

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – 6:00 PM**  
**Ashland City Hall Council Chambers**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Tuesday, November 28, 2023 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie at 6:00 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, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Dick Pufall

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **November 14, 2023 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke 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. **Announcements**

Mackenzie invited all to the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., immediately following the parade, in Pearson Plaza. The Ashland Fire Department responded to a recent fire on 3rd Street East; there were no injuries from this event. Nomination paperwork will be available at the Clerk's office for Council seats that are up for re-election in April 2024. Anyone interested in running for District 1, 3, 5, or 7 Alderperson seats may begin to circulate nomination papers for signatures on December 1, 2023, and are due back to the Clerk's office no later than December 22, 2023.

**B. Mayor's Appointments**

Tochterman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve appointing Heather Lee to the Beautification Council, term to expire February 15, 2027. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approve to Enter into an Agreement with the Brick Ministries, Inc. for Temporary Use of the Central Railyard Concession Building for their Food Pantry (*Parks and Recreation*)**

**B. Miscellaneous Minutes**

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 165 (2021-1952) Comprehensive Fee Schedule, Ashland City Ordinances (*Clerk*) Roll**

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

**B. Consider to Approve the Proposed 2024 Water and Wastewater Utility Budgets (*Administration*) Roll**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the proposed budgets. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 City of Ashland Budget (*Administration*) Roll**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Jackson to enter into Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

*Elizabeth Franek* spoke to Council asking them to be thoughtful of those already affected by inflationary increases when considering the proposed budget.

Hearing no other citizens asking to speak, Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**B. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$2,630,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2023A (Administration) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve.

Sean Lentz, Ehlers Senior Municipal Advisor, reviewed the Sales Day Reports with Council. During discussion, Lentz noted that the unforeseen lower interest rate reduced the amount of the General Obligation Note from \$2,630,000 to \$2,505,000. Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to amend the amount noted in Resolution No. 17754 to \$2,505,000. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The motion to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$2,505,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2023A passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**File #17754**

**C. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a \$277,550 One Year Taxable General Obligation Promissory Note, Series 2023B, to Fund 2024 General Fund Operations (Administrator) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of a \$277,550 one-year taxable General Obligation Promissory Note, Series 2023B. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**File #17751**

**D. Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the 2024 Non-Represented Employees Salary/Hourly Wage Schedule (Administration) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Pufall to approve a resolution to adopt the 2024 non-represented employees salary/hourly wage schedule. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**File #17755**

**E. Consideration to Approve a Resolution by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Adopt the 2024 General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets (Administration) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve a resolution by Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin to adopt the 2024 General Fund, Debt Service funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**File #17752**

**F. Consider a Resolution to Exempt the City of Ashland from the Ashland County Library Levy (Finance) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve a resolution to exempt the City of Ashland from the Ashland County library levy. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**File #17750**

**G. Consideration to Approve a Resolution Adopted by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Establish the 2023 Tax Levy (Payable in 2024) for the City's General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds (Administrator) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve a resolution adopted by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin to establish the 2023 tax levy. The motion passed unanimously by

roll call vote.

**File #17753**

H. **Consideration of the Proposed 2024 Budgets for JFK Memorial Airport and Ashland Marina (*Administration*) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the proposed 2024 budgets for JFK Memorial Airport and Ashland Marina. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

I. **Consider Approval of the 2024 Property Insurance Carrier and Renewal Quote, and 2024 General Liability, Linebacker, Law Enforcement Liability, Data Compromise, Cyber Security, Government Crime/Fidelity ISO, Business Auto, Workers' Compensation, and Commercial Umbrella Insurance Carrier and Renewal Quote (*Clerk*) Roll**

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

J. **Consideration of a Joint Powers Agreement between Ashland County and the City of Ashland for Ashland County 911 Emergency System (*Emergency Services*) Roll**

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

K. **Consider Approval of the Proposed 2024-2025 Agreement between City of Ashland and International Association of Fire Fighters Local 875 (*Fire Department*) Roll**

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

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,  
City Clerk