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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Tuesday, January 26, 2021 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Debra Lewis, virtually via GoTo Meetings at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call was taken, a Moment of Silence was held, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Holly George, Matthew MacKenzie, Sarah Jackson, Kate Ullman, Ana Tochtermann (5:35), Wahsayah Whitebird, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Liz Franek, Dick Pufall, Jackie Moore (5:45)

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Deb Lewis, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Fire Chief Dave Wegener, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Public Works Director John Butler, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Planning Director Megan McBride, Firefighter John Baker, and other concerned citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lewis explained the reason for the request to waive the requirements of Chapter 923 within Agenda Item 6C of the Consent Agenda. Pufall moved, seconded by Haas to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 12, 2021 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Whitebird moved, seconded by Pufall to approve. 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:

Elise Kehle, 218 Mac Arthur Avenue and speaking on behalf of the Communist Party of the Chequamegon Bay Region, referenced possible changes in the City's policies regarding homelessness, specifically possibly legalizing camping, and in support of a municipal warming shelter for both homeless and area LGTBQ community members.

Dani O'Brien, Vaughn Avenue, expressed her support of a data collection system of the local police department.

Rose Spieler-Sandberg, 1614 2nd Avenue East, voiced her support of the creation of a data collection system within the police force.

Jenise Swartley, 209 5th Avenue East, offered her support for funding a system for gathering and analyzing reports of the police department, and support of legalizing camping and for a warming shelter.

Jade Livingston, Ellis Avenue, spoke to support funding the creation of a data collection system of the local police department.

Also read into the record were those who sent emails prior to the meeting but were unable to attend, and all of which supported funding a system to gather, analyze and report data about the local police department. Emails were received from Sandra Brue of Bayfield, Declan Lowthian of Bayfield, Elizabeth Andre of Ashland, Ellie Braddock of the Town of Washburn, and Riley Kaiser of Madeline Island.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

The Mayor announced the retirement of Fire Chief Dave Wegener whose last day will be March 1, 2021. Northland College began their new term this week with in-person learning. Vaccine administration began through the Ashland County Health Department. For those 65 years and older, contact the Ashland County Health office to get on their list. A recent Presidential executive order restored the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, which enables Federal assistance if infrastructure damaged from natural disasters.

B. Appointments

The Mayor recommended renewal of Elizabeth Franek to the Ashland Housing Authority.

Haas moved, seconded by Moore to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve to Apply for a Partnership-Building Technical Assistance Grant for Community Group and Water System Collaboration from the River Network & WaterNow Alliance** *(Parks & Recreation)*
- B. Approve to Apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the Purchase of Cardiac Monitors for the Ashland Fire Department** *(Fire Department)*
- C. Approve to Waive the Requirement of Chapter 923, Ashland City Ordinances, and Approve the Mobile Integrated Services Agreement between the City of Ashland Fire Department/EMS and Memorial Medical Center** *(Fire Department)*
- D. Approve for the Ashland Fire Department be Included in the Bayfield County Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the Purchase of Radio Equipment** *(Fire Department)* Voice

E. Miscellaneous Minutes

Pufall moved, seconded by Moore approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve the 2021-2023 Agreement between the City of Ashland and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 875, Ashland Fire Department** *(Administration)* Roll

Franek moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the agreement. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- B. Approve a Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to Sec. 66.0703, WI State Statute for the Waterfront Access Road Project** *(Public Works)* Roll

Haas moved, seconded by George to approve. Public Works Director John Butler explained the preliminary resolution and referenced project. Pufall moved, seconded by Ortman to recognize Rick Olivo to speak to Council, and was approved unanimously by voice vote. Administrator Kucera was also recognized to speak to Council.

The motion to approve the preliminary resolution passed 6-5 by roll call vote. Opposed were MacKenzie, Whitebird, Ortman, Franek, and Pufall.
- C. Approve a Resolution to Submit Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Grant Applications for Financial Aid** *(Parks & Recreation)* Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- D. Approve to Apply for a Recreational Boating Facilities and Sport Fishing Restoration Grants for the Kreher Park Redevelopment Project: Boat and Trailer Parking Lot** *(Parks and Recreation)* Voice

Ortman moved, seconded by Moore to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approve a Resolution to Combine Wards 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 for the April 6, 2021 Spring Election *(Clerk)* Roll

Ortman moved, seconded by Whitebird to approve the resolution. Ortman moved, seconded by Franek to recognize Elise Kehle to speak to Council. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

F. Approve Creation of Task Force to Make Recommendations to the Council for Addressing Ashland Homeless Population *(Mayor)* Voice

Mayor Lewis explained what her intention was by introducing the item. She noted that she added to include Parker Sterling to this task force.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

G. Approve Creation of a Task Force to Plan and Organize Public Meetings to Discuss Policing in Ashland *(Mayor)* Voice

Mayor Lewis explained what her intention was by introducing the item. Ortman moved, seconded by Whitebird to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. Move into Closed Session *(Roll)*

Haas moved, seconded by Whitebird to enter into Closed Session. Pufall moved, seconded by Franek, and approved by voice vote to allow Butler to remain during Closed Session. The motion to enter into closed session passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Closed Session Pursuant to WI 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." *(Update and Discussion on 6th Street West Litigation)* *(City Attorney)*

C. Return to Open Session *(Voice)*

Whitebird moved, seconded by Franek to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

The Mayor report that there was no action taken during Closed Session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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