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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Debra Lewis, virtually via GoTo Meetings 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.

PRESENT: Holly George, Matthew MacKenzie, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Kate Ullman, Wahsayah Whitebird, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Liz Franek, Dick Pufall, and 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, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Interim Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Planning Director Megan McBride, Police Chief Bill Hagstrom, and other concerned citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 9, 2021 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

B. February 23, 2021 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Pufall moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the minutes. The motion carried 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:

Sarah Szymaniak, 500 St. Claire Street, spoke in favor of Agenda item 7G regarding the interim policy regarding replacing sewer laterals during construction projects.

Jeanne Olbekson, 808 1/2 Chapple Avenue, felt the City should re-examine the ordinance affecting homeless camping and their need for these options.

Eric Lindell, 304 1/2 West Main, offered an alternative to Council for the developers wishing to acquire property at the Timeless Timber site, asking for the developers to agree to contribute to the improvements needed in that immediate area in lieu of payment for the property.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

The Mayor announced that effective immediately, the Winter Parking Rules have been lifted for City residents, pending future heavy snowfall. The main doors are being refinished by public works employees. She is looking forward to a more normal upcoming summer activities with regards to COVID restrictions. Although Wisconsin statistics show Ashland County as third in the state for COVID vaccinations, Lewis encourages everyone to continue safe COVID practices. The Homeless Task Force will be holding their next meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, and Lewis shared the goals that the group has set. Governor Evers had announced his most recent budget proposals and asked for Council's assistance in lobbying efforts.

B. Appointments

The Mayor respectfully requested Council approval of the following appointments: Beautification Council: Beth Allison-Straus, replacing Penny Rutnya, and term expires on February 15, 2024. Parks and Recreation Committee: Kelly Westlund, replacing Nancy Sztynodor, and term expires on April 30, 2022. Tochtermann moved, seconded by Haas to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve the Parks and Recreation Department to Submit a USTA Midwest Tennis Support Grant Application (*Parks and Recreation*)

B. Approve to the Proposed Proclamation to Celebrate Arbor Day, and Submit a Tree City USA Application for the City of Ashland (*Parks and Recreation*)

C. Miscellaneous Meeting Minutes

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Fresh Water Innovation (*Parks and Recreation*) Voice

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

B. Approve to Allow Ashland Little League to Construct a Bull Pen at Martino Field in Central Railyard Park in Memorial of Pat Onderak (*Parks and Recreation*) Voice

Franek moved, seconded by Jackson to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Approve to Adopt the Amended Housing Strategic Plan (*Planning*) Voice

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

D. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Xcel Energy for Participation in the Partners in Energy Program (*Planning*) Voice

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

E. Approve to Waive the Provisions of Chapter 194.04, Ashland City Ordinances and Approve the Audit Contract with Baker Tilly US, LLP Including Preparation of the Annual PSC Report for the Water Utility (*Finance*) Roll

Moore moved, seconded by Franek to approve. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

F. Approve to Award the Contract for the 2021 Crushed Aggregate Purchase to Mika Construction (*Public Works*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Jackson to approve the contract with Mika Construction for \$44,600. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

G. Approve the Interim Policy for Level of Service Provided to Private Sewer Laterals During Capital Construction Projects (*Public Works*) Voice

Ortman moved, seconded by MacKenzie to approve. The motion passed 9-2 by roll call vote; opposed were Franek and Pufall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

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