

MEETING MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Common Council of the City of Ashland met as the Committee of the Whole on **February 28, 2023** immediately following the City Council meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Roll Call

The Tuesday, February 28, 2023 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:28pm.

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

ABSENT: Dick Pufall

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt Mackenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, Deputy Clerk Chelsea List, Public Works Director John Butler, Public Works Administrative Manager David Garrington, and other interested citizens.

2. Council President's Report

Ortman noted that last week State Representatives Robert Romaine Quinn and Chanz Green visited Ashland at the Vaughn Public Library. He has calls into both representatives about having them potentially attend City Council meetings virtually. He stated that himself, the Mayor, and Administrator are looking at process improvement at least once a month. Lastly, he wanted to thank the City Clerk for her work on creating a good governance guide for the Council.

3. Administrator's Report

Kucera wanted to extend gratitude to the City employees for their efforts with snow removal this winter, especially in the downtown area. Kucera also spoke about a citizen concern that he received about the building codes at 504 10th Avenue West and the follow-up done with that citizen. Lastly, he mentioned the ruling about Dark Stores that was covered in the Ashland Daily Press and other media.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Committee Updates

ASHLAND ORE DOCK BOARD OF TRUSTEES: TOCHTERMAN - no report

DISABLED PARKING ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: GRAF - no report

HARBOR COMMISSION: PUFALL - no report, upcoming meeting on March 8, 2023
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: GOYKE - will meet again in April
HOUSING AUTHORITY: SEEFELDT - no report
MAIN STREET COMMITTEE - no report, will look at getting a council representative on the board
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD: JACKSON - Winter Market on Vaughn was a success, feasibility study on new library updates
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: SEEFELDT - no report
PLAN COMMISSION: TOCHTERMAN - no report
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GOYKE - no report, will meet next week
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: GRAF - no report, meeting canceled due to weather

6. Discussion Items

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential Unused Grant Funds to Assist Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency for Transitional Housing *(Councilor Seefeldt)*

Grant funding that was allocated but not used is available for communities to apply for. There is interest in applying for funding to assist Northwest Wisconsin Community Services to create transitional housing at the current community shelter property. The estimated cost to update the existing building is \$400,000, with most of this cost going toward a new boiler since the whole building is currently unconditioned. If the project is approved by Council then a Conditional Use Permit would need to be applied for and approved.

The Council would like to have Millie Rounsville from Northwest Wisconsin Community Services come and speak about the current shelter and the possibility of transitional housing.

7. Items for Future Discussion

Councilor Jackson requested that Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hudson give a report about the City of Ashland portion of Book Across the Bay and talk about the new event permit process.

8. Adjournment

Jackson moved, seconded by Seefeldt to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsea List, Deputy Clerk