out to Senator Rasmusson to set up a future meeting to discuss development funding options for the city. He also researched email & website domains for the city and council members. Jaenisch stated that he has a key if anyone needs access to the old Nursing Home.
- Mayor's Report** Mayor Johnson attended a virtual Municipal Solar Cohort meeting. The group will analyze data about municipal buildings in Ashby to see if we are a good fit for solar.
- Clerk's Report** The Clerk's Report was reviewed.
- Public Safety**
- Law Enforcement The Grant County Law Enforcement was reviewed.
 - Fire & Ambulance The Fire and Ambulance report was reviewed.
- Public Works** The Public Works report was reviewed. Superintendent Johnson requested permission to purchase 2 dehumidifiers for the water plant to remove excess humidity that can cause corrosion on the pipes. Upon motion by Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the purchase of 2 dehumidifiers for the water plant.
- Old Business**
- Skate Park** Skate4Grant, the organization that is working on constructing a skate park in town, would like to build a skate park on the corner of Nelson and Melby. The city purchased that piece of land to hold excess snow. Skate4Grant proposed exchanging another parcel of land for it.

- Bench Donation** The bench should arrive mid-August and be installed on the existing cement pad next to the playground in Thorson Larson Park.
- Old Nursing Home** Widseth is figuring out the cost to convert the structure into apartments. Jaenisch is getting a quote on updating the elevator.
- New Business**
- Small Mower Maintenance** Tom Grover uses his small riding mower to cut the grass in tight areas around the city that our bigger mower cannot do. Council agreed to replace the mower blades and do oil changes on Tom Grover's small riding mower.
- Wild Parsnip Control** Council agreed that a plan needs to be put in place to control Wild Parsnip on city property. Public Works will begin a spray program. Mayor Johnson will look into a Noxious Weed Grant to assist with the costs.
- 2nd Quarter Financials** The 2nd Quarter Financials were reviewed.
- Request Approvals:**
- *Resolution 2024-10** Resolution 2024-10: Certifying Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes. Motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle to approve. Roll Call Vote: Dahle, Jaenisch, Mayor Johnson, Stierlen and Ellingson in favor. Resolution 2024-010 passed.
- *Resolution 2024-11** Resolution 2024-11: Certifying Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes. Motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle to approve. Roll Call Vote: Dahle, Jaenisch, Mayor Johnson, Stierlen and Ellingson in favor. Resolution 2024-11 passed.
- *Resolution 2024-12** Resolution 2024-12: Certifying Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes. Motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle to approve. Roll Call Vote: Dahle, Jaenisch, Mayor Johnson, Stierlen and Ellingson in favor. Resolution 2024-12 passed.
- *Resolution 2024-13** Resolution 2024-13: Certifying Delinquent Utilities to Property Taxes. Motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle to approve. Roll Call Vote: Dahle, Jaenisch, Mayor Johnson, Stierlen and Ellingson in favor. Resolution 2024-13 passed.
- *Resolution 2024-14** Resolution 2024-14: Fund Transfer for Fire Protection. Motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Dahle to approve. Roll Call Vote: Dahle, Jaenisch, Mayor Johnson, Stierlen and Ellingson in favor. Resolution 2024-14 passed.
- Appreciation Days Table** Council decided to not staff a table at this year's Appreciation Days.
- Adjourn** Upon motion by Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.
- May Council Meeting** The next regular City Council Meeting will be held on August 8th, 2024 at City Hall starting at 5:30 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

Amy Johnson, Mayor