

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on **September 14, 2021** 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:

1. Roll Call

The Tuesday, September 14, 2021 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Kevin Haas at 6:50 p.m.

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Laura Graf, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Eric Lindell, 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, Fire Chief Stuart Mathias, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Public Works Director John Butler, and other concerned citizens.

2. Council President's Report

Haas offered his appreciation to Lewis for her dedication and service while Mayor. He also reminded Council to utilize their microphones while speaking for the benefit of those attending online.

3. Administrator's Report

Kucera reviewed the strategic planning goals with Council as were named at the recent retreat, and complimented the time and effort by Council, staff and administration compiling the goals. A proposal to bring back Managing Results to assist with plan implementation, will be coming back to Council in the near future. The fire department is expecting delivery of their new truck by October 1, 2021 and should be in full use by mid-month. Although there have been a number of delays due to backorders, etc. for the new police facility, an open house will likely be planned for early October. A Covid update was also given by the administrator.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Discussion Items

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Possible Referendum Asking Voter Opinion on the Legalization of Cannabis (*Councilor Lindell*)

Haas introduced the item by reminding Council that the intention of this item is to discuss the Citizens' interest in proposing a referendum of support, regardless of each Council person's individual opinion. Lindell explained his reasoning for bringing this forward. Ortman moved, seconded by Lindell to move forward with bringing a referendum to the Spring 2022 ballot. The motion carried 9-1 by voice vote.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Kreher Park Redevelopment and Campground Expansion Updates (*Parks Director*)

Hudson presented an update of information regarding the Kreher Park redevelopment and campgrounds progress, and options to move forward. Lindell moved, seconded by Ortman to approve staff to proceed with entering into an agreement with a qualified landscape architecture firm to plan and redesign Kreher Park and RV Campground. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the City of Ashland's Policy for Acceptance of Donations From Enbridge (*Parks Director*)

Lewis noted a correction that this item was brought forward by the Mayor's office and not Parks, and that the dollar amount offered by Enbridge is \$60,000 total and not per project. Lindell moved seconded by Seefeldt to approve to apply for funding through Enbridge. Pufall called the question which was approved unanimously. The motion failed 0-10 by voice vote.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk

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