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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, May 11, 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.

Councilor Franek requested to dedicate the Moment of Silence to the Family of Lt. Tony Jones.

PRESENT: Laura Graf, Anne Whiting, Ana Tochtermann (5:35), Eric Lindell, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Liz Franek, Dick Pufall, Jackie Moore

ABSENT: Holly George (excused), Sarah Jackson (excused)

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lindell moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 20, 2021 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Pufall moved, seconded by Haas to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There were no Citizens present wishing to address the Council.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

Mayor Lewis announced the proclamation she issued for May 5, 2021 as Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. She offered an update regarding COVID and the local vaccination rate. The Timeless Timber site housing project has a potential recipient for state revenue tax credits. She met with Partners in Energy through Xcel Energy on May 3, 2021, and with the Homelessness Task Force this week to further discuss an application for grant monies for a homeless shelter. Thanks went out to the Parks and Recreation Department for organizing Earth Day, to the Public Works Department for their efforts during the City-wide "Dump Day", and to staff who helped clean City trails and parks. The US Treasury released new guidelines as to relief funds spending. Finally, she congratulated Firefighter Pribek on his promotion to Captain, and Firefighter Edinger on his promotion to Lieutenant.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Miscellaneous Meeting Minutes

Haas moved, seconded by Moore to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve a Contract with Managing Results, LLC as a Strategic Planning Consultant for the City of Ashland (*Administrator*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Lindell to approve to contract with Managing Results LLC for \$19,662 as a Strategic Planning Consultant. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Approve Twelve Grant Agreements for Downtown Building Improvement Grant Program (*Planning*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Moore to approve to award twelve Main Street Program grants for a total of \$234,500. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

C. Approve to Award Contract to Hydro-Klean, LLC for the 2021 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning & Televising Project (*Public Works*) Roll

Lindell moved, seconded by Ortman to award a contract to Hydro-Klean LLC for the amount of \$164,453.26. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Approve Nepotism Policy Waiver (*Public Works*) Voice

Pufall moved, seconded by Tochterman to waive the nepotism policy. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approve to Allow the City of Ashland Public Works Department to Perform Public Construction Exceeding \$25,000 without Advertising for Competitive Bids. (*Public Works*) Roll

Pufall moved, seconded by Haas to allow Public Works staff to perform public construction. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

F. Approve to Reallocate Fund 470 Capital Improvement Plan Funds from Waterfront Access Road Project to the 2021 Watermain Replacements Project (*Public Works*) Roll

Pufall moved, seconded by Haas to approve to reallocating \$133,717 Capital Improvement funds for the Watermain Replacement project. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

G. Approve to Award Contract to Ruotsala Construction, Inc. for the 2021 Watermain Improvements Project (3.5 Blocks of Chapple Ave South of 11th Street West; 1 Block of Front Street and 1 Block of 12th Avenue East) (*Public Works*) Roll

Franek moved, seconded by Pufall to award a contract to Ruotsala Construction, Inc. for a project total of \$362,460. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

H. Update Regarding Creating a System for Collection and Analysis of Data Related to the Ashland Police Department (*Administration*)

Kucera and Hagstrom offered an update for new Councilors, and review for all regarding the status of the group formed per

Council to look for ways to determine the perception of bias during traffic stops. Current members of this group are Kucera, Hagstrom, Haas, and Ortman. The final outcome/goal for this data gathering is to ensure all police practices for the City of Ashland are not biased in any way.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk

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