

MINUTES-CITY OF ASHTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 p.m.

714 Main (north entrance)

*The purpose of the Agenda is to assist the Council and interested citizens in the conduct of the public meeting. Careful review of the Agenda is encouraged. Testimony from the public will be solicited for any item or issue listed under the category of **Public Hearings**. Any individual who wishes to address the Council on any other subject should plan to speak when **Item 7- Public Comments** is identified by the Mayor. The Mayor will not normally allow audience participation at any other time. Idaho Law prohibits council action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance.*

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

PRAYER OFFERED BY: Richard Huntsman
PLEDGE LED BY: Brett Pincock

Mayor Stronks welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Teddy Stronks, Councilwoman Linda Janssen, Councilman Brett Pincock, Councilman Richard Huntsman,

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Cathy Stegelmeier, City P&Z Administrator, Carol Rasmussen, Steve Trafton, Melissa Trafton, Marla Vik, Luke Floyd, Jean Hansen, Chan Atchley, Patty Litton, Tom Howell and John Scafe.

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

Being considered routine by the City Council, these items will be enacted by one motion unless requested by a Councilman or a citizen that one or more items be removed for later discussion.

- A. **Minutes** – Approval of Regular Council Meeting February 13, 2008, Special Meeting February 13, 2008 and Special Meeting February 28, 2008.
- B. **Treasurers Report & Financial Statement**– As Submitted
- C. **Payables** – Bills for Council approval as a result of City expenditures
- D. **Employee Expenses** – As Submitted

Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

2. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

- A. City of Ashton Resolution 08-01-Bill Payment Resolution

Councilwoman Janssen read Resolution by title into the record.

Councilman Pincock made a motion to adopt Resolution 08-01. Councilwoman Janssen seconded the motion. Roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS/PETITIONS:

- A. City Park – Carol Rasmussen & Randy VanWagenen. Carol Rasmussen came to council to ask the city council to donate the use of the park for a motor cycle rally that is a fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital. Mayor Stronks asked for each of the councilman's opinion. Councilwoman Janssen said she appreciates what St. Jude's does and told Carol that the park costs are quite low. Councilman Huntsman felt that there should still be a deposit paid in case of damage. Councilman Pincock expressed that it is a good cause and he thinks it is a great idea. Councilwoman Janssen explained that the city cannot just let the park be used for free, but the city might be willing to donate to the cause. The day of the event is May 31st. Carol explained that she thought the event would be good for city businesses and the city should get involved. Councilwoman Janssen explained to Carol that the Chamber is the organization who would benefit from the event and should be who Carol contacts for more ideas, etc. Mayor Stronks thanked Carol for her time and effort.

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Councilwoman Janssen made a motion to donate to the St. Jude's fundraiser enough for the use of the park. Councilman Pincock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

4. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Henry's Fork Foundation Lease-Stephen Trafton. Steve came to speak to the council about the lease on the Henry's Fork Building. When the lease began, the City and the Henry's Fork Foundation entered into an arrangement where the foundation did renovations to the building under an agreement with the City and the USDA but the rent to the City is very low (\$107/month). Steve is proposing negotiating a new lease. He has done some research, and his neighbors (Precision Chiropractic) are paying \$500 a month for 2500 square feet of office space. The building the Foundation is using is 2880 square feet with 550 square feet of garage. Steve would like to propose \$550 to \$600/month as a reasonable rate when the current expires in October. Councilwoman Janssen asked Steve if he would come up with a written proposal and the council will go over it with the City Attorney and make a decision.
- B. Kid's Gym – Melissa Trafton. Melissa is here to give a report on the Kid's Gym that she has managed as a volunteer. Each week's attendance has varied but there has been up to 22 kids at one gym session. Even now Melissa sees new faces. Melissa explained that the group is growing and has been great. They are building a social network with the help of a community building. Melissa has learned that it would be more effective to start the group in January and end in March. The holiday month didn't seem to work. Melissa hopes that the city council will support the group another year and is hoping the city will budget for \$200 to invest in new toys. Councilwoman Janssen asked that Melissa remind the council at budget time. The Mayor and Council thanked Melissa for all her help.
- C. Sign Ordinance-Peter Young. Peter came to council to give an update on the citizen's sign ordinance committee's proposal that they will be presenting at the P&Z meeting. Their proposal will ask that whole sections be removed but some sections have no changes at all. They are also proposing that much of regulations on signs that are not a structure be removed. The committee will be at the P&Z meeting tomorrow night. Peter wanted the council to know that the committee has not dropped the ball. Mayor Stronks thanked Peter for his time.
- D. Sludge Removal Update – Lance Meccico. Lance came to council to report on the biological dredging at the sewer lagoon. Del and Lance tried to get some samples, but will have to wait for some of the ice to melt. The regular testing done on the city lagoons is showing that the product is working. Lance also wanted to remind the council of the maintenance program proposed in the original program. He will be bringing up a tote with more of the product to continue the maintenance.
- E. Sewer Lagoon - Del Jensen. Del came to council to propose that the city retain part of the land at the sewer lagoons to pile snow in the winter. It would get it out of the way and also aid in avoiding flooding. Del also wanted to discuss the possibility of putting some trees along the south side of the road to act as a windbreak. Del spent a lot of time moving snow along the lagoon road. Mayor Stronks expressed that he thought it would be a good idea. There would be summer maintenance of mowing between the trees and fencing. Councilman Pincock explained that with all the construction on the location this summer, etc. that this should be part of next year's budget but that he thought it was a great idea. Mayor Stronks asked Del if he would remind the council at budget time and then thanked Del for his time.
- F. Nativity Apology – Tom Mattingly. Lexie Singleton came to council to apologize for her part in taking the Shepherd from the nativity set at Christmas time. Lexie is sorry for what happened and will never do something like that again. Mayor Stronks thanked her for coming and apologizing. Councilman Pincock thanked her for her courage to coming in to council. He went on to express that it is a good characteristic of an adult to be able to accept responsibility for what they have done. Councilman Huntsman expressed his pride in these young people in their taking responsibility for

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their actions. Councilwoman Janssen asked Lexie if she had learned anything. Lexie said that she learned not to take something that wasn't hers. Councilwoman Janssen told her that although it was a hard lesson, if she will remember it – the lesson will serve her well.

5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE/SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Report – Melodie Chriswell. Luke Floyd came to council to report on MYAC. Ashton's MYAC has been invited to a Rexburg's MYAC meeting. Luke has had a struggle getting meetings together and having them work well. The members of the committee are still excited about the possibility of having a teen room at the Community Center but have not completed any of the steps involved in achieving that goal. They did have some ideas for fundraising and are hoping to carry them out soon. With the money, they are hoping to decorated and furnish the room, etc. Councilwoman Janssen suggested that work in conjunction with Community Center Committee on what they are doing. Further discussion with Community Center Committee member, Sara Reinke, focused on the lack of communication between committees. Sara asked that some of the MYAC members be at the Community Center Committee meeting on Tuesday the 18th at 7:30 at the City council Chambers. Mayor Stronks thanked Luke for his time and commitment.
- B. Community Center Committee Report – Shirley Wilkinson, Sara Reinke. Sara wanted to express her thanks to Melissa Trafton for working so hard with the children's play group. Melissa was so committed in the group and with her two girls in tow, was packing all the music, toys, etc. from the various areas they ended up being stored to the gym. The parents of the children seemed to have benefited as much as the children from the group. The Community Center Committee seems to have lots of desires in fixing up the center and is trying to be realistic. Ashton needs a place to celebrate one another. It seems that they committee continues to be struggling to get the word out about volunteerism. The committee has been to rotary to show the club about the possible adoption by the rotary of the meeting room. They are also looking for grants and fundraising opportunities. It seems that even with the committee - follow through and attendance has been a struggle. The next Community Center event is the Brunch with the Bunny where they will be hoping for more donations and explaining the class offerings. The Children's Theatre Group will be starting soon.
- C. City Business – Cathy Stegelmeier. Cathy presented the council with a spread sheet showing the receipts from the spinning class reflecting the 70/30 split between the instructor and the Community Center fund. Cathy then asked the council members if they would have time for the AIC Spring District meeting in April. Councilman Pincock, Councilwoman Janssen and Mayor Stronks expressed an interest. Cathy then asked Councilman Pincock to report on the meeting with Principal Jaci Hill concerning the letter the city was intent on sending the Fremont County School board. Councilman Pincock explained that Principal Hill was apprehensive about letter because her and her staff have been working on this safety issue. Principal Hill would like to be on the agenda for council meeting in April to report on her progress. Councilman Pincock then talked to the council about raising the streets fund budget so that it wouldn't exceed its budget during winters such as this. He also explained that we might need to purchase flags for citizens to flag anything they don't want damaged in the city right-of-way. Councilman Pincock then explained to the audience that each member of the council is treated like any other Ashton citizen. His dog had gotten in a neighbor's yard, the neighbor had complained and he was issued a warning by the police. The city employees treat everyone the same – even if they work for them!

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council.)

Mayor Stronks wanted to express his thanks to Councilman Pincock for the hours of volunteer labor on the loader he has done all winter without asking or receiving a dime. The rest of the council also expressed their thanks.

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Marla Vik came to council talk to us about the Wye. Cathy had asked the county commissioners for help in hauling the gravel to build up the wye for parking. Marla is concerned about adequate drainage. The city had some leveling done and afterwards Marla did some shots with the transit. The area is too flat right now. Mayor Stronks asked Marla if she could come back, meet with the council and have a work meeting. Marla said she would be glad to. Mayor Stronks thanked her for her time.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

I.C. 67-2345 Certain City-related matters may need to be discussed confidentially as a matter of law (Acquisition of real property, personnel matters, attorney-client communications) subject to applicable legal requirements, the Council may enter executive session by roll call vote to discuss such matters.

Advise Legal Counsel,

8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Pincock made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Huntsman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Council 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday, April 9, 2008, Council Chambers. Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meeting should be addressed to the Office of the City Clerk or call 208-652-3987.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy Stegelmeier, City Clerk.

Attest:

Cathy Stegelmeier
City Clerk

Theo R. Stronks
Mayor