

Regular Meeting – August 10, 2026

The Ashton City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Ashton City Hall. Those in attendance were: Mayor Mark Vander Pol, Council Members: John Bucher, Jacob Bos, Mark Carlson and John Corbett. Others present were: Bob Meyer, City Superintendent Andy Gacke and City Clerk Nancy Marnach. Council Member Kay Winkel was absent.

Mayor Vander Pol called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Corbett and seconded by Bucher to approve the August 10, 2026 agenda. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Bob Meyer from Ashton Whiskey Vault spoke to the Council regarding the sale of City owned real estate. He had presented the real estate contract to his attorney and his attorney felt the terms were too stiff. He said he was willing to pay on the \$30,000 assessed value after the deed is transferred but he would not be able to complete the structure by January 1, 2028 as he is planning to do all the work himself. He thought it would be a three-year project. He wants to do a new handicap ramp first and then add onto the kitchen later. He is interested in purchasing the lots but not with the existing contract.

Mayor Vander Pol announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing and meeting on the sale of real estate. As there were no bids on the property, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Corbett and seconded by Carlson to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Mayor Vander Pol will talk to Bob Meyer regarding the addition and sale of the lots. The possibility of extending the completion date was discussed.

City Superintendent Andy Gacke brought us up to date on the water tower project. They are sandblasting now. People should regulate their water usage as we had to shut the water tower down due to the project and the GSR tank had gotten down to 20%. We have contacted the City of Sibley in case we need water.

Regarding the sewer project, Mike Carr with DGR Engineering sent the paper work in for the first stage of the project. The next stage is one year from now. We will have Mike Carr come to a meeting in November or December to go over the options for the sewer project.

Mayor Vander Pol contacted several people regarding the closure of the post office. They stated that since the City was not the owner of the property that they could not discuss it with him. They said they would forward it unto their political committee. Councilman Carlson received a phone call from Sibley Postmaster Regina Johnson on August 10th. She said they are closing the Ashton Post Office next week because of an OSHA compliance closure. She said the mail would have to be picked up in Sibley or Sheldon until the cluster boxes are put up. Residents are encouraged to call the Sibley Post Office for additional information. Letters are being sent to Senator Charles Grassley as well as USPS District Management and Responsible Postal Officials requesting immediate intervention on the sudden permanent loss of the Ashton Post Office.

Regarding the Heiman property, we would have to discuss it with our attorney to see about the donation process and the fees that would need to be paid.

Regular Meeting – August 10, 2026 (Page 2)

Mayor Vander Pol received an email from Emergency Management Director Cory Shearer regarding the hazard mitigation plan which will expire on January 17, 2027. Osceola, O'Brien and

Sioux County have received grant assistance approval to help pay for the hazard mitigation plan renewal. There will be a virtual stakeholder kickoff meeting at 3:00 p.m. on August 20, 2026.

Property maintenance was discussed. The City is going to be looking at properties next week and if your property is on the list, if it is not cleaned up by within 10 days from the date of the letter, the resident will be fined. This will be for residents for cleanup and weed control as well as junk and junk vehicles.

Mayor Vander Pol reported on public safety.

A motion was made by Bucher and seconded by Corbett to approve the clerk reports. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Bucher and seconded by Bos to approve the following bills. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Bills paid in Vacation

Susan R. Christiansen	July Library wages	1,077.10
Nancy J. Dykstra	July Library wages	299.79
IRS	federal tax deposit	2,919.68
Juan Cervantes Construction LLC	stucco front on city building	4,000.00

August Bills

Andrew J. Gacke	July salary	3,665.99
Alliant Energy	utilities	2,644.21
AT&T Mobility	cell phone service	50.62
C & B Operations, LLC	supplies	263.15
Cooperative Energy Co.	gas & diesel fuel	915.49
Cooperative Farmers Elevator	chemicals	84.02
Corbett Plumbing	open sewer at park	175.00
Echo Electric	supplies	328.80
Fenix USA LLC	monthly data & software charge	263.75
Foundation Analytical Laboratory	water analysis	30.00
Frontier Communications	phone & internet service	276.20
IDNR	NPDES wastewater permit fee	210.00
Iowa Information, Inc.	publication of minutes & notice	233.60
IPERS Collections	IPERS withholding	1,555.29
Iowa One Call	digging notifications	93.60
JElectric	effluent flowmeter repairs	343.75
Nancy A. Marnach	July salary	2,395.10
Nancy A. Marnach	insurance reimbursement	511.45
Nancy A. Marnach	printer cartridges, postage, fees	581.62
Neal Chase Lumber Co.	supplies	195.44
O. C. Sanitation	July garbage collection	3,323.90
Osceola Co. Rural Water System	747,106 gallons water	2,024.66
Osceola County Treasurer	August police protection	3,183.67
Premier Communications	internet service at GSR site	63.90

Regular Meeting – August 10, 2026 (Page 3)

Sibley Auto Parts	supplies	789.85
Sibley Hardware	supplies	1,392.65
Treasurer, State of Iowa	WET sales tax	512.86
USDA	principal & interest on GSR \$371,000 loan	984.00
USDA	principal & interest on GSR \$1,000,000 loan	2,650.00
Uline	supplies	1,124.38
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	health insurance	1,678.23
Juan Cervantes Construction LLC	stucco front on city building	6,600.00
Susan R. Christiansen	August Library wages	816.63
Nancy J. Dykstra	August Library wages	316.76
IRS	federal tax deposit	2,589.64

August 2026 Expenses:

General Fund Expenses:	\$ 18,671.60
Employee Benefits:	\$ 3,719.67
FEMA	\$.00
Debt Service:	\$.00
Road Use Tax:	\$.00
Water:	\$ 6,795.23
Sewer:	\$ 2,142.43
Garbage:	\$ 3,323.90
Total:	\$ 34,652.83

July Receipts:

General Fund:	\$ 6,276.71
Employee Benefits:	\$ 583.34
FEMA	\$.00
Debt Service:	\$ 250.25
Road Use Tax:	\$ 3,960.89
Local Option Taxes:	\$ 7,564.55
Water:	\$ 8,621.40
Sewer:	\$ 5,757.31
Garbage:	\$ 3,940.53
Total:	\$ 36,954.98

Total Expenses for August: \$ 42,868.21

Total Income for August: \$ 30,047.35

Checking Account Balance as of August 31, 2026: \$ 2,166.21

A motion was made by Bos and seconded by Corbett that the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. The motion was carried.