

June 9, 2020 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings

Tue, Jun 9, 2020 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (CDT)

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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – **5:30 PM**

Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Debra Lewis, via GoTo Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call, Moment of Silence, and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was taken, a Moment of Silence was held, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Councilor Franek requested that tonight's Moment of Silence be dedicated to the George Floyd family.

PRESENT: Holly George (5:40), Matthew MacKenzie (5:50), Sarah Jackson, Kate Ullman, Ana Tochtermann, Wahsayah Whitebird, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Liz Franek, Dick Pufall, Jackie Moore

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Deb Lewis, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Police Chief James Gregoire, Planning Director Megan McBride, and other concerned citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ullman asked to move Agenda Item 6A from the Consent Agenda to New Business. Haas moved, seconded by Whitebird to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 26, 2020 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Whitebird moved, seconded by Moore to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 City Council and Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

The Clerk read the Rules for Citizen Participation, and the following offered their comments to the Council:

Dani O'Brien, 615 Vaughn Avenue/Ward 6, spoke regarding the potential polling locations within the City's wards.

Anne Chartier, 1203 6th Avenue West/Ward 4, also spoke regarding the polling locations within the City.

Kiersten Galazen, 5505 US Highway 63, Mason and representative of Chequamegon Foods Cooperative, spoke in reference to the proposed change in the Class A Liquor license quota.

Michael Parent, Town of Bayfield and representative of Chequamegon Foods Cooperative, also spoke in reference to the Class A Liquor license item asking for fairness from Council to those who applied and were denied for the same license in the past.

Nick Patel, owner of Star Liquor, spoke in opposition of increasing the quota of a Class A Liquor license.

Kelly Maday, 1721 MacArthur Avenue, referenced a claim made of a sewage backup at her home.

Jim Gregoire, Ashland Chief of Police, spoke of policy changes that can be done locally for the City's Police Department.

Pat Hunt, owner of Super H Foods (letter to Council read into record by

Wickman), proposing a Class B license for Tastes of Wisconsin as a potential option to be considered.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

Lewis thanked Chief Gregoire for his comments regarding policing policies for the City in light of current events. She acknowledged today's issues as trying for most and suggested listening sessions to bring communities back together. The State of Wisconsin received Federal monies to be allocated through "Routes to Recovery" grants, and the City will be expecting approximately \$130,000 to help recovery efforts due to shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ashland was officially named a Main Street Community and the Planning department is currently looking for a Main Street Manager. The beaches were recently opened for the public, and the Fire Department's call volume has returned to normal. At a recent Ore Dock Trust meeting, continued development of the walkway was determined to be put on hold as recent bids for the project came in higher than expected. The Finance department has been busy preparing for the 2019 Audit which is scheduled for next week. The Public Works department recently put out a public notice regarding upcoming sewer maintenance.

B. Appointments

There were no appointments to be approved.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve a Resolution to Combine Wards and Establish Polling Places for the August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary Election, and the November 3, 2020 General Election (Clerk)

Moved from Consent Agenda to New Business for Council discussion.

Ullman moved, seconded by Whitebird to amend the resolution to move Ward 6 voting location to the Bretting Center. The motion carried 6-5 by roll call vote; opposed were Ortman, Franek, Pufall, Moore and George.

FILE #17570

B. Approve a Resolution to Reduce Renewal Fees for Class B Combination Alcohol Beverage Licenses for the Licensing Year of 2020-2021 (Approved by COW 11-0)

FILE #17571

C. Miscellaneous Minutes

Franek moved, seconded by Haas approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approve a Resolution in Support of Northland College's Efforts to Re-Open Safely in the Fall of 2020 (*Approved by COW 10-1*)

Lewis noted a couple of changes to the resolution made by Northland College staff. George moved, seconded by Moore to approve the amended resolution. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

FILE #17572

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve a Contract with Wetlands & Waterways, LLC for 2020 Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring (*Planning*) Roll

Jackson moved, seconded by Franek to approve the contract with Wetlands & Waterways LLC for the amount of \$6,500. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Approve an Agreement between the City of Ashland and Premier Prairie & Wetland Restorations, LLC for Required Wetland Mitigation Vegetation Management Activities (*Planning*) Roll

Jackson moved, seconded by Tochtermann to approve the agreement with Premier Prairie & Wetland Restorations LLC for the amount of \$5950. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

C. Approve to Amend Chapter 922 (1488) Ashland City Ordinances, Alcohol Beverage Licenses, to Increase the Quota for "Class A" Intoxicating Liquor Licenses from Three (3) to Four (4) (*Clerk*) Voice

Ortman moved, seconded by George to amend the ordinance by removing the quota for a Class A Intoxicating Liquor license. This motion failed 3-8 by voice vote.

George moved, seconded by Moore to approve to amend Chapter 922 (1488) to increase the quota for a Class A Intoxicating Liquor license from three to four, and award the now available license to applicant Tastes of Wisconsin. The motion carried 9-1; Tochtermann opposed, Jackson abstained.

FILE #17573

D. Approve License Applications for Alcohol Beverages, Including New Officers/Agents, Arcade, Recycling Facility/Salvage Operation, Pawn Broker, Taxicab, and Mobile Home Parks (*Clerk*) Voice

Haas moved, seconded by George to approve all licenses as contingencies are met. Tochtermann asked for a friendly amendment to ask the Building Inspector work with the Planning Department to correct issues noted with the mobile home parks; this was accepted by both Haas and George. The Clerk also noted that The Well rescinded their application for a Combination Class B license and the license will remain under Anchor Islands LLC. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Before moving into Closed Session, Mayor Lewis asked if Council wished, to move to extend the meeting to finish the Closed Session items. Whitebird moved, seconded by Haas to extend the meeting until the Closed Session business were addressed. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. Enter into Closed Session (Roll)

Haas moved, seconded by Moore to enter into Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Works Director John Butler was approved unanimously to remain while discussing Items 9B and 9C.

Police Chief Jim Gregoire was approved unanimously to remain while discussing Item 9D

B. Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation." (*Maday Claim*) (*City Attorney*) Roll

C. Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation." (*Reinke Claim*) (*City Attorney*) Roll

D. Closed Session pursuant top Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation." (*Rodriguez Claim*) (*Mayor*) Roll

E. Return to Open Session (Voice)

Haas moved, seconded by Pufall to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Report on Closed Session Discussion and/or Action Taken

Lewis reported that the Council voted to deny both claims in Items 9B and 9C. There was no action taken on Item 9D.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk

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