

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, January 30, 2024 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, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Library Director Sarah Adams, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Administrative Assistant Chianne Schweitzer, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **January 9, 2024 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

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

Zygmund Jablonski, 916 6th Avenue West, spoke of the proposed construction of an office at the Bretting Community Center.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Presentation from Millie Rounsville, Executive Director of Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency to Update Council on the Homeless Shelter and Transition Housing Facility at 2300 Lake Shore Drive West, Ashland**

Executive Director Millie Rounsville offered a presentation to Council on the progress of the homeless shelter.

B. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie noted that the Councilors were given mailings from Ashland County regarding a notice of a change of judge for a recent claim, results of a survey conducted by Ashland County related to the impact of alcohol policies in Northern Wisconsin, and a campaign asking for the community to submit photos of the area to be posted in City Hall. Work underneath the sidewalk in front of 514 Main Street West is complete. Workers at the Goodwill store found a hand grenade among some donations which required the Ashland County Bomb Squad to be called in. Wal-Mart is preparing for a major remodeling project, and the Superior Choice Credit Union held a Grand Re-Opening as their renovation project is complete.

C. **Appointments**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the following reappointments:

Beautification Council: Beth Allison-Strauss, term to expire February 15, 2028, and Elaine Peterson, term to expire February 15, 2028; Board of Canvass: Eric Erickson, term to expire January 1, 2026; Ashland Housing Authority: Stewart Holman, (term to expire January 9, 2029. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

B. **Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Ashland and the School District of Ashland (*Parks & Recreation*)**

C. **Approve to Close Tax Increment Districts No. 6 and No. 9 as Required by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (*Finance*)**

Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the Consent Agenda. After discussion, a motion by Jackson and seconded by Ortman was made to remove Item 6D from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. This motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

File No. 17762, 17763

D. **Approve a Request for an Appropriation of Capital Projects Fund 450 for a Bretting Community Center Office Addition (*Administration*)**

Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to table this item until a future Council agenda.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 501 (1882) Public Right of Way Regulation, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Public Works*) Roll
Gregoire moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- B. **Approve an Ordinance to Create Chapter 136 (2024-1994) Denial of City Permits, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Public Works*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- C. **Approve the Purchase of Sewer Televising Equipment from Envirotech Equipment** (*Public Works*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the purchase for \$150,177. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- D. **Approve to Accept a Professional Services Proposal from Technical Design Services to Provide Geographic Information Systems Services** (*Public Works*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Tochtermann to approve the proposal for \$73,580. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- E. **Approve a Resolution to Allow the City of Ashland Vaughn Public Library Submit an Application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WI DOA) Non-State Local Projects Grant** (*Library*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Pufall to approve the resolution. A motion to recognize Sarah Adams, Library Director to address Council, was made by Seefeldt, seconded by Ortman, and approved unanimously by voice vote. The motion to approve the resolution was passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File No. 17761
- F. **Approve a Contract between the City of Ashland and MSA Professional Services, Inc. to Assist in the Creation of a City of Ashland Master Parks Plan** (*Parks and Recreation*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Jackson to approve the contract for \$58,000. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- G. **Approve a Resolution to Partner with Ashland County in an EPA Community Change Grant Application** (*Planning Director*) Roll
Seefeldt moved, seconded by Jackson to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File No. 17759

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Public Hearing Regarding a Request to Vacate of Undeveloped Right of Way Located at that Portion of 28th Avenue East between Lots Nine (9), Ten (10) and Eleven (11),**

and Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block Ninety-Seven (97) in the Lake Shore Addition to the North Line of Toll Road; Applicant Kevin Haas (Planning) Roll

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

It was made known that a Class III notice was posted in the City's official newspaper, posted at the Vaughn Public Library, Ashland County Court House, and at City Hall, as well as noticed by mail to affected homeowners, according to Wisconsin State Statutes.

Wiley reported there were no concerns received by the Planning and Development office. As there were no citizens wishing to speak during the Public Hearing, Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- B. **Consideration of a Request to Purchase Three (3) Parcels of City-Owned Land, Parcel Nos. 201-03742-0000, 201-03743-0000, and 201-03744-0000, Zoned Single-Family Residential (R-1). Applicant: Kevin Haas (Planning Department) Roll**

Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the purchase for \$9,000. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- C. **Consideration to Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 978 (1831) Burning of Grass, Leaves, and Garbage, Ashland City Ordinances (Clerk) Roll**

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

- D. **Consideration of an Original Alcohol Beverage License Application from The Union on Main, LLC dba The Union, and Agent Jeanne Aspenson, at 100 West Main Street, Ashland (Clerk) Roll**

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

- E. **Consideration to Approve a Resolution to Recognize World Migratory Bird Day and Renew the Annual Bird City Application (Parks and Recreation) Roll**

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

File No. 17760

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **PER WI STATUTE 19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session." (514 Main Street West)**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Goyke to enter into Closed Session, and allow Wiley to remain during discussion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- B. **Return to Open Session**

Ortman moved, seconded by Gregoire to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk