

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, December 12, 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 Tochterman, 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, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Administrative Assistant Chianne Schweitzer, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MacKenzie requested that Item 8D be removed from the agenda to allow for further discussion at the Committee of the Whole. Jackson moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the amended agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 28, 2023 City Council Budget Public Hearing and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Ortman 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 attended a Northwest Regional Planning meeting recently. There, attendees discussed the five-year project to reconstruct a bridge between Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota, and a DNR representative reported on the recent gun deer hunt, and talked of a sharp tailed grouse season. The City determined to work collaboratively with the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce to redesign the Main Street Manager position, and an MOU between the City and the

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Chamber will be brought to Council as the Chamber will be taking on this program. MacKenzie also attended a ribbon cutting for a new florist shop on Lake Shore Drive West.

B. Appointments

Tochterman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve to reappoint Carol Larson to Board of Canvass, term to expire January 1, 2026, and Amy Amman to the Sustainability Committee, term to expire December 12, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve to Accept Wisconsin DNR Forest Fire Protection Grant *(Fire Department)*

B. Miscellaneous Minutes

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approve to Accept a State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant for the City of Ashland's Tree Management Plan Update *(Parks Director)*

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve to accept the grant. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,615,000 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2023B of the City of Ashland, Ashland and Bayfield Counties, Wisconsin, and Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Other Details with Respect to the Bonds *(Administration)* Roll

Sean Lentz, Ehlers Municipal Financial Consultant presented the day of sale figures and answered questions for Council. Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to amend the amount of the bonds to \$1,585,000. This motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the amended resolution for the issuance and sale of \$1,585,000 Water System Revenue Bonds. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

File #17757

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Filing Test Year 2024 Rate Application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) *(Public Works)* Roll

Peter Curtain, Ehlers Municipal Advisor, presented the water rate study and answered questions for Council. Ortman moved, seconded by Pufall to approve. During discussion, Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to recognize Joanne Martikonis to speak to Council. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The motion to approve to submit the rate application to the Public Service Commission passed 6-1 by roll call vote; Pufall opposed.

C. Consideration of Purchase of Replacement Bucket Truck *(Public Works)* Roll

Ortman moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve to purchase a bucket truck for \$65,000. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- D. **Consideration of Purchase of Sewer Televising Equipment** (*Public Works*) Roll
This item was removed from the agenda.
- E. **Consider Approval of a Resolution to Establish Polling Places and Combine Wards for the Potential February 20, 2024 Primary Election and April 2, 2024 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote** (*Clerk*) Voice
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File #17756
- F. **Consider Appointment of the 2024-2025 Election Inspectors and Special Voting Deputies** (*Clerk*) Voice
Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to approve. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- G. **Consider an Original Alcohol Beverage Retail License Application Submitted by Black Bears Hotel C LLC, dba Hotel Chequamegon, 101 Lake Shore Drive West, Ashland, Wisconsin, and Agent Travis Turner** (*Clerk*) Roll
Pufall moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the license application. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk