

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING **Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – 6:00 PM** Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, July 25, 2023 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 7:42 PM.

1. **Roll Call**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Public Works Director John Butler, Library Director Sarah Adams, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Planning Director Steven Wiley, and other interested citizens.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Council President's Report**

Ortman had nothing to report at the time.

4. **Administrator's Report**

Kucera had nothing to report at the time.

5. **Committee Updates**

ORE DOCK TRUST - MacKenzie reported that the group set up a maintenance fund.

DPAEC - Graf: no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Ortman: no report.

HARBOR COMMISSION - Pufall: Overflow parking at Superfund Site was well received.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Goyke: no report.

HOUSING COMMITTEE - Ortman: Taking inventory of hi/med/low income housing and of City properties available for potential housing; discussed "rooming" housing.

LIBRARY - Jackson: Deferred to item on the agenda.

MAIN STREET BOARD - Goyke: Developing work plans; recent Movies on Main event was successful.

PARKS & REC - Seefeldt: Ash borer treatment on City Property; bike plan in process; community garden successful; addressing overflow camping policy in future.

PLAN COMMISSION - Tochtermann: Looking at signage ordinances.

PUBLIC WORKS - Goyke: Working on bike plan; doing sidewalk overall assessment.

SUSTAINABILITY - Graf: Speaker B. Bailey discussed working on getting grants to tie back to the 25x25 Plan.

6. **Discussion Items**

A. **Presentation and Discussion on Upcoming Water Rate Increases** (*Public Works*)

Brian Roemer, Municipal Advisor with Ehlers & Associates, Inc. offered a presentation to Council and answered questions regarding future utility rate increases, identifying 2024 as a test year for

potential roll out in 2025. Council agreed for Ehlers to move into phase 2 of the study. There was no action taken at this time.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Process for Funding and Public Engagement of Ashland's Vaughn Public Library Renewal Project (*Library Director, Councilor Ortman*)

Adams offered a draft press release for Council's input with tentative public information meetings on August 9 and 10, 2023. Council offered edits and approval to publish with suggested changes made.

C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Renewing the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement between the City of Ashland and the School District of Ashland for the 2023-2024 School Year (*Police Chief*)

Hagstrom offered major statistical updates to Council. Ashland School District Superintendent Rob Prater was also available for discussion. Pufall moved, seconded by Seefeldt to forward the agreement to the August 8, 2023 Council meeting for formal approval. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

At 9:00, Ortman asked for approval to extend the time of the meeting to finish the agenda items. Graf moved, seconded by Seefeldt to extend the meeting to 9:10 pm. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval to Hire Two Entry-Level Civil Engineer Positions (*Public Works*)

Butler, along with Kucera, explained the need for engineer personnel at Public Works. Tochtermann moved, seconded by Goyke to approve to move the request forward to the August 8, 2023 Council meeting for formal approval. The motion carried 6-1 by voice vote; Pufall opposed.

E. Update of Inspection Report of Mobile Home Parks (*Planning/Building Inspector*)

Wiley offered a Power Point presentation and discussed with Council the updates of the conditions and building inspector's findings at both mobile home parks in the City. There was no action taken at this time.

7. Items for Future Discussion

Due to time constraints, Ortman did not ask for future discussion items.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk