

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, January 9, 2024 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman 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: City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Library Director Sarah Adams, Planning Director Steven Wiley, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ortman requested that Item 7D be struck from the agenda as recommended by Wickman.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **December 12, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

The Clerk read the Rules for Citizen Participation, and the following offered their comments to the Council:

Deb Lewis, 722 Chapple Avenue, spoke in support of funding for the library renovations.

Don Jaskowiak, 121 N Willis Avenue, noted his support of placing the referendum question on the April election ballot.

Zygmund Jablonski, 916 6th Avenue West, spoke in regard to the Closed Session topic, and the

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ordinance changes on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

Mark Potvin, 517 6th Avenue West, was in favor of funding the library renovations, and the potential referendum.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Councilor President Ortman presided over Council in Mayor Mac Kenzie's absence. Ortman mentioned that there would be no February Primary Election held.

B. **Appointments**

Goyke moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the reappointment of Axel Peterman to the Sustainability Committee for a term to expire January 9, 2026. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Consideration of a Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of an Initial Resolution Authorizing \$4,340,000 General Obligation Bonds for Library Projects** *(Administration)* Roll

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the resolution to place the proposed referendum on the April 2024 Election ballot. The motion passed 6-1 by roll call vote; Gregoire opposed.

File #17758

B. **Consideration of an Amendment of the City of Ashland Employee Handbook to Re-Define the Work Week** *(Administration)* Voice

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

C. **Consideration of a Request for Change of Agent for Kwik Trip #163, 515 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, Applicant: Timothy Krzych** *(Clerk)* Roll

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

D. **Hearing Regarding Intent to Revoke the Class B Fermented Malt Beverage and Class B Intoxicating Liquor License from the 5th Quarter and Agent, Barbara Allison, Trustee** *(Clerk)* Roll

Removed from the Agenda.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **Pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body of strategy to be adopted with the respect to current or likely litigation." (*Jablonski notice of claim dated December 1, 2023*)**

Pufall moved, seconded by Seefeldt to enter into Closed Session. At Kucera's request, a motion was made by Goyke, seconded by Seefeldt, and was approved unanimously to allow Butler to remain during Closed Session. The motion to enter Closed Session passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Pufall to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Ortman reported that there was no action taken during Closed Session.

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Gregoire to approve to deny the presented claim. 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