

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on October 3, 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 Thursday, October 3, 2019 Ashland Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Council President Kate Ullman in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Holly George, Matt MacKenzie, Sarah Jackson, Kate Ullman, Ana Tochtermann, Wahsayah Whitebird, Kevin Haas, Elizabeth Franek, Dick Pufall and Jackie Moore

ABSENT: Charlie Ortman (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Debra Lewis, City Administrator Brant Kucera, Deputy Clerk Patti Ekstrom, Police Chief Jim Gregoire, Planning Director Megan McBride, Public Works Director John Butler, Fire Chief Dave Wegener, Human Resources Director Jennifer Boulley, concerned citizens

2. Council President's Report

Council President Kate Ullman stated that at the October 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, there will be a budget discussion and Councilors can ask questions and get answers. She also addressed homelessness in Ashland. Council members have requested general discussion on this topic and information can be gathered and ideas presented. The Housing Committee will also be discussing the homelessness issue next week. Among other Councilors, she attended a meeting that the Bad River Tribe hosted at the Visitor Center regarding Line 5 and reroute plans which was very informative. If Councilors want information about this issue, they can contact her.

3. Administrator's Report

City Administrator Brant Kucera reported that he is nearing completion of evaluations for City Hall Department Heads. He will be completing the rest of the Department Head evaluations next week. The evaluation form has been revamped and encourages conversation. The Department Heads are doing a great job. All the evaluations have been positive.

4. Approval of Agenda

Haas moved, George seconded a motion to approve the agenda. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation and General Discussion Regarding the 2020 Budget Development

Kucera stated the budget material that was presented is in draft form. It is difficult to get solid numbers because some information isn't available yet. Administration met with Department Heads to review general fund requests. The requests were modest requests and were reduced further due to the revenue restrictions the City is faced with.

Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt reviewed the budget process and materials and the schedule of the budget. Discussion was held.

6. Adjournment

George moved, Whitebird seconded a motion to adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Patti Ekstrom
Deputy Clerk

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