

MINUTES
August Council Meeting
Thursday August 10th, 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, Wayne Stierlen, Heather Rossum, Ron Jaenisch and Scott Ellingson Absent: None. Also present: Clerk Mike Thormodson and Public Works Superintendent Troy Johnson. Visitor's Present: Dennis Shores and Mark Zlotnick. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Agenda Approval

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

Visitors:

-Dennis Shores

Mr. Shores discussed his plans to construct a house on 401 Larson. He mentioned this house is phase one, with another dwelling being constructed in the future.

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson, and unanimously carried, the Land Use Permit for 401 Larson was approved as presented.

-Mark Zlotnick

Request Approvals:

-Truck Purchase

Mr. Zlotnick updated council with an updated quote for the fire truck purchase.

Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Jaenisch, and unanimously carried, council approved of the fire truck purchase. He also requested approval for the Ambulance to hire Tina Bakeberg pending a background check. Upon motion from Rossum, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved the hiring of Tina Bakeberg pending a background check.

**-Hire T. Bakeberg
for Ambulance**

Public Comment:

None given.

**Consent Agenda
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 July 6th, 2023, the Special Council Meeting on July 24th, 2023 and the claims and prepaid disbursements of August 10th, 2023 as presented and reviewed by Council member Jaenisch.

Council Reports

Rossum attended the July Senior Citizens Meeting. No concerns were expressed.

Jaenisch spoke with Mr. Ford about the possibility of purchasing the vacant lot south of the hardware store to use for senior housing. Jaenisch asked the question if the city should put up a no parking sign to make it less hazardous on Iverson. Jaenisch brought up the possibility of debt forgiveness for a current contractor since the city has forgiven another business of its debt in the past.

Stierlen and Ellingson had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Johnson and Jill Amundson attended the June Senior Citizens Meeting. Youth night is coming back to the Community Center (K-6). Appreciation Days was a great success with lots of positive feedback from the community. Mayor Johnson thanks everyone involved including Public Works and staff. The MinneSHOWta Ashby video will debut on August 16th at the North Star Retreat Center. The Economic Development met on July 18th.

Clerk's Report

The EDA will be emailing a Business Retention survey to local area businesses by the end of August. The Welcoming Week event is scheduled for September 16th in Thorson/Larson from 11-1. Local Government Aid amounts for 2024 were announced.

Request Approvals:

**-Resignation of
Deputy Clerk Helle**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved the resignation of Deputy Clerk Judy Helle.

**-Hire R. Klinkner for
Deputy Clerk**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum and unanimously carried, council approved the hiring of Robin Klinkner for Deputy Clerk.

**-Add R. Klinkner to
check signing &
remove J. Helle**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved adding Klinkner to check signing at Viking Bank and removing Helle.

Request Approvals:
-Agri-Partners Sign placement

Upon motion from Ellingson, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council decided to table the approval until the September regular council meeting, pending more information.

-House Burn Permit for 301.5 Main ST

Upon motion from Rossum, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved the burn permit.

*Owner has since decided not to burn down the house, but to instead plumb it and rent it out.

Public Safety - Law Enforcement & Fire/Ambulance

The Public Safety Reports were reviewed

Public Works

A new sign and bird house have been installed at Memorial Park. The new mower for the city should arrive within 2 weeks. Nitrate levels are up in the treatment ponds.

Old Business

Grant County informed us that 120 pounds of compostable material were collected during Ashby Appreciation Days.

Request Approval:
-Ordinance 96 Special Event Exemption

Upon motion from Rossum, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved to add an exemption to Ordinance 96: Section 96.04 that exempts vendors during Appreciation Days and/or other city, government, or non-profit events, sponsored events and celebrations.

New Business

Request Approvals:
-Increase limits on Purchasing Policy

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum and unanimously carried, council approved to increase the spending limits on the City's Purchasing Policy. The purchasing policy had not been adjusted for 10+ years and costs for products have increased.

-Resolution: 2023-02 Accepting Park Donation

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen - **Resolution 2023-02 Accepting Park Use Donation** for \$100 from Quam. Roll Call Vote, those voting for: H. Rossum, R. Jaenisch, A. Johnson, W. Stierlen, S. Ellingson. Those voting against: None. Carried

-Resolution: 2023-03 Allowing Transfers to the Fire Department Fund

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum - **Resolution 2023-3 Resolution Allowing Transfers to the Fire Department Fund.** Roll Call Vote, those voting for: H. Rossum, R. Jaenisch, A. Johnson, W. Stierlen, S. Ellingson. Those voting against: None. Carried

Troy Hart

Mr. Hart asked the city to consider not charging property owners the minimum utility fees if the water is shut off to the property.

David Ford Property

Jaenisch asked council if they were interested in possibly buying Mr. Ford's lot south of the hardware store to use for a future senior housing project. Council agreed that Jaenisch should continue to pursue this.

September Regular Council Meeting

The next regular City Council Meeting will be on September 14th, 2023 starting at 5:30 pm at Ashby City Hall.

Adjourn

Upon motion by Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

Amy Johnson, Mayor