

**THE CITY OF ASHLAND WILL BE CONDUCTING THEIR MEETINGS IN PERSON
at
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 601 MAIN STREET WEST, ASHLAND, WI
WITH THE AVAILABILITY TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY**

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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

Please silence all cell phones during the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, December 7, 2021 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Debra Lewis 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: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Eric Lindell, Kevin Haas, Charlie Ortman, Liz Franek, Dick Pufall, Jackie Moore

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Deb Lewis, Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Megan McBride, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, and other concerned citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lewis asked to remove Agenda Item 7R to be discussed at a later date. Lindell moved, seconded by Haas to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 16, 2021 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

B. November 30, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Pufall moved, seconded by Moore to approve the minutes as presented. 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

Lewis noted that City Hall was open to gather and file papers for City contests, which include Mayor, Alderpersons 1, 3, 5, and 7. Completed paperwork is due to the City clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Work continues at the Emergency Shelter and they are hoping to be open by the end of the year. A reminder was made regarding the bimonthly utility billing. Tom Jensen from the Memorial Medical Center Behavior Health Department will be hosting a Zoom meeting, "Dope Sick", on December 14, 2021 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Lewis summarized the City's accomplishments over 2021 and thanked the Councilors for their time and energy to make those projects successful.

B. Appointments

Haas moved, seconded by Lindell to approve the following to be appointed to the Sustainability Committee: Adam Zais, Amy Amman, and Axel Peterman. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve the 2022 Common Council Meeting Calendar *(Clerk)*

B. Approve the Appointment of 2022-2023 Election Inspectors and Special Voting Deputies *(Clerk)*

C. Approve to Waive the Requirements Set Forth in Chapter 923.10, Ashland City Ordinances, and Approve a Joint Powers Agreement between Ashland County and the City of Ashland for Ashland County 911 Emergency System *(Emergency Services)*

D. Approval to Accept a 2022 Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the City of Ashland Urban Forestry Program: Tree Inventory & Reforestation Project *(Parks)*

E. Approve a Schedule of Appointment of Agent Application for Kwik Trip 110 at 1814 Lake Shore Drive West, Ashland, WI, Applicant Amanda OLeary *(Clerk)*

F. Miscellaneous Meeting Minutes

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and Discussion of City of Ashland 2020 Audit (*Finance*)

Kim Shult of Baker Tilly made a presentation and answered questions for Council of the 2020 audit.

B. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2022 City of Ashland Budget (*Mayor*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Moore to enter a public hearing. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Oliphant noted that the public notice was published in the Daily Press at least fifteen days prior to the public hearing date, posted to three public locations and on the City's website. There were no citizens present to share their comments. Lindell moved, seconded by Moore to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Award and Sale of a \$270,000 Short Term General Obligation Promissory Note, Series 2021A, to Fund 2022 Capital Projects (*Administrator*) Roll

Franek moved, seconded by Moore to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2022 Non-Represented Employees Salary/Hourly Wage Schedule (*Administrator*) Roll

Lindell moved, seconded by Haas to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

E. Approve an Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 165 (2021-1945) and Recreate Chapter 165 (2021-1952) Comprehensive Fee Schedule, Ashland City Ordinances (*Clerk*) Roll

Seefelt moved, seconded by Jackson to approve the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

F. Approve a Resolution by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Adopt the 2022 General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets (*Administrator*) Roll

lindell moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

G. Approve the 2022 Proposed Budgets for JFK Memorial Airport and Ashland Marina (*Administrator*) Roll

Tochterman moved, seconded by Pufall to approve. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

H. Approve a Resolution Adopted by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Establish the 2021 Tax Levy (Payable in 2022) for the City's General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds (*Administrator*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

I. Approve the Proposed 2022 Water and Wastewater Utility Budgets (*Administrator*) Roll

Lindell moved, seconded by Ortman to approve. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

J. Approve a Resolution to Allow the City Clerk to Advertise for Candidates to Fill City Council Vacancies (*Clerk*) Roll

Franek moved, seconded by Haas to approve the resolution. After much discussion, Tochterman called the question. The motion failed 2-7 by roll call vote; opposed were Seefeldt, Jackson, Tochterman, Lindell, Haas, Pufall, and Moore.

K. Approve a Resolution to Combine Aldermanic Districts and Establish Polling Places for the February 15, 2022 Primary, and the April 5, 2022 Spring Elections (*Clerk*) Roll

Lindell moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

L. Approve an Ordinance to Rescind Chapter 5 (2021-1942), Municipal Board of Absentee Canvassers, Ashland City Ordinances (*Clerk*) Roll

Haas moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

M. Approve 2022 Property Insurance Carrier and Renewal Quote, and 2022 General Liability, Linebacker, Law Enforcement Liability, Data Compromise and Cyber Security, Government Crime/Fidelity ISO, Business Auto, Workers Compensation, and Commercial Umbrella Insurance Carrier and Renewal Quote (*Clerk*) Roll

Pufall moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve to renew the MPIC policy for \$85,745.00 and the EMC policy for \$275,047.00. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

N. Approve a Resolution to Issue a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an Emergency Residential Facility Use at 3600 Ellis Avenue, parcel #201-04992-0000, Zoned Light Industrial (LI). Applicant: Crossroads Outreach Center, Inc. (*Planning*) Roll

Franke moved, seconded by Lindell to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

O. Approve a Resolution to Accept an Offer to Purchase City-Owned Land for Parcel #201-05053-0200 from Patrick Mika, Zoned Heavy Industrial (*Planning*) Roll

Tochterman moved, seconded by Haas to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

P. Approve Final Payment to Ritola, Inc for the 2021 Lead Service Lateral Replacement Project (*Public Works*) Roll

Pufall moved, seconded by Moore to make final payment for \$31,696.69. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Q. Approve a Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Department of Natural Resources Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement (*Public Works*) Roll

Lindell moved, seconded by Moore to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Haas moved, seconded by Lindell to move into Closed Session. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Attorney Jason Gehring was asked to remain virtually. Councilors who were attending online were excused per Chapter 51.03(e), Ashland City Ordinances.

- A. 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." *Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust Claim for Excessive Assessment for 2020 (City Attorney) Roll*

B. Return to Open Session Voice

Moore moved, seconded by Lindell to return to Open Session. The motion carried unanimously by vote vote.

C. Report on Action Taken during Closed Session

Lindel moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the settlement agreement. The motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote; Jackson opposed, Ortman abstained.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk

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