COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on August 27, 2019 immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at 5:30 PM in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

The following items will be considered:

The Tuesday, August 27, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Council PResident, in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers at 6:55 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Holly George, Matthew MacKenzie, Sarah Jackson, Kate Ullman, Ana Tochterman, Wahsayah Whitebird, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Elizabeth Franek, Dick Pufall, and Jackie Moore.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Deb Lewis, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Police Chief Jim Gregoire, Planning Director Megan McBride, Planning Assistant Lucas Phillips, and other concerned citizens.

2. Council President's Report

President Ullman recently attended a Pow Wow at Bad River, among other Councilors, and encouraged others if they haven't been, to attend next year. She also worked at the Clean Sweep sponsored by Ashland County, and thanked Lissa Radtke for her work organizing the event.

3. Administrator's Report

Kucera thanked Council for their civility during the numerous discussions regarding constructing and financing a new police facility, and for their hard work and deliberation throughout his process.

4. Approval of Agenda

George moved, seconded by Haas to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. New Business

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Strategic Priorities *(Councilor Ullman)*

In order to provide guidance to the City Administrator and Department Heads as they prepare their draft budgets for the upcoming year, Council wished to discuss and vote to endorse additional priority areas. (Some priority areas may require changes to ordinances or other Council action, rather than budget allocation.) The list below reflects a compilation of suggestions made at the July 30th Committee of the Whole meeting. An asterisk indicates that these priorities were mentioned during the retreat or in the shared goals document created by Department Heads. Additional priorities may be introduced and voted on during the meeting.

Review infrastructure improvement plan created by Strand, and update 5-year Capital Plan: **a rate study will be done in the near future*
Pursue alternate sources of revenue for the City: **continuously undergoing*
Address affordable housing and homelessness: **financial contribution to a regional group; Housing Committee having continuous discussion, possibility of a future proposal a designated area in the City as rent free for homeless; include <u>safe</u> and affordable housing*
Continue to work towards property maintenance enforcement: **agreed by Council of importance to include with future budgeting*
**Increase trust in local government through improved communication and information: **not yet considered*
Better use of website: **working to put more staff time into this*
**Improve social media presence: **discussions held with staff*
Address sewage overflows: *studies *in process*
**Lake shore revitalization/waterfront development: **in process; new hires (Butler, Green) focusing on this item, doing studies; unable to move forward yet; need more conversation*
**Finish Source Water Protection Plan: **not discussed yet*
**Begin implementation of 25 x 25 Plan: **the plan was just adopted, has not had discussions yet as to implementation; working on through Sustain committee*
**Evaluate and plan for climate resilience: **RE: I&I, more relation to infrastructure*
**Evaluate and improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure: **ongoing but no definitive plans; Sanborn Ave - $ for bike lane unavail; PW comm looking for more signage/striping; expectations need to be voiced when budgeting for a project in order to include lanes/sidewalks, etc.*
Evaluate public transportation needs: **not discussion to date; BART contribution; Whitebird - bus shelters? have been applied for by BART admin*
Facilities improvements to City Hall: **windows in Chambers done, looking into other projects*
Library renovation: **capital improvement plan being done for 2020 budget, yet to be reviewed*
Evaluate and improve security and access at all public buildings: **security measures done on 2nd, 3rd floors, future plans for BCC and others*
Downtown revitalization: **focusing on this currently & recent study*

Ullman asked for a motion from Council members endorsing specific items and it's importance to include with the Strategic Plan. George offered an emailed submission from Councilors to prioritize the items mentioned at the Council retreat. Whitebird asked to add an increase of the local minimum wage to the list as a priority. Ullman felt this was better served as a future agenda item versus included in the Strategic Plan. Motion made by George, seconded by Moore to endorse to continue to support to work towards property maintenance enforcement. When inquired by Ortman as to the influence of property maintenance on the budget, Kucera noted that some funds had been redirected from building inspector and reinvested in a full-time property maintenance personnel, and he plans this to continue into the 2020 budget. George later rescinded this motion as the discussion went in a different direction. Tochterman mentioned some items are already listed on the Strategic Plan, but appreciates the opportunity to have a voice on what should be focused on when updating the Plan. When questioned if this were the correct process to contribute toward the Strategic Plan, Kucera stated that the goals would be taken into account during the budget process and considered as funding were available.

George suggested Kucera possibly do a run-down on the posted list to review individually and discuss with Council*. MacKenzie asked what our goal of this discussion was to be, as he was not able to see any of the items to have no importance for the City. Ullman is asking to identify items from the list for further discussion. As Kucera reviewed each item and the plans for implementation(responses in italic above), Ullman flagged some items ** for future discussion at the Committee of the Whole level. Kucera mentioned the importance to include the funding for a Strategic Plan through the budget process.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Next Steps toward Promoting and Integrating the Ojibwa Language within the City of Ashland *(Councilor Ullman)*

Ullman wanted to plan as to where discussions such as this topic should be housed, and the potential for creating an Ad-Hoc committee to address this.

Whitebird moved to form a special subcommittee of the Committee of the Whole in order to explore collaboration with the Bad River Community regarding Ojibwa language revitalization. Tochterman seconded. MacKenzie asked what the intention would be to follow up with previous discussion and investigate opportunities to address the above item, and would we place a time frame as to when to report back to the Committee of the Whole. Ullman felt this subcommittee would require a few months to discuss the potential.

Moore didn't feel the end of 2019 may not be enough time to allow for this subcommittee, and may want to extend their return to Committee into 2020. Lewis had concerns about adding another committee and the involvement of staff time to publicly notice meetings, and attend and document minutes, although she feels there is an importance of this collaboration. Franek suggested inviting the Bad River representatives to future Committee of the Whole meetings for discussion. Ullman also suggested for interested Council members to attend meetings at the Bad River facility. Tochterman questioned if it were ethical for a possible quorum attend their meetings; Lewis offered to look into this with the attorney.

Pufall moved to adjourn, although there was already a motion on the floor made by Whitebird to create a subcommittee. Ullman asked for a withdrawal of the motion and Whitebird agreed.

6. Adjournment

Moore moved, seconded by Ortman to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk