

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

The Tuesday, November 28, 2023 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 7:00 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, and other interested citizens.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Council President's Report

Ortman announced that he intends to do a "full push" to look at lawn alternatives.

4. Administrator's Report

Kucera thanked Councilors for supporting the City of Ashland employees by approving raises and for working through the budget process. He also noted the work that had been started at the future Copper Cup site.

5. Committee Updates

OREDOCK TRUST - Tochtermann: MacKenzie noted the continued discussion regarding the perpetual maintenance funds account.

DPEAC - Gregoire: Nothing to report

HARBOR COMMISSION - Pufall: Nothing to report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Goyke: The group received an update on the Beaser School redevelopment from owner Cicero, and are seeking nominations for historic properties in the City.

HOUSING COMMITTEE - Ortman: Nothing to report.

LIBRARY BOARD - Jackson: The search has begun for a fundraising consultant as they are waiting for a timeline from the architect.

MAIN STREET BOARD - Goyke: Holding multiple discussions regarding the Book Across the Bay event, and researching ways to reinvigorate involvement in the board.

PARKS & REC - Seefeldt: The City was approved for the Tree City USA grant; there have been 60 trees planted this past summer/fall, and continue to look at the bike plan.

PLAN COMMISSION - Tochtermann: The group received a CUP request from a storage facility to review and discuss.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Goyke: A review of the sidewalk plan showed that the City is in line with other municipalities, and the board is discussing guidelines as to how ROW permits are approved or denied.

SUSTAINABILITY - Gregoire: Nothing to report.

6. Discussion Items

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Amendment to Chapter 922 Alcohol Beverage Regulations, Ashland City Ordinances to Define the Procedure for a Hearing for Nonrenewal or Revocation of Alcohol Beverage Licenses (Clerk)

Oliphant explained that the reason for the need of the outlined changes was brought about due to the recent and likely upcoming hearings involving alcohol licenses. Seefeldt moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve to move this item forward for formal approval. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Items for Future Discussion

Mackenzie asked that Council look at the structure of the City's property maintenance department to discuss constructive changes to assist them.

Ortman repeated that he is looking to research a policy for more sustainable lawns.

Pufall requested an update on the 514 Main Street West property.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk