

MINUTES
August Council Meeting
Thursday, September 14th, 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: None. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Agenda Approval

Jaenisch requested to add the David Ford property purchase and give an update on the Hotchkiss land to old business. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum, and unanimously carried, the amended agenda was approved.

Visitors:

-None

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 August 10th, 2023 and the claims and prepaid disbursements of September 14th, 2023 as presented and reviewed by Mayor Johnson.

Council Reports

Stierlen attended the August Senior Citizens Meeting. He updated them on what the city is up to.
Jaenisch, Rossum and Ellingson had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Johnson attended the Mayor's Get together in Perham. Minneshowta was a nice success. Fire Department had a Fish Fry. Celebration of Culture will be held on September 16th from 11-1 at Thorson/Larson Park.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Thormodson has been working on the budget and training in the new Deputy Clerk. Grant County is creating a cannabis ordinance that will cover the city.

**Public Safety -
Law Enforcement &
Fire /Ambulance
Report**

The reports were reviewed.

Public Works

The new mower has arrived. New radio read meters installed at HRA houses. Superintendent Johnson is getting a quote to weather-proof the wall at the Senior and Community Center. Jerry Buse is retiring from Evansville PW, so Superintendent Johnson will need to assist in Evansville until a replacement has been hired. Public Works has been filling in potholes. Phosphorus levels are high in the treatment ponds so they will have to be treated prior to discharging this fall.

**Request Approval:
-Nelson/Larson
Street Repair Quote**

Upon motion from Stierlen, seconded by Johnson, motion carried with Jaenisch opposing. Council approved the quote from Ferguson to repair Nelson and Larson Streets this fall.

**Old Business
Request Approvals:
-Agri-partners Sign
Placement**

City Council denied permission for the proposed sign placement. Per Ashby City Ordinance 151 section 46 General Requirements, No fence, wall or other obstruction to vision above a height of 30 inches from the established street grades shall be permitted within the triangular area formed at the intersection of any street right-of-way lines by a straight line drawn between the right-of-way lines at a distance along each line of 25 feet from their point of intersection.

**-Wave Special
Meeting Fee for
Greg Smedsrud**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Rossum motion carried with Johnson opposing. Council approved waving the Special Meeting Fee for Greg Smedsrud since he allows the city to pile snow in his vacant lot.

**-Place no parking
signs on corner of
Iverson and Nelson**

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen and unanimously carried, council approved to have 2 No Parking signs placed on the corner of Iverson and Nelson for the public's safety.

-Permission to hook up Water/Sewer for Milt Smedsrud

Council tabled a decision pending a land use permit application from Milt Smedsrud.

-Purchase of David Ford Lot

Upon motion from Johnson, seconded by Jaenisch and unanimously carried, council approved to offer a purchase agreement to David Ford for \$25,000 for parcel 17-0006-000 in Ashby.

Hotchkiss Property Update

Jaenisch informed council that he has been in contact with Mr. Donald Hotchkiss about the possibility of purchasing land from him for future housing development.

New Business

Request Approvals:

-2024 General Fund Budget Proposal

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson and unanimously carried, council approved the Proposed 2024 General Fund Budget.

-Resolution: 2023-05 2024 Preliminary Levy

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Johnson - **Resolution 2023-05 Approving the 2024 Preliminary General Fund Levy.** Roll Call Vote, those voting for: Ellingson, Stierlen, Johnson, Jaenisch and Rossum. Those voting against: None. Carried

-Resolution: 2023-06 Accepting Resignation and Declaring Vacancy

Rossum stated for the record that it is not a resignation. Per state statute, a council member must be a resident of the city. Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Ellingson - **Resolution 2023-06 Accepting Resignation and Declaring Vacancy.** Roll Call Vote, those voting for: Ellingson, Stierlen, Johnson and Jaenisch. Those voting against: None. Carried

-Resolution: 2023-07 Appointing a Councilmember

Upon motion from Jaenisch, seconded by Stierlen - **Resolution: 2023-07 Appointing a Councilmember.** Jaenisch nominated Carrie Obright, Johnson nominated Jill Amundson. Those voting for C. Obright: Ellingson, Stierlen and Jaenisch. Johnson voted for J. Amundson. Carrie Obright is appointed to fill the vacant council seat through 2024.

Special Meeting Request from TFC Poultry including a plant tour

City Council is open to having a Special Meeting with TFC to discuss future usage charges/fines, once their outstanding usage charges/fines are paid. These usage charges and fines are set by the Pretreatment Agreement between TFC Poultry and the City of Ashby. Council would like TFC and Widseth to meet either with Public Works or Council so we can discuss future usage charges/fines. Council plans to tour the plant once it's opened to the general public.

October Regular Council Meeting

The next regular City Council Meeting will be on October 12th, 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 7:10 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Mike Thormodson, City Clerk

Amy Johnson, Mayor