

## **MEETING MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Common Council of the City of Ashland met as the Committee of the Whole on **January 31, 2023** immediately following the City Council meeting.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

The Tuesday, January 31, 2023 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole  
Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:35 PM.

**1. Roll Call**

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

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Andrew Goyke, Laura Graf, Charlie Ortman, Dick Pufall

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Public Works Director John Butler, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, and other interested citizens.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Council President's Report**

Ortman had no report to offer.

**4. Administrator's Report**

**A. Strategic Plan Update**

Kucera offered his presentation on the progress of the Strategic Plan.

**5. Committee Updates**

ASHLAND ORE DOCK BOARD OF TRUSTEES: TOCHTERMAN - discussed transferring Rock the Dock funds and the need to establish a maintenance fund for the ore dock.

DISABLED PARKING ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: GRAF - no report

HARBOR COMMISSION: PUFALL - no report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: GOYKE - discussed updates

HOUSING AUTHORITY: SEEFELDT - no report

MAIN STREET COMMITTEE - no report

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD: JACKSON - hosting Winter Market on Main festivities and discussed feasibility study results.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: SEEFELDT - discussed Chapter 463 revisions, and trails master plan.

PLAN COMMISSION: TOCHTERMAN - considering a discussion with CUP applicants prior to bringing requests to the Plan Commission, and discussed railway right-of-way purchases.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GOYKE - discussed the crossings at Wal-Mart and at 15th Avenue East, and ways to communicate the need to replace LSLs and water meters.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: GRAF - reviewed the 25x25 Plan, viewed reports from Xcel regarding solar system and electricity use, and have asked to have the recycling flyers, provided by Republic Services, sent out with the next utility billing.

6. Discussion Items

**A. Report of PFAS Test Results and Update on Future Regulations** (*Public Works*)

Butler and Ledin offered a presentation and answered questions for Council.

**B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Submitting an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application** (*Fire Department*)

Tochterman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the submission of the grant application. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Entering into Agreements for Type II Hazmat Emergency Management with Ashland County, Bayfield County, Iron County, and Price County** (*Fire Department*)

Seefeldt moved, Goyke seconded to approve to enter into the agreement. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Updates to the Codification of Chapter 463: Policies and Procedures for Parks, Facilities, and Recreation Areas, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Parks and Recreation*)

Tochterman requested to move Section 463.09(e)(7) to be listed under definitions. Tochterman also requested to add language regarding Section 463.24, allowing a grace period to claim any abandoned belongings and/or allowing flexibility before disposing or forfeiture.

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve to move this item to the next Council meeting for formal approval, with the suggested amendments. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**E. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Submitting an Application by the City of Ashland to become a Monarch City USA** (*Councilor Ortman*)

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Jackson to forward this item to the Parks and Recreation Committee for further evaluation and potential implementation. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding "What is Good Governance?"**  
(*Councilor Ortman*)

Ortman requested assistance from Council to help define *governance* for the City of Ashland to potentially be adopted into the City's Mission Statement. He stated he would work on this to bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

**7. Items for Future Discussion**

Pufall: Would like to have problems with the odd/even parking to be addressed. MacKenzie offered to have further discussion with the police chief.

Ortman: Suggested to respond, if appropriate, to future Citizen Participation comments at the following Committee of the Whole, or the suitable committee meeting.

Ortman: Asked to look into installing a pedestrian tunnel at the Wal-Mart intersection; this was supported by several other councilors. Butler stated he would initiate researching this.

Butler: Requested to place an update on the drinking water intake project on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

**8. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,  
City Clerk