

MEETING MINUTES

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL **Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – 6:00 PM** Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, July 25, 2023 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt MacKenzie at 6:00 p.m.

A. **Roll Call, Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann (6:05), Andrew Goyke, Laura Graf, Charlie Ortman, Dick Pufall

The Mayor noted a quorum of the Common Council was present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Library Director Sarah Adams, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Main Street Manager Jaclynn Findlay, Planning Director Steven Wiley, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **July 11, 2023 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt 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. **Presentation from Kathy Beeksma, Executive Director of Ashland Housing Authority**

Executive Director of the City of Ashland Housing Authority, Kathy Beeksma, offered a presentation of the operations, goals and financial status of the Authority.

B. **Announcements**

MacKenzie attended a meeting last week of the Ashland Foundation who contributed to Celebrations, Inc. to help fund the Fourth of July fireworks display, and toward the Arts in the Park to help pay for supplies for the program. Bay Days went well with a large number of visitors

and attendees. He also attended a meeting recently regarding the Ellis Avenue/Highway 13 rebuild project slated for 2025. There are new signs installed at Kreher and Hodgkins Parks, and traffic counters along some of the trails in town to monitor trail use. Finally, the City was showcased on a Duluth news channel last week showing the highlights of the community and surrounding area.

C. **Appointments**

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Tochterman to approve the Mayor's appointments, as below, and to remove Seefeldt from the Housing Authority. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Disabled Parking Enforcement Committee: Mary Jane Grande, Cheryl Wiezorek, and Donna Griffiths were each reappointed with a term to expire August 11, 2026.

Ashland Beautification Council: Susan Spangle appointed, term to expire February 15, 2025.

Main Street Board: Kevin Porter, reappointed, term to expire July 25, 2024.

City of Ashland Housing Authority: Kayla Sandstrom appointed, term to expire January 13, 2026.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approve the Ashland Fire Department to Accept a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Forest Fire Protection (FFP) Reimbursement Grant Award** (*Fire Department*)

- B. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

Goyke moved, seconded by Pufall approve the Consent Agenda with a correction noted by Tochterman to the Ore Dock Trust minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Approve a Grant Agreement between the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the City of Ashland to Assist in the Creation of the City of Ashland Parks Master Plan** (*Parks & Recreation*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Graf to approve. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- B. **Approval of the Amended Sidewalk Special Assessment Policy for the Levy of Assessments** (*Public Works*) Voice

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- C. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 705 (1415) Water Utility Rules, Rates, and Regulations, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Public Works*) Roll

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Ortman to approve Ordinance 2023-1986. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- D. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 711 (1525) Ordinance for a POTW and Collection System, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Public Works*) Roll

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve Ordinance 2023-1987. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- E. **Approve a Revised Request for Proposal for Professional Services Agreement with Right of Way Professionals, Inc. for Real Estate Acquisition Services for the 2024 Prentice Avenue, Phase 1 Reconstruction Project** (*Public Works*) Roll

Pufall moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Award a Bid to Contract for Repair of 514 Main Street West Building** (*Administrator*) Roll
There were no bids received.
- B. **Approve a Lighting Improvement Grant Program Agreement with Copper Pasty, 417 Main Street West** (*Main Street Manager*) Voice

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Graf to approve to award the grant for \$2,318.00. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- C. **Approve an Ordinance to Create Chapter 479 (2023-1988) Annexation of the North Right of Way of County Highway K, Town of Gingles, Ashland County, Ashland City Ordinances** (*City Attorney*) Roll

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Tochtermann to approve Ordinance 2023-1988. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- D. **Approve a Resolution to Declare Condition of Suspended Sidewalk at 514 Main Street West an Emergency per Wisconsin State Statute 62.15(1b)** (*Public Works*) Roll

Kevin Seefeldt moved, seconded by Andrew Goyke to approve the resolution. Goyke moved, seconded by Tochtermann to amend the resolution to include work at the adjacent property, 516 Main Street West. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to amend the resolution to state the City would not special assess 516 Main Street West for the emergency work. The motion passed 5-2 by roll call vote; opposed were Jackson and Tochtermann.

The amended resolution was approved unanimously by roll call vote. **File No. 17732.**

- E. **Approve a Resolution to Issue a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Allow for Increased Sign Height and Area at 1716 Lake Shore Drive West, Ashland, Parcel No. #201-00099-0000, Zoned City Center (CC) with Gateway Overlay (GTWY-O), Applicant: Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce** (*Planning & Development*) Roll

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Tochtermann to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File No. 17733.**

9. CLOSED SESSION - Council may return to Open Session and take action on any item discussed during Closed Session

- A. **Pursuant WI Statute 19.85(1)(c): "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."** (*City Administrator Evaluation*) Roll

Goyke moved, seconded by Seefeldt to enter into Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- B. **Return to Open Session** Voice

Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. **Report of Action Taken during Closed Session**

Mackenzie reported there was no action taken during closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Seefeldt moved, seconded by Dick Pufall to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk